



northern
beaches
council

ATTACHMENT BOOKLET

NORTHERN BEACHES COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 30 JULY 2024

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Council Policy

Diplomatic Ties and Civic Relationships

Purpose

To outline the approach by Northern Beaches Council to civic relationships such as Sister Cities, Friendship Cities and Cooperative Agreements.

Statement

This Policy has been developed to ensure Council forms civic relationships which are meaningful, beneficial and accountable to the Northern Beaches community and align with the outcomes and goals of the Community Strategic Plan.

Principles

The following principles provide the criteria for the establishment, maintenance and review of civic relationships.

Any relationship must reflect the Community Strategic Plan – outcomes and goals and must adhere to at least one of the following criteria -

- Historical, cultural, social or geographic similarities between Northern Beaches Council and the prospective city/town.
- Community support for the proposed relationship.
- Support and reflect similar multicultural and culturally diverse communities to those that exist within the Northern Beaches local government area.
- The prospective city has an acknowledged reputation of best practice, particularly in areas of interest and relevance to Northern Beaches Council.
- The prospective city is willing to undertake a formal agreement that identifies a review date and outlines the capacity to effectively resource the proposed level of commitment.

Scope and application

This Policy applies to the formation and maintenance of all diplomatic ties and civic relationships initiated by Northern Beaches Council.

References and related documents

- Northern Beaches Council Gifts and Benefits Policy
- Northern Beaches Council Code of Conduct
- Councillors Expenses and Facilities Policy
- Diplomatic Ties and Civic Relationships Guidelines

Definitions

Key Term	Definition
Sister City	A relationship that is recognised through a formal agreement that develops mutual long term benefits between two cities.
Diplomatic Tie	A short term, often project based relationship/alliance/agreement based on achieving common goals.

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Friendship City (or Cooperative Agreement)	A recognised relationship based on less formal arrangements than a Sister City.
Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)	A formal agreement between two or more parties to establish official partnerships. MoUs are not legally binding but carry a degree of seriousness and mutual respect, stronger than a general agreement

Responsible Officer

Executive Officer, Office of the Mayor

Review Date

February 2023.

Revision History

Revision	Date	Change	HPE CM Ref
1	June 2019	Draft Diplomatic Ties and Civic Relationships Policy	xxxxxxx

Attachment 2

Engagement Summary

The draft Policy was exhibited on Council's 'Have Your Say' website from 28 September to 27 October 2019.

During the public exhibition period, Council received 71 submissions with 249 visits to the 'Your Say' website page.

Submissions received were from former secondary Northern Beaches school students, overseas students who participated in the Odawara youth exchanges, current and former secondary school teachers, parents of students who participated in both the Brewarrina and Odawara exchange programs, members of the former Manly Sister Cities Committee and members of the general community.

Summary of submission themes / Statements	No. of submissions received
Support for the Odawara Sister City Friendship Agreement and Student Exchange Program, Odawara, Japan (former Manly Council)	52
Support for Brewarrina Friendship Agreement and Student Youth Exchange, Brewarrina, New South Wales (former Warringah Council)	3
Support for both the Odawara and Brewarrina Youth Exchanges	4
General support for both regional and international partnerships	5
Submission on behalf of the former members of the Manly sister Cities Committee identifying support for former Manly Council Sister City activities of Taito-Ku, Japan (in-active), Odawara, Japan (active) and Yeongdo-Gu, Busan, South Korea (in-active) * signed on behalf of 19 former committee members	1*
Support for only regional partnerships	1
General support for the four current active partnerships	1
Support for the Senshu City, Osaka Marathon, Tadaoka, Japan (former Pittwater Council)	1
Support for drought ravished communities – no overseas partnerships	1
No comments provided	2

