



9.1 **ACCEPTANCE OF THE OLDER PERSONS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2019 AND EXTENSION OF MEMBERSHIP**

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: TONY KEENAN, GENERAL MANAGER, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To present to Council the Older Persons Consultative Committee (OPCC) Annual Report 2019. Refer to Attachment 1 Older Persons Consultative Committee 2019 Annual Report.
- 1.2 To seek an extension of the current term for OPCC members to 7 May 2021.
- 1.3 To seek endorsement for the OPCC to co-opt four new members on to the Committee until the proposed extension of the term.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The City of Port Phillip's OPCC is a formal reference committee to Council and acts as its peak advisory and advocacy body consulting on issues affecting the wellbeing of older people 55 years and over within the municipality.
- 2.2 The OPCC have presented to Council their Annual Report outlining the breadth of work they have completed and highlighting their key achievements.
- 2.3 At the OPCC meetings on the 20 April and 25 May 2020 the Committee's current tenure was discussed. OPCC members would like Council to consider an extension of their term on the Committee from October 2020 to May 2021.
- 2.4 Due to the impact of COVID-19 and a decrease in membership in recent times, the OPCC request to co-opt new Committee members, as outlined in the Terms of Reference. Refer to Attachment 2 Older Persons Consultative Committee Terms of Reference

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Receives and acknowledges the Older Persons Consultative Committee (OPCC) Annual Report 2019 and thanks the Committee for their work and achievements.
- 3.2 Endorses an extension of the current OPCC members until 7 May 2021.
- 3.3 Endorses the OPCC to co-opt four new members on to the Committee until the proposed extension of term of May 2020.

4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 The OPCC was established in 2000 as a component of Council's response to the International Year of the Older Person. The OPCC were appointed in a voluntary capacity as an advisory body on issues affecting older residents in Port Phillip.



- 4.2 The OPCC is a reference committee of the City of Phillip. Its community members are appointed on a voluntary capacity. They advise and advocate to Council on wellbeing issues, policies, plans and services impacting older people.
- 4.3 OPCC members attend monthly committee meetings and volunteer additional time on subcommittees to support their advocacy work and assist Council to deliver events such as the Port Phillip Seniors Festival. Members also represent older persons in relevant forums and are members of other reference committees within Council and the community.
- 4.4 In 2019 the OPCC developed an action plan in line with their Terms of Reference, the Council Plan 2017-27, and the World Health Organisation Age Friendly Cities Framework. The Plan outlines advice to Council on policy and planning issues, advocacy relating to older people, and promotion of positive ageing in Port Phillip. Refer to Attachment 3 Older Persons Consultative Committee 2019 Objectives and Plan - Review.
- 4.5 The OPCC Annual Report 2019 outlines the committee's achievements, including:
- 4.5.1 Hosting the Embolden Festival 'Embolden2019' in partnership with Celebrate Ageing, 1 - 3 September at St Kilda Town Hall.
- 4.5.2 Guiding and assisting Council with the delivery of the 2019 City of Port Phillip Seniors Festival program, and hosting Council's key events.
- 4.5.3 Convening OPCC working groups and subcommittees to further develop actions, including:
- Aged Care Reform Working Group
 - Seniors Festival Steering Committee
 - OPCC 20th Anniversary Working Group
 - LGA Reference Committees Working Group
- 4.5.4 Submitting a response to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality Standard. The Submission was endorsed by Council on the 21 August and submitted to the Royal Commission on the 2 September.
- 4.5.5 Delivering the following presentations:
- 'Establishing priorities for Council, advocacy and working collaboratively with other advisory groups'; Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Positive Ageing Network, 29 March.
 - 'Activism, Action and Engagement – Ageing in Port Phillip', Victorian Active Ageing Partnership (VAAP) Research and Practice Forum, 29 August.
 - University of the Third Age Port Phillip (U3APP) Seniors Festival Community Forum, 'Are Victoria and the City of Port Phillip ageing well?', 12 October.
- 4.5.6 Providing feedback and advice on a range of issues outlined in section 5.
- 4.6 Council appointed the current OPCC members on the 5 April 2017 for the period of the current Council term.

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- 4.7 The Committee's tenure was recently discussed at the 20 April and 25 May OPCC meetings. The current term of the committee ceases in October 2020. It was agreed that a request to extend the membership of the Committee until May 2020 be sought.
- 4.8 By extending the term of the OPCC this will allow for incoming Councillors to have sufficient time to be fully oriented and able to consider needs relating to reference committees.
- 4.9 Prior to both the 2013 and 2016 Council elections, the Council endorsed an extension of tenure for the OPCC.
- 4.10 Since the onset of the current OPCC membership three members have resigned and one member has passed away.
- 4.11 The impact of COVID-19 has highlighted the need for the Committee to have a more robust membership.
- 4.12 At the 20 April and 25 May OPCC meetings the Committee deliberated on the number of current members. The OPCC agreed to seek Council's approval to co-opt new members on to the committee, as outlined in the Terms of Reference, until the proposed extension of term to May 2021.
- 4.13 Council have a register of prospective OPCC members. The list consists of residents who have enquired about becoming a member of the committee outside of the recruitment period. The OPCC would seek to gauge their interest in joining the committee.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 The Annual Report outlines the contribution and advice provided to Council by the OPCC, along with external parties, on issues impacting older people in the City of Port Phillip.
- 5.2 Council consultations outlined in the OPCC Annual Report included:
 - Community Bus Review
 - Update on Port Phillip's Housing Strategy
 - Placemaking in Fitzroy Street and Port Phillip
 - Community Safety Plan
 - Community Safety Round Table
 - Access and Inclusion Plan
 - Port Phillip Library Plan
 - Public Spaces Strategy
 - Draft Parking Policy
- 5.3 During the 20 April and 25 May OPCC meetings members of the OPCC requested the Committee's tenure be extended.

