

7.1 COVID-19 WEEKLY UPDATE

- Attachments:**
1. COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Implementation Plan Update
 2. COVID-19 Impacts on Service Delivery

RECOMMENDATION:

That the COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Committee NOTES the update on the City’s actions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

This report provides an update on the actions to manage the COVID-19 pandemic in the City.

BACKGROUND:

The City has adopted a coordinated strategic approach to managing the COVID-19 pandemic. This was enacted at a Special Council Meeting on 30 March 2020, through the establishment of the COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Committee (the Committee) and endorsement of the COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Strategy (the Strategy). The Strategy is supported by an Implementation Plan which is a ‘living document’; updated twice weekly.

The COVID-19 Weekly Update Report is a standing item on the Committee agenda which includes:

1. Status updates on the Implementation Plan – see **Attachment 1**;
2. Updates on announcements and directives by State and Federal Governments;
3. Information on the methodology used by the City to manage the COVID-19 pandemic;
4. Responses to matters raised by the Committee; and
5. Smaller updates on action items, which would not warrant the drafting of a separate report to the Committee.

DETAILS:

COVID-19 Announcements

It has now been more than four weeks since public health directives have been issued by the Federal or State governments. Western Australia is seeing the benefit of these restrictions with new COVID-19 cases continuing to reduce, including two days with zero new cases (as at 23 April 2020).

With a reduction in the number of new directives the City has focussed on maintaining service delivery across our organisation and considering alternative approaches to support our community while the current restrictions remain in place.

The Vincent community is supporting COVID-19 public health strategies and are demonstrating a good understanding of social distancing, gathering limits and hygiene requirements. The City is continuing to ensure awareness of these strategies with additional signage installed on the parklets and fixed seating areas across the City, and the City’s Eco signs being updated to remind people of current social distancing requirements.

The State Government has announced changes to Western Australia’s stage 3 restrictions effective 27 April 2020 in response to a reduction in the number of new reported COVID-19 cases. The number of new reported cases for the past week is detailed in the following table:

Date	No. cases reported
21 April 2020	1
22 April 2020	0
23 April 2020	0
24 April 2020	2

25 April 2020	1
26 April 2020	0
27 April 2020	0
TOTAL	4

Indoor and outdoor non-work gatherings of up to 10 people are now permitted, which includes:

- Weddings (increased from 5) and funerals;
- Outdoor personal training (no shared equipment); and
- Home opens and display village inspections.

This change will allow ten people to gather in public spaces, and it is likely that the City will notice an increase in group sizes at our public reserves. Outdoor exercise equipment, playgrounds and skate parks will remain closed to minimise the potential of surface cross-contamination. The restrictions