

APPENDIX E

Darebin Community Advisory Committee Review

Committee Title:

Darebin Women's Advisory Committee

	X	No of Representatives
Membership: Councillors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 female Crs – NONE required in ToR
Community Representatives	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	17 registered members + 1 Convenor
Industry Representatives	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 community orgs (WHIN, WISHIN)
Council Staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 (supporting officer)

Councillors' attendance

	Year 2012-13 post Statutory meeting						Year 2013-14 post Statutory meeting					
	6/12/2012	5/02/2013	7/02/2013	4/04/2013	6/06/2013	15/08/2013	3/10/2013	28/11/2013	6/02/2014	3/04/2014	5/06/2014	2/08/2014
Cr Angela Villella	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N
Cr Julie Williams	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	N

Establishment and End Dates:

August 2009 (Council resolution 17 August 2009) for developmental phase of DWAC – November 2010 (Council report 29 November 2010) for current ToR – No end date

Method of Establishment:

Flow-on from Council resolution 20 April 2009 to explore the role and composition of a Women's Community Advisory Committee

Council resolutions 17 August 2009 & 29 November 2010 for current format of committee

Frequency of Meetings:

Bi-monthly (proposal to move to quarterly in new TOR)

Stated Purpose & Objectives:

Stated purpose:

- contribute to a healthy, inclusive local democracy
- act as conduit between women in Darebin and Council
- engage and empower women
- enhance Council's capacity to take women's issues into account across all services & activities.

Objectives ("role"):

- support Council to develop and apply a 'gender lens'
- advise Council on policies, plans, reviews, discussion papers, events & celebrations
- represent the concerns & aspirations of women in Darebin and create two-way connections between Council & women in the community
- participate actively in policy development, community planning & community engagement processes
- assist Council to identify & remove barriers to women's full participation in the life of the city
- support strategic advocacy at the local, state & Federal level

Current Terms of reference – Objective A861458

Committee's Operation:

While the committee was initially dynamic and full of promises and insights and contributed substantially to Council's work on gender equity, it has gradually become quite dysfunctional.

Over the last two years, attendance at meetings has been erratic, oscillating between 9 and... 1 member(s). While some members are nonetheless engaged and send apologies, a number never do and never attend (but at this stage, there is no mechanism in the ToR to deal with this.)

Councillor attendance at meetings has recently been uneven, with both nominated Crs attending certain meetings and none attending others. Confusion around the Convenor role is probably a factor in this.

While it did over its first years of operations, at this stage, the committee is struggling to achieve its stated purpose and objectives.

The intent of the committee is nonetheless of great value to Council, allowing for a clear and strong message that Council lives up to its commitment to gender equity (strategy 2.16 in Council Plan 2013-17). The Committee is not replicating/duplicating the work of another Committee.

Recommendation:

The committee in its current format is not functioning well. Review of the terms of reference is needed, not only to ensure consistency with current advisory committee guidelines, but also as a way to clarify structure, role and expectations, renew membership and reinvigorate the committee.

See new draft ToR – Objective A2374035

Panel Recommendation:

That the committee maintains status quo until the statutory meeting scheduled for 10 November 2014. At that meeting female Councillors are appointed as co-chairs of the committee.

The Terms of Reference are reviewed for the committee period November 2014 – October 2015.

Endorsed:

Director Community Development: Date:

Manager Corporate Governance & Performance: Date:

Team Leader Equity & Diversity: Date:

Director (As determined): Date:

Manager (As determined): Date:

Coordinator (As determined): Date: