Strategic policy

Community Safety

Corporate Plan reference:	**A strong community** *In all our communities, people are included, treated with respect and opportunities are available to all* - Safe and healthy communities
Endorsed by Council on:	11 December 2014 OM14/176
Policy owner:	Group Executive Economic and Community Development

Introduction

The Sunshine Coast Council is committed to protecting its resources and to the safety and wellbeing of its staff, community and visitors to the region.

Community safety refers to actual and perceived safety concern and risks of harm and injury that may affect the community's quality of life and wellbeing, with a primary focus on reducing the risk and fear of crime and injury through the design and management of places, as well as through the development of a strong sense of community.

Policy purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to outline the principles which guide Council's contribution to enhancing community safety and to enable relevant, consistent and coordinated initiatives and partnerships that reduce both the fear and risk of crime and injury within the Sunshine Coast Council Local Government area.

Policy outcome

An organisation that is consistent, unified, equitable, transparent and clear in its commitment and role to Community Safety.

Policy scope

This policy applies to Council's programs, activities, planning, design and service delivery that contribute to Community Safety.

Policy statement

Community Safety is a shared responsibility of all levels of government and the community. Council acknowledges that each level of government has a different role to play in building safe communities. Greater community safety outcomes can be achieved through working together

with people and organisations from multiple sectors taking joint responsibility and pooling resources.

Council is committed to facilitating, delivering and supporting initiatives, strategies and partnerships that proactively enhance community safety and capacity building, including initiatives such as Liquor Accords and Community Safety Committees.

Council will provide effective and coordinated responses to a disaster event in support of our local communities, and facilitate a speedy recovery and return to a safe and secure environment as soon as possible after a disaster.

Council will ensure that planning and design within the public realm consistently reflects Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and *Community Safety Policy* principles, providing safe places and spaces that encourage community participation.

Council recognises that responses to issues of community safety will need to be relevant and varied to meet the needs of the community. These responses need to be communicated and promoted in the community to raise awareness and promote the Sunshine Coast as a safe, healthy, resilient and engaged community.

Guiding principles

The following five principles guide the application of this policy in relation to community safety:

Evidence-based decision making: Council's safety initiatives are supported by evidence to ensure that the strategies and actions adopted make the best use of available resources and are appropriate to the region's safety needs and priorities.

Strengthening Community and Partnerships: Community safety initiatives are focused on building and strengthening the capacity and resilience of Sunshine Coast communities. This region is a community of communities each with their own considerations, strengths and differences. Council values its key stakeholders and community's input to the development of safety initiatives and planning relevant to stakeholder's needs and capacities.

Integrated and coordinated proactive approach: Community safety initiatives proactively respond, as part of an integrated, collaborative and problem solving approach to future and current issues of community safety.

Compliance with relevant legislation: Council will actively seek to coordinate the requirements of all levels of government.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Council will monitor and evaluate initiatives to ensure early detection and management of arising safety issues, and to ensure desired outcomes of initiatives are achieved.

Community Safety Components

The following components all contribute and play an active role in reducing both the fear and risk of crime and injury on the Sunshine Coast:

Community & Partnerships: Council works with external and internal stakeholders to explore new partnerships and maintain existing partnerships. Council's partnerships with community have a focus on community *Capacity Building* whilst addressing community safety issues.

CPTED: Applying the principles of CPTED contribute to the reactivation of public spaces and increase the vitality and vibrancy of a location.

Alcohol, Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour:
Council works collaboratively with the community,
the not for profit sector, businesses and other Government agencies on strategies that aim to prevent anti-social behaviour and reduce harms associated with alcohol and other drug abuse.

Graffiti Management: Council is committed to promoting the rapid removal of all graffiti on council buildings, infrastructure, and public spaces. Council recognises that this assists in enhancing the overall appearance of both built and natural environments and improves public confidence and perceptions of safety in communities across the region.

Emergency Disaster Management: Council provides coordinated responses to a disaster event and facilitates a speedy recovery and return to a safe and secure environment as soon as possible after a disaster.

Planning: Council will adopt CPTED principles in the planning, design and redevelopment of public places to enhance the perception of safety and to minimise the opportunity for anti-social behaviour, including illegal graffiti.   Council will also work with developers to ensure the principles are also adopted in the semi-public realm and on privately owned land.

Local Laws: Council will consider the use of its powers to adopt Local Laws for the safety and benefit of the wider community and, where adopted, promote and educate the public and then actively manage these laws. Council's current local laws govern issues such as parking, keeping animals, approvals for activities, bathing reserves and dog off-leash areas.

Beach Safety: Council is committed to designating safe, supervised bathing areas within bathing reserves. Council manages its bathing areas by assigning life-saving clubs to manage bathing reserves (beaches) on its behalf. Council aims for zero preventable deaths in Sunshine Coast waters.

Road Safety: Council is committed to designing and constructing safe local government roads, and assisting other road authorities in delivering road safety programs aiming to protect users against injury or risk.

Roles and responsibilities

- **The Customer Engagement and Planning Services Group** is responsible for the integration of CPTED principles within council's strategic land use planning documents and development assessment functions. The Group is responsible for:

  - the setting of design policy within its Planning Scheme and supporting documents, for the development of the private realm and where development impacts on adjoining public space;
  - ensuring the integration of CPTED principles within new master planned communities including the new Maroochydore city centre;
  - establishing "Hospitality Precincts" within the Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme as a local response to the need to recognise the role of these areas for entertainment purposes;
  - advocating to developers and all levels of government to ensure the provision of safe community infrastructure and facilities through Infrastructure Agreement negotiations;
  - working actively with the Liveability and Natural Assets Group to ensure co-ordination of design, ensuring public assets meet appropriate design standards.

- **Business Development Group** is responsible for:

  - o the management of CCTV systems on Council's corporate buildings and depots (excluding Council's Waste Management Facilities);
  - o providing safe and accessible facilities;
  - o the overall coordination of graffiti removal requests;
  - o removal of graffiti from Council corporate buildings and depots;
  - o the maintenance and linkage with the Queensland Police Service of a graffiti database;
  - o establishment and ongoing evaluation of Memorandums of Understanding with other agencies for the removal of graffiti from non-Council assets;

- The **Built Infrastructure Group** is responsible for safety in the design, development, management and maintenance of Council's facilities and infrastructure. The department is directly responsible for:

  - o integration of CPTED principles within Council's master planning and landscape design works;
  - o coordinating and participating in Council's Disaster Management;
  - o removal of graffiti from Council parks and public amenities;
  - o managing graffiti reduction responses for all Council managed road networks and assets;
  - o designing and delivering safe Council roads, roadsides, pathways and cycle networks aiming to protect users against injury or risk;

- The **Community Engagement and Planning Services Group** works in collaboration with other Council groups in the delivery and review of priorities related to this policy. The department is directly responsible for:

  - o Council's key point of contact for community safety enquiries from the community;
  - o coordinating stakeholder engagement to enable shared understanding and problem solving;
  - o Council's key liaison with Federal, State and other local Government Agencies relevant to Community Safety networks, programs, initiatives and responses;
  - o regulation and enforcement of local laws;
  - o integration of CPTED principles within Council's community planning projects;
  - o assisting in the coordination of Council's role in disaster recovery support;
  - o leading the delivery of and subsequent reviews of the Community Safety Policy;
  - o leading the delivery of and subsequent reviews of a Community Safety Plan;
  - o leading the delivery of and subsequent reviews of Graffiti Management Guidelines;

- The **Business Development Group** is responsible for:
  - o Identifying funding opportunities for Community Safety initiatives.
  - o Prepare funding applications and assess expenditure of funds in line with various Community Safety funding agreements.

