

MODEL TERMS OF REFERENCE for Community Advisory Committees and Community Reference Groups



Climate Emergency Darebin

1. Application of these Terms of Reference	<p>These Model Terms of Reference apply to all Community Advisory Committees, Community Reference Groups and similar groups formally constituted by resolution of Darebin City Council.</p> <p>For the purpose of this Model Terms of Reference, all such groups and committees are referred to as “the Committee”.</p>
2. Purpose and Scope	<p>The <i>purpose</i> of this Committee is to provide advice and recommendations (were appropriate) to Council in relation to the matters specified in Appendix A</p> <p>In conducting its activities associated with its purpose and scope the Committee will;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct itself according to, and within, the Terms of Reference and any relevant Council resolution; • Inform itself of issues, opportunities, constraints and urgent actions relating to maintenance and promotion of the Committee; • Provide honest, considered, constructive and impartial advice to Council that will improve Council decision making; • Provide advice on strategic and other planning work to help set short and longer-term direction and action; • Foster a Committee culture that seeks to understand and explore diverse views of Committee members so that advice to Council reflects such diversity of views, and; • Report to Council periodically on its work, in order to ensure accountability for its conduct. <p>In providing advice, all members will be given every opportunity, encouragement and support to put their views before the Committee and that this will be considered in Darebin’s policy, program and project development.</p> <p>The <i>scope</i> of this Committee is to act in an advisory capacity to the Council only and has no delegated authority to make decisions.</p> <p>The Committee does not have an operational role and neither it, nor its members, may direct Council staff in the performance of their duties.</p> <p>The Committee shall have regard to and act in accordance with Council’s strategic objectives and priorities. Specifically, the Committee will have regard to the strategies, plans, frameworks, policies and plans referenced in Appendix A.</p>

<p>3. Committee Specific Protocols and Operating Practices</p>	<p>It is acknowledged that these model Terms of Reference may not in all instances provide the required or adequate clarity regarding a Committees functioning. To this extent, Committees may develop specific protocols and operating practices to supplement these ToR</p> <p>These protocols and operating practices may deal with any matters that the Committee determines are relevant to the efficient and effective functioning of the Committee and may include matters such as consideration of the social and cultural diversity of the Darebin community, inclusiveness of multicultural, educational, indigenous, religious, disability, youth, aged, sexual and gender communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, membership numbers, support for members to facilitate participation and consideration of sitting fees.</p> <p>Any such protocols and operating practices must not conflict with these ToR and must be endorsed by the Committee, the relevant General Manager and be attached to these ToR when formally adopted by Council. Should agreement not be reached by the Committee and the relevant General Manager, this will be escalated to the Chief Executive Officer.</p>
<p>4. Composition, Recruitment, Appointment and Tenure</p>	<p>This Committee comprises Councillor(s) appointed by Council annually and a Council Officer nominated by the Chief Executive Officer (both non-voting) and any other persons, and representatives of organisations as determined by resolution of Council and as specified in Appendix A.</p> <p>All Advisory Committees will sunset on 30 June following each General Council election, unless they have been re-established in the new Council term or the work of an Advisory Committee has been completed prior to this date.</p> <p>Specified members of Committees (excluding Councillors) shall be appointed to a Committee for the term specified in Appendix A. All appointments will be for an initial period of 2 years with the option for a further maximum period through to the 30 June in the year following each General Election upon re application.</p> <p>If the Council Officer (in consultation with existing Committee members) believes that staggered appointment terms are appropriate for the Committee, these may be instituted within the parameters of the 2 years period.</p> <p>Where a member is appointed to the Committee as a representative of a particular organisation a proxy may attend meeting on their behalf if the nominated person cannot attend.</p> <p>Council will appoint one proxy Councillor to each Committee annually. Councillors appointed as a proxy through the annual appointment process may attend Committee meetings.</p> <p>All vacancies shall be publicly advertised by Council prior to appointment.</p> <p>Prospective candidates shall submit an Expression of Interest in a form and manner prescribed by Council to enable Council to consider their appointment to the Committee. The criteria for the appointment of members will be developed by the Council Officer based on the required skills and knowledge and the existing Council policy and practices that promote diversity and inclusion. The Council Officer will consult with the Committee regarding any skill or experience</p>