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no known legal or risk implications.



7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 7.1 There is no expense, other than officer time, associated with the production of the Annual Report, it is drafted and produced internally.
- 7.2 Council provides a contribution of \$5,466 for OPCC running costs including administration, printing, volunteer reimbursements, events and refreshments.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 8.1 Environmental sustainability has been a key objective in the OPCC Objectives and Plan for the past six years.
- 8.2 Issues relating to climate change have been included in the OPCC monthly meeting Agendas.
- 8.3 There is an online distribution of the Annual Report as well as being accessible on the Council website. The report is available in hardcopy by request only.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 9.1 The establishment of Council Reference Committees is integral to Council's Good Governance principles. Through these Committees, Council recognises and encourages community leadership, and seeks to maximise community feedback in its decision-making process.
- 9.2 Reference Committees provide advice to Council as well as facilitating community networks to build on local strengths, keeping people informed and connected. They improve public confidence through demonstrating active community participation in the decision-making process.
- 9.3 The OPCC's contribution has ensured that older persons have a more culturally enriched, participatory and inclusive lived experience. As an established reference committed they have been responsible for advocating for Council to deliver a range of positive and healthy ageing initiatives. They include the Linking Neighbours Program and Seniors Register, a dedicated Seniors Festival, and the establishment of a University of the Third Age (U3A) in Port Phillip.
- 9.4 They host annual information forums on current topics identified as of significant importance by older residents.
- 9.5 They provide advice to Council on policy and strategy developments and on the Commonwealth Aged Care reforms.
- 9.6 They are representative of a range of local groups and services including U3APP, Australian Association of Gerontology, Port Phillip Lions Club, COTA Victoria, Port Phillip Bicycle Users Group, CaSPA Care, Linking Neighbours, Port Phillip Multifaith Network and Multicultural Advisory Committee.
- 9.7 The OPCC addresses the following Port Phillip Social Justice Charter principles:
 - Participation in decision-making and Council processes
 - Access: Equity of Access to information, facilities and services
 - Respect: Valuing diversity
 - Enjoying the City: being connected



- 9.8 The OPCC addresses the following City of Port Phillip Health and Wellbeing Implementation Strategies priority health topics:
- Service access – universal and targeted access to information and services, including maternal and child health and youth services, aged and disability services.
 - Social inclusion and diversity including mental health resilience.
- 9.9 The OPCC addresses the Port Phillip Community Safety Plan 2019-23, Priority Area 2. Build Resilience:
- Strategy 2.11 Council supports consultative processes and advisory groups to ensure our understanding of community service needs is well- informed and relevant.
- 9.10 The United Nations (UN)' Policy Brief: The impact of COVID-19 on older persons May 2020', outlines 'the pandemic has seen older persons at a significantly higher risk of mortality and sickness with people over 80 years old dying at five times the average rate'. The wellbeing, mental health and the impact of ageism and stigma on older persons needs to be addressed. The UN highlight the extreme importance for older persons to contribute to the crisis response and recovery. The OPCC are well placed to assist Council to deliver on this.
- 9.11 The OPCC will be an important stakeholder for Council to continue to consult in relation to COVID-19 recovery. The relaxing of lock down restrictions in Victoria may cause varying degrees of concern for older residents in relation to their health and safety, given the current messaging.

10. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 10.1 The work of the OPCC aligns with Strategic Direction 1 in the Council Plan 2017-27, as outlined below:
1. We embrace difference, and people belong.
 - 1.1 A safe and active community with strong social connections.
 - 1.4 Community diversity is valued and celebrated.
- 10.2 The OPCC Annual Report reflects the committee being active, informed and made up of community members who are from diverse backgrounds.
- 10.3 The OPCC advocate for the inclusion of older persons in all aspects of community life. Issues relating to improving street safety and amenities, housing and homelessness, ageism, climate change and aged care are priorities for the committee.
- 10.4 Council will continue to consult with the OPCC on Council priorities and key strategies.

11. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

11.1 TIMELINE

- 11.1.1 Council extends the current OPCC membership to May 2021.
- 11.1.2 A report on OPCC activities undertaken during this extended period will be presented to Council in June 2021.

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11.2 COMMUNICATION

11.2.1 The outcome of the Council meeting will be communicated at the OPCC meeting on 29 June 2020 and will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

12. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

12.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in the matter.

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ATTACHMENTS

1. **Attachment 1 Older Persons Consultative Committee Annual Report 2019**
2. **Attachment 2 Older Persons Consultative Committee Terms of Reference**
3. **Attachment 3 Older Persons Consultative Committee 2019 Objectives and Plan - Review**