

CITY RELATIONSHIPS POLICY

Policy Type	Council
Responsible Department	Office of the CEO
Responsible Officer	Manager Governance, Risk & Strategy
Related Policies and Procedures	N/A
Community Plan 'Towards 2050' Link	1. Community 1.4 We support creativity, cultural expression, and learning.
Date Originally Adopted	14 December 2015
Last Review Date	28 July 2025
Next Review Date	July 2028
ECM Document No.	9149449

1. PREAMBLE

- 1.1. The purpose of the City Relationships Policy (Policy) is to establish a framework for the City of Unley's (Council) relationships and interaction with domestic and international cities with the aim of bringing economic, social and cultural benefits to all participants.
- 1.2. This Policy also provides the selection criteria for establishing new civic partnerships and friendships with other cities both national and internationally.
- 1.3. The Council recognises the value of fostering such relationships to promote cultural, educational, and economic exchanges. This Policy aims to establish guidelines for forming and maintaining sister city relationships that align with the strategic objectives of the Council.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1. This Policy applies to all formal relationships established by the Council with other cities, both nationally and internationally.

3. PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The objectives of the City Relationships Policy are to:
 - Strengthen international and domestic connections through cooperation and collaboration.
 - Align the relationship with the Council's Community Plan 'Towards 2050'.

- To deliver on agreed terms set out in the City Agreement.
- Promote cultural and artistic exchanges to foster understanding between people of different cultures.
- Foster educational partnerships and opportunities through exchange programs and collaborations.
- Provide a forum for exchange of City experiences.
- Preserve historical and heritage links to celebrate shared historical events and connections.
- Exchange cultural, educational, technical, and policy assistance and advice with other cities.

4. DEFINITIONS

<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
City Relationship Agreement	Agreements of cooperation between cities, encompassing historical, economic, social, cultural, educational, and mentoring partnerships.
City Relations	The political, economic, social, and cultural connections that exist between cities from different regions or countries.
Humanitarian	Concerned with or dedicated to improving the welfare and happiness of people.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

<u>Role</u>	<u>Responsibilities</u>
Elected Members	• Responsible for the approval and adoption of this Policy • Must comply with the requirements of this Policy
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	• Must comply with the requirements of this Policy
Manager Governance, Risk & Strategy	• Responsible for the review and application of this Policy
All Employees	• Must comply with the requirements of this Policy

6. STATEMENT

6.1. Establishing and Maintaining City Relations

- 6.1.1. Formal relationships with other cities should be established for their strategic relevance to the City of Unley and its residents.
- 6.1.2. These relationships should ideally be founded on the principles of reciprocation and mutual benefit, except in cases where they are formed for humanitarian purposes.

6.2. Types of relationships

- 6.2.1. Various types of relationships may be pursued, depending on the anticipated benefits for both parties. These include:
 - Historical
 - Economic
 - Social

- Tourism
- Educational
- Culture and Arts
- Mentoring

6.2.2. A City Relationship Agreement will be the method used to formalise the relationship between two cities.

6.3. Criteria for Selection

6.3.1. Generally, when selecting or reviewing a proposal to enter into a City Relationship Agreement with another City it will be assessed against the following criteria:

- 6.3.1.1. **General:** Share similar population size or demographic, geographical location, relevance and value to the local community, and existing connections.
- 6.3.1.2. **Economic:** Similar economic conditions, trade and investment opportunities, and tourism potential.
- 6.3.1.3. **Social:** Similar social infrastructure and issues, opportunity for broad based activity, people to people interest, energy and commitment.
- 6.3.1.4. **Educational:** The creation of educational opportunities including economic, social and environmental considerations together with opportunity for student/teacher exchange programs.
- 6.3.1.5. **Mentoring/Humanitarian:** Opportunity to use the skills of the Council staff and the community to assist in the development of the city concerned.
- 6.3.1.6. **Cultural:** The opportunity to exchange or promote cultural activities between two places.
- 6.3.1.7. **Historical:** Share strong historical relationship.
- 6.3.1.8. **Relationship:** Demonstrate a meaningful mutually beneficial relationship and outline specific activities based on a commitment to shared objectives.

6.3.2. When considering these factors, it is essential to compare both similarities and differences, as both will be relevant in the assessment of the selection process set out in clause 6.3.1 above.

6.4. Approval Process

6.4.1. For new City Relationship Agreements covered by this Policy, approval shall be sought by a resolution at a Council meeting. Following approval, there shall be an exchange of the City Relationship Agreement to be signed by the Mayor and/or the CEO of the Council and the equivalent representative of the nominated city.

6.5. Evaluation

6.5.1. Any city relationship can be reviewed at any time but will be reviewed prior to the expiration as stated in the City Relationship Agreement or within 12 months of the general election of Council, whichever occurs first. This is to ensure the relationship continues to meet the criteria outlined under this Policy and there is adequate support from the Council for the relationship to continue.

7. DELEGATIONS

Nil.

8. LEGISLATION

Nil.

9. AVAILABILITY OF POLICY

9.1. The Policy is available for public inspection during normal office hours at:

The Civic Centre,

181 Unley Road, Unley SA 5061.

A copy may be purchased for a fee as determined annually by Council.

It is also available for viewing, download and printing free of charge from the Council's website www.unley.sa.gov.au.

10. DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date	Version No.	Comment
14 December 2015	Version 1	C339/15 New policy
28 July 2025	Version 2	C1578/25