

CM13.4. Revised Two Cities One Community Partnership Agreement

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CONFIDENTIAL	No		
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Purpose of Report

To present the revised, draft Two Cities One Community Partnership Agreement to Council for consideration.

Background

On 13 October 2017, the Two Cities One Community (2C1C) Partnership Agreement was signed between AlburyCity and City of Wodonga. The partnership has been supported by the Two Cities One Community Strategic Plan and Action Plan, which were developed through a review of community aspirations for the Albury and Wodonga community.

The 2C1C initiative provided a unique opportunity to develop a way forward that benefits both communities through a combined focus on the four pillars of leadership, economy, environment and community.

This successful partnership has allowed us to consider how programs being delivered in the two cities can be pooled and consolidated to enable greater community impact and benefit, how strategic planning can be integrated to minimise duplication and to build on our advocacy efforts by being stronger together. This collaborative approach has enabled us to be well positioned to take advantage of future government funding opportunities to improve infrastructure and growth.

The Partnership Agreement and 2C1C Strategic Plan are scheduled for review and updating to reflect our current Council's opportunities and challenges.

Issues

Our two Councils collaborate on and advocate for a range of projects, events, issues and cross-border initiatives. A renewed Partnership Agreement continues this unique collaboration to benefit our community and region.

A continued partnership, supported by a renewed 2C1C Strategic Plan, will improve our advocacy potential, cross-border integration, productivity and social and economic development. It will focus on future growth that will continue to add value to both cities.

At a joint Councillor and Executive workshop, held on Wednesday 8 June 2022, there was support for the continuation of the 2C1C collaboration through a revised Partnership Agreement. Elements of the current partnership agreement were reviewed. Consideration included:

- That the Mission was to remain unchanged: *“to work together to achieve our community goals, now and into the future. We understand that we are stronger together and can achieve more when working in collaboration. We will build on our current partnerships and shared values for the betterment of Albury and Wodonga.”*
- That the 2C1C Executive Working Group would no longer exist, rather all Councillors and Executive would come together as necessary to progress the action plan and report on progress.
- That the projects and initiatives identified in the 2C1C Action Plan would be strategic in nature and not operational.
- To improve readability and succinctness, the 2C1C Partnership Agreement Objectives were consolidated from 10 to 5 as follows:

2017 signed Partnership Agreement Objectives	Draft 2022 Partnership Agreement Objectives
1. Drive the achievement of community aspirations and ambitions as identified in Albury 2030 and Wodonga 2033 Community Strategic Plans	1. Drive the achievement of community aspirations and ambitions as identified in Towards Albury 2050 and Wodonga 2033 Community Strategic Plans.
2. Adopt a holistic approach to regional planning and strategy to ensure successful implementation over the long term and the achievement of identified objectives	2. Adopt a holistic and innovative approach to regional planning and strategy to deliver value for money outcomes through a cooperative approach to design, funding and implementation of major infrastructure and facilities.
3. Maximise benefits derived from the Councils' limited capital funds by adopting a cooperative approach to planning, funding and implementing major infrastructure and facilities	3. Advocate all levels of government and partner with key stakeholders to benefit the local economy and the Albury Wodonga lifestyle
4. Use our combined forces to advocate for and attract investment (public and private) that brings innovation to, and strengthens the local economy and the Albury Wodonga lifestyle	4. Engage and consult our community to be well-informed in our decision-making
5. Engage and consult our community to ensure we speak with 'one voice'.	5. Unlock productivity improvement through effective cross-border issue resolution.
6. Deliver outcomes and value for money through improved cooperation, while ensuring all initiatives provide shared benefit	
7. Engage, involve and partner with key stakeholders, business and industry, universities, TAFEs and Regional Councils	
8. Partner with the NSW, Victorian and Commonwealth Governments to better inform decision making, infrastructure investment,	

service delivery and to overcome cross-border issues and constraints	
9. Unlock productivity improvements through cross-border issue resolution.	
10. Identify, utilise and share open-source data to build understanding and inform strategy.	

The draft changes were provided to Albury and Wodonga Councillors for feedback between 1 and 9 August 2022. No amendments were suggested during this time.

Risk

- **Business Risk** – The continued 2C1C partnership strengthens our focus and positions us to take advantage of government opportunities and cross-border initiatives that benefit both communities.
- **Corporate Risk** – Our two communities have told us that they want to see both Councils working together to achieve community aspirations. There is a corporate and public image risk if councils are not collaborating to seek joint community benefit.
- **WHS and Public Risk** – Nil identified
- **Environmental Risk** – There is an identified opportunity to continue to collaborate on environmental issues through the 'Environment' pillar of the revised 2C1C Strategic Plan should the partnership continue.
- **Delivery Program Risk** – There could be disruption to the adopted Four-Year Delivery Program if the partnership with City of Wodonga does not continue as this could impact the delivery of combined 2C1C projects.

Community Engagement

Extensive community engagement was undertaken by both Councils in developing Albury 2030 and Wodonga 2033, both of which articulated high-level community aspirations which included a strong push for our councils to work together for the benefit of both communities. Both strategies guided the development of the inaugural 2C1C Partnership Agreement and Community Strategic Plan, which are now due for review.

AlburyCity has recently finalised development of Toward Albury 2050 which, together with Wodonga 2033, has formed the foundation of the next iteration of the Partnership Agreement.

The revised draft 2C1C Partnership Agreement has also been informed by Councillor and Executive engagement from both Albury and City of Wodonga Councils.

On completion of the Councils' consideration of the revised Partnership Agreement, an updated 2C1C Community Strategic Plan and action plan will be developed.

Options

1. That Council endorse the revised 2C1C Partnership Agreement. **Recommended.**

This option is recommended to support our strategic collaboration and the benefits this delivers to our communities.

2. That Council seek amendments to the draft 2C1C Partnership Agreement. **Not Recommended.**

Both Councillor groups have indicated a desire and intent to continue the collaboration, participated in a workshop to review the Agreement and have been provided with the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft.

3. That Council do not endorse the draft 2C1C Partnership Agreement. **Not Recommended.**

This would be contrary to community aspirations that the Councils of Albury and Wodonga collaborate for the benefit of both communities.

Conclusion

On 13 October 2017, the 2C1C Partnership Agreement was signed between AlburyCity and City of Wodonga. The partnership has been supported by the Two Cities One Community Strategic Plan and Action Plan which were developed through a review of community aspirations for the Albury and Wodonga community.

The Partnership Agreement and 2C1C Strategic Plan are scheduled for review and updating to reflect our current Council's opportunities and challenges.

At a joint Councillor and Executive workshop held on Wednesday 8 June 2022, there was support to continue the 2C1C collaboration through a revised Partnership Agreement. Elements of the current partnership agreement were reviewed and draft amendments made.

Recommendation

That Council endorse the revised Two Cities One Community Partnership Agreement.

Attachments

1. Final Draft Partnership Agreement – Albury Wodonga Two Cities One Community – August 2022 (DOC22/165057)
2. Meeting Notes Partnership Discussion – Joint Councillor Workshop 8 June 2022 (DOC22/166158)