- **Council officers** are responsible for implementing this policy when participating, supporting, partnering, facilitating, or delivering community safety initiatives to ensure a consistent approach across Council.

Measurement of success

An organisation that is consistent, unified, equitable, transparent and clear in its role within, and commitment to Community Safety initiatives.

- Well planned, designed and managed built environments adopting CPTED principles;
- Strong and effective collaborative partnerships both internal and external are created and

maintained;

- The existence of a Community Safety Plan;
- The existence of a CCTV Policy and Operational Guidelines;
- The existence of Graffiti Management Guidelines.

Definitions

Capacity Building: Capacity building is about helping individuals and organisations develop their own capabilities so that they can effectively participate in problem solving, decision-making and community life. It includes opportunities provided by programs and processes that enable individuals and groups within communities to participate, realise their potential, and become more independent.

Council: Means the Sunshine Coast Regional Council.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED): The use of CPTED is intended to reduce crime and fear by reducing criminal opportunity and fostering positive social interaction among legitimate users of space. Key principles of CPTED include:

- Surveillance
  - o Passive: people are present and can see what is going on as a part of day to day activities;
  - o Organised/Mechanical: surveillance is organised by way of law enforcement agencies or security guard presence or CCTV cameras.
- Access Management – physical techniques are used to control where access can and can't be gained and ensure safety throughout an access framework
- Territoriality – clear boundaries to signify ownership of space and respect for the space of others
- Legibility and way-finding – the ease of understanding and ability to navigate through an environment
- Quality environments – good quality, well maintained places attract people and encourage care for place (*Shaftoe & Read 2005*).

Sunshine Coast: In this policy means the Sunshine Coast Council Local Government Area.

Related policies and legislation

Sunshine Coast Council

- *Access and Inclusion Plan (2011)*
- *Affordable Living Strategy 2010-2020*
- *Biodiversity Strategy (2010)*
- *Climate Change and Peak Oil Strategy 2010-2020*
- *Community Engagement Policy (2009)*
- *Community Events and Celebrations Strategy (2010)*
- *Compliance and Enforcement Policy 2009*
- *Corporate Plan 2018-2022*
- *Domestic Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Strategy 2014-2020*
- *Economic Development Strategy (2010)*
- *Events Policy (2010)*
- *Festive Season Strategy (2010)*
- *Local Disaster Management Plan (2014)*
- *Local Law 2 (Animal Management) 2011*

- *Local Law 3 (Community Health and Environmental Management)(2011)*
- *Local Law 4 (Local Government Controlled Areas, Facilities, Infrastructure and Roads) (2011)*
- *Local Law 6 (Bathing Reserves) 2011*
- *Open Space Strategy (2011)*
- *Placemaking Charter (2012)*
- *Placemaking Policy (2012)*
- *Positive Ageing Strategy (2011)*
- *Privacy Policy (2010)*
- *Reconciliation Action Plan (2011)*
- *Social Infrastructure Strategy (2011)*
- *Sunshine Coast Community Plan (2011)*
- *Sunshine Coast Performance and Venues Service Plan*
- *Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme (2014)*
- *Sustainable Transport Strategy 2011-2021*
- *Volunteers Policy (2010)*
- *Waterways and Coastal Management Strategy 2011-2021*
- *Wellbeing Charter (2010)*
- *Youth Strategy (2010)*

Queensland Government

- *Compliance and Enforcement Policy (2009)*
- *Local Government Act (2009)*
- *South East Queensland Regional Plan 2009-2031*
- *Sustainable Planning Act (2009)*

Australian Government

- *Disability Discrimination Act (1992)*
- *Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission Act (1996)*
- *Information Privacy Act 2009*
- *National Crime Prevention Framework (2012)*

Version control:

Version	Reason/ Trigger	Change (Y/N)	Endorsed/ Reviewed by	Date
1.0	Create new			DD/MM/YYYY
1.1	Update as per new Organisational Structure			23/11/2017