	<p>deficiency or gap in the existing Committee that may need to be specifically considered during a recruitment and appointment process</p> <p>Where vacancies occur 'mid-term', a replacement Committee member may be appointed by Council's Chief Executive Officer, subject to an Expression of Interest process as above.</p> <p>Committee members appointed as a result of a 'mid-term' vacancy will serve the balance of the former Committee member's term</p> <p>Notwithstanding any of the above, Council may at any time by resolution set a date or a milestone that when reached or completed causes the cessation of the Committee and the expiry of Committee members' terms.</p> <p>A member may not complete more than 2 successive Council terms ie 8 years unless exceptional circumstances supporting the continuation of the members participation are demonstrated.</p>
<p>5. Responsibilities, Duties and Conduct of Members</p>	<p>In performing the purpose of the Committee, members must act honestly, treat others with respect, exercise reasonable care and diligence, and not make improper use of their position or make improper use of information acquired because of their position.</p> <p>The expectation of members' behaviour is that they will behave with respect and openness by listening to one another and by allowing all members to have a voice. Respectful behaviour is inclusive of all Committee meetings, emails, correspondence, telephone calls and on-line meetings.</p> <p>Members must work co-operatively with other members, respect the authority of the Chair and meeting procedures and must not seek to dominate the meeting or insist or imply that their own views and ideas carry more weight than those of others.</p> <p>Members must respect the confidentiality and sensitivity of information as appropriate.</p> <p>Committee members will be required to participate in an induction workshop arranged by Council and may be required to participate in specified training relevant to the work of the Committee from time to time.</p> <p>Upon appointment, Chairs including Co-Chairs must undertake or demonstrate relevant recent training and proficiency in running effective meetings.</p> <p>Committee members must not speak for Council and are not authorised to speak to the media in respect of the Committee's activities and deliberations.</p> <p>Committee Members are required to abide by Council's Employee Code of Conduct to the extent applicable to volunteers and the Council's Volunteer Policy. Failure to abide by the conduct principles, (and relevant Council policies, including Council's Occupational Health and Safety Guidelines) will result in the member being deemed to be in breach of their obligations and may result in their removal from the Committee by a Council resolution, or in urgent circumstances by Council's Chief Executive Officer if the Chief Executive Officer considers that such action is necessary.</p>

<p>6. Meetings</p>	<p>Attendance at Committee meetings is expected in normal circumstances and is critical to fulfilment of appointment as a member.</p> <p>The Chairperson shall be appointed as specified in Appendix A</p> <p>Meetings will be held quarterly unless determined by the Committee Chair and Council Officer in order to allow for the timely consideration and provision of advice to Council on particular, time-sensitive matters from time to time. Committees may, with the approval of the relevant General Manager, meet more frequently on a limited and specific basis (if required).</p> <p>Working Groups may be established as required for a specific purpose and on a limited timeframe to enable a focus on a specific task or project. These are subject to the approval by the relevant General Manager after consideration of their specific need, the availability of resources to support their operation and their agreed timeframes and tenure.</p> <p>If the Chairperson is not present at a meeting, the Committee members will determine to appoint a Chairperson for the purposes of conducting the meeting.</p> <p>The appointed Council officer will take responsibility for providing executive support to the Committee including provision of meeting agendas and minutes.</p> <p>Committee agendas will be forward to Committee members by email no later than five working days before a scheduled meeting.</p> <p>Minutes will be provided to Committee members and all Councillors no later than 10 working days of the meeting and will include a summary of discussions, details of any conflicts of interest disclosed and any decisions made. The Chair, including Co-Chairs, shall ratify the minutes of the meeting prior to their distribution. Formal endorsement of the minutes will occur at the subsequent Committee meeting.</p> <p>Committee agenda items will be identified by Council Officers in consultation with the Chairperson. Members are able to request items to be listed subject to them being raised with the Council Officer and with the Chairpersons consent</p> <p>Notice of any additional Committee meetings will be provided 2 weeks in advance.</p> <p>Committee meetings may be held virtually Committee meetings are closed to the public.</p> <p>Special guests / subject matter experts may be invited to the meeting at the combined discretion of the Chair, including Co-Chairs and Council officer.</p> <p>A quorum will be half of the voting Committee members plus one. In the absence of a quorum, a Chairperson may conduct the meeting for discussion purposes. Committees have no delegated authority to</p>
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	<p>make decisions on behalf of Council, therefore any vote is on a position or recommendation to be made to Council if appropriate.</p> <p>Whilst voting on matters is expected to be uncommon a member must be in attendance (either virtually or in person) to vote.</p> <p>Any Conflicts of Interest must be declared and recorded at the commencement of the meeting. A member who has a conflict of interest must leave the meeting when the item is discussed.</p>
7. Transparency	<p>In order to maintain transparency of Committee operations and in alignment with Council's Governance Rules the following information is to be published on Council's website in respect of each Committee:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Terms of Reference. b) The names of all members c) Minutes of Advisory Committees meetings d) Reports of Committee activities (as reported biannually to Council) as prepared by Council Officers
8. Opportunities for Cross Collaboration and Induction of Committee members	<p>Council may, from time to time, facilitate meetings, forums, workshops and the like to enable the members of the various Committees to come together for knowledge sharing, professional development and the collaborative provision of advice as appropriate.</p> <p>Committees and new Committee members will be provided with an appropriate induction at the commencement of their term that includes an overview of the Council's structure and functions, the relationship of the Committee with Councillors and the community and any other matters to ensure they are well supported.</p>
9. Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation	<p>The specific advice of a Committee in relation to a particular matter will be communicated to Council by the relevant Council officer in an appropriate format if and when required. The progress and activities of a Committee will be reported bi annually through a combined six- monthly Council meeting report on the progress and activities of all Committees to be prepared by Council Officers. The operation of the Committee will be evaluated annually via a number of methods including self-evaluation of the Committee (arranged by the Council Officer) to ensure that the Committee is achieving its objectives. Results of the evaluation will be reported in an annual progress report submitted to Council detailing the Committee's activities and achievements.</p>

