

Report to the Future Melbourne (Environment) Committee

Agenda item 6.8

Integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into Integrated Planning Framework

8 December 2020

Presenter: Alison Leighton, Deputy Chief Executive Officer and General Manager, Strategy, Planning and Climate Change

Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement to use the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to inform the City of Melbourne's (CoM) Integrated Planning Framework, and to use the SDGs in the development of the Council Plan and Community Vision.
2. In 2015, United Nations member states agreed on a new agenda for achieving global sustainable development. *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* sets out the SDGs as an ambitious, overarching framework with the aim to achieve worldwide sustainable development by the year 2030. *Agenda 2030* was designed as a successor to the UN Millennium Development Goals, which expired in 2015, having focused heavily on health, hunger, education and poverty in developing nations. The SDGs are broader, consisting of 17 goals, underpinned by 168 targets and 232 indicators.
3. CoM 2020/21 Annual Plan Initiative 1.5, *Integrate the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals*, involves a partnership between CoM and The University of Melbourne's Connected Cities Lab, to determine how best to integrate and embed the SDGs in CoM's strategies, planning, reporting and benchmarking practices and explore the development of a localised index. API 1.5 includes two major pieces of work:
 - 3.1. A Voluntary Local Review (VLR) to set a baseline of CoM performance against the SDGs. This is a benchmark of CoM progress against the SDGs and will identify areas of strength and areas for improvement. This will help determine what work CoM prioritises into the future.
 - 3.2. A strategic prioritisation framework that will enable CoM to embed the SDGs into strategic and business planning and to inform future investment.

Key issues

4. There is opportunity for CoM to integrate the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* for deliberative community engagement with the SDGs into the Integrated Planning Framework. CoM is responding to the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* by developing a new Community Engagement Policy. The SDGs provide a lens to inform the Integrated Planning Framework both as a strategic reference and a mechanism for community engagement.
5. Many cities around the world have used the VLR format. VLRs are an emerging framework for local governments to report progress against the SDGs. The University of Melbourne conducted a review of VLRs globally and noted that there are different approaches around the world and regionally specific methods for standardising VLRs are developing. As yet, no Australian city has translated the SDGs to a municipal level and reported against them.

Recommendation from management

6. That the Future Melbourne Committee endorse the use of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to inform the Integrated Planning Framework and to use the Sustainable Development Goals in the development of the Council Plan and Community Vision.

Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment (page 2 of 2)

Supporting Attachment

Legal

1. No legal issues arise from the content of the management report.

Finance

2. The costs of the Integrated Planning Framework are included within the existing budget.

Conflict of interest

3. No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a material or general conflict of interest in relation to the matter of the report.

Health and Safety

4. In developing this proposal, no Occupational Health and Safety issues or opportunities have been identified

Stakeholder consultation

5. It is proposed that the SDGs inform the Integrated Planning Framework which includes deliberative community engagement as a process to develop the Council Plan and Community Vision.
6. The *Local Government Act 2020* signals four key shifts in approach in integrated strategic planning and reporting arrangements that will require Council engagement and response, these are:
 - 6.1. Community Vision – the Act aims to bring community and its aspirations and longer term sustainable thinking to the core of policy and strategy development, planning and fiscal management;
 - 6.2. Outcomes focus – a deliberate move to a principles-based Act shifts regulatory focus from prescriptive rules and defined processes towards broadly stated principles and strategic outcomes;
 - 6.3. Community engagement – rather than prescribing requirements for community engagement all Councils must now develop appropriate consultation mechanisms (including deliberative engagement) in the context of their community and incorporate these into a policy to be adopted by 1 March 2021; and
 - 6.4. Additional requirements – new medium and long-term planning elements have been incorporated in the Financial Plan, Asset Plan and Workforce Plan.

Relation to Council policy (if applicable)

7. The recommendation aligns with priorities identified in the *Future Melbourne 2026* plan and *Council Plan 2017–21*.

Environmental sustainability

8. The SDGs are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. The Goals aim to achieve outcomes across 17 topic areas by 2030, including climate action, reduced inequality, no poverty, decent work and economic growth and peace and justice. An Integrated Planning Framework informed by the SDGs, will guide future CoM investment to improve environmental, social and economic sustainability.