



STRAT0002: CITY RELATIONSHIPS POLICY

Policy Type:	Council Policy
Responsible Department:	Office of the Chief Executive Officer
Responsible Officer:	Chief Executive Officer
Related Policies and Procedures	N/A
Date Adopted:	14 December 2015 (C339/15)
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1. POLICY STATEMENT

This policy provides a framework for the objectives, selection criteria and types of initiatives supported by the Council when forming formal relationships with other cities, both internationally and within Australia. The type of relationships covered by this policy includes Historical, Economic, Cultural and Educational Partnerships. This policy shall collectively describe such relationships as “formal relationships with other cities”.

2. COMMUNITY GOAL

Emerging: our path to a future city;

- 1.1 A thriving and prosperous business community

Living: our path to a vibrant city;

- 2.1 Highly desirable and diverse lifestyle
- 2.2 Activated places
- 2.3 Cultural and artistic diversity

3. POLICY OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of this Policy are to:

- Promote and encourage local information exchange and liaison between local governments, business leaders and the wider community.
- Develop long-lasting, mutually beneficial friendships and exchange ideas.

- Promote and foster understanding between people at all levels and of different cultures.
- Promote economic growth and increase tourism and the number of visitors.
- Exchange cultural, educational, technical and policy assistance and advice with other cities.
- Enhance and promote the image of City of Unley.

4. PRINCIPLES

The City of Unley is a highly desirable place to live with a diverse lifestyle. It has a rich cultural history and celebrates cultural diversity by promoting cultural understanding and inclusiveness while providing diverse community activities and opportunities.

Participating in formal relationships with other cities will enable the community to establish and maintain relationships with other cities in a unique and meaningful way. Such relationships are expected to bring long-term benefits to the communities through exchange of ideas, gaining alternative perspectives and increasing understanding of other issues. Investing time in relationships can lead to benefits such as economic growth and new business contacts.

5. POLICY

Establishing and Maintaining City Relations

Formal relationships with other cities should be established for their strategic relevance to the City of Unley and its residents.

Relationships, where possible, should be based on the concept of reciprocation and mutual benefit except in circumstances where they have been entered into for humanitarian reasons.

Types of relationships

A range of relationship types could be applied, depending on the expected benefits to parties. These include:

- Historical
- Economic
- Social
- Educational
- Cultural
- Mentoring

The types of agreements used to formalise relationships will be Memoranda or Letters of Understanding.

Criteria

Generally, potential cities with which the City of Unley may consider entering into formal relationships, should have a positive influence on the community. The following criteria will be considered when selecting or reviewing formal relationships with other cities:

- **General:** A similar population size or demographic, geographical location, relevance to the local community, existing connections, historical, sporting, artistic significance and ease of access.
- **Economic:** similar economic conditions, trade and investment opportunities, tourism potential.
- **Social:** similar social infrastructure and issues, opportunity for broad based activity, people to people interest, energy and commitment.
- **Educational:** in terms of economic, social and environmental issues, opportunity for student/teacher exchange programs.
- **Mentoring/Humanitarian:** opportunity to use the skills of the City of Unley staff and the community to assist in the development of the city concerned. This may be in a number of technical areas.
- **Cultural:** assist the opportunity to exchange or promote cultural activities between two places.
- **Historical:** a historical relationship.

In considering these factors, it is necessary to compare both the similarities and differences as both could provide mutual benefit.

Such benefits may include but are not limited to:

- Exchanging knowledge and ideas to address/resolve similar issues.
- Promoting economic growth and increasing numbers of visitors to the City.
- Contributing to creating a vibrant city by;
 - promoting a vibrant, cosmopolitan lifestyle
 - activating and enlivening our public precincts by attracting events and festivals to the City
 - encouraging community spirit and a strong sense of belonging
- Contributing to the development of other cities by sharing our knowledge and expertise.
- Remembering a shared history.
- Creating educational opportunities.

No formal partnership will be sought for relationships where the relationship is only between the Councils' administrative bodies.

Approval

For new formal agreements covered by this policy, approval shall be sought by a resolution at a Council meeting. Following approval, there shall be an exchange of a document relevant to the established relationship signed by the Mayor and/or the CEO of the City of Unley and the leader of the nominated city.

Council will also note where 'in kind' costs and expenses are part of the relationship.

Review of relationship

Relationships will be reviewed prior to the expiration of their term as stated in the agreement.

6. DEFINITIONS

City Relations – are the political, economic, social and cultural relationships that exist between cities from different cities/countries.

City Agreements – are agreements of cooperation between cities including Historical, Economic, Social, Cultural, Educational and Mentoring Partnerships.

Memorandum of Understanding - a Memorandum of Understanding is a document describing a bilateral or multilateral agreement between parties. It expresses a convergence of will between the parties, indicating an intended common line of action and may or may not imply a legal commitment. Depending on the exact wording, lacks the binding power of a contract but can lead to formal contractual agreements.

Humanitarian – having concern for or helping to improve the welfare or happiness of people.

7. LEGISLATION / REFERENCES

This is not a mandatory policy.

8. POLICY DELEGATIONS

Nil applicable.

9. ROLES / RESPONSIBILITIES

Programmes or activities which arise from this policy are likely to be initiated and led by the Office of the CEO and Mayor. Departments may be required to provide advice, assistance and support on specific initiatives.

10. AVAILABILITY

The policy is available for public inspection during normal office hours from;

Unley 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

11. DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date:	Council/Committee/Internal	Comment:
14 Dec 2015	Council; C339/15	New policy