APPENDIX A

Name of Committee	Climate Emergency Darebin
ToR Clause 2	<p>The <i>purpose</i> of this Committee is to provide advice and recommendations (where appropriate) to Council in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • climate emergency leadership, specifically around the impacts and opportunities for the Darebin community • achieving and implementing climate and energy strategies and actions in the Council Plan • rapid community emissions reduction including advice on large and community scale renewable energy and other zero emissions technologies • ongoing development and review of policies, strategies and plans, especially those that directly and indirectly impact the Darebin community around the climate emergency • developing programs relating to Council priorities such as: climate risk, fuel poverty, resilience, adaptation, mitigation and protection of those communities most impacted by climate change • developing and delivering Council's Climate Emergency Plan • promoting the work of Darebin's climate program • effective and appropriate engagement with Darebin's diverse community on climate issues • advocating to relevant external authorities to ensure action is taken to create a safe climate for all. <p>The Committee shall have regard to and act in accordance with Council's strategic objectives and priorities. Specifically, the Committee will have regard to the following strategies, plans, frameworks, policies and plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Vision • Council Plan 2021-2025 • Towards Equality: Equity, Inclusion and Human Rights Framework 2019-2029 • Statement of Commitment to Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People <p>Specific Council strategies, frameworks, plans and policies relevant to this Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Emergency Plan 2017-22 • Watershed: Towards Water Sensitive Darebin 2015-25 • Darebin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan 2017-2021 • Waste and Recycling Strategy 2020 • Transport Strategy • Breathing Space: Open Space Strategy
ToR Clause 3	<p>Committee Specific Protocols and Operating Practices</p> <p>The guiding principles are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledgement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the First People of this nation and the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners of the land on which the municipality of Darebin is situated. This acknowledgement recognises the importance of traditional owners ongoing

	<p>commitment and contribution to Country, including to land, water and Culture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Child Safe Darebin, with all members complying with Child Safe policy and protocols • Respect for diversity of ideas and voices in discussions and advice provided to Council; • Collaboration with all participating in the Advisory Committee; • Active contribution to the development of ideas, discussion and priorities of the Advisory Committee and the advice provided to Council. • Respect the value and integrity of each member and the richness they bring. • Approach dialogue and debate with a spirit of understanding and collaboration. • Respect, value and promote the role of the Climate Emergency Darebin Advisory Committee.
ToR Clause 4	<p>Two Councillors required.</p> <p>A maximum of ten community members representing the diversity within Darebin's community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two from the Traditional Owner as well as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities • two from Darebin's culturally and linguistically diverse communities • two with specialist climate expertise – could be technical or other • two with community expertise – community leadership, community engagement, advocacy etc • two people between 16 to 25 years <p>*A committee member could be eligible under more than one of the above categories.</p> <p>The Committee will seek to build and reflect diversity within membership including age and gender and be inclusive in practice.</p> <p>The tenure of any such additional members will be in alignment with the current members and will be endorsed by Council in conjunction with the bi-annual reporting of the Committee activities to Council.</p>
TOR Clause 6	<p>The Committee Chairperson shall be a Councillor with a Community member as Co-Chair</p> <p>The Committee Chairperson and Co-Chair shall be appointed at it's first meeting.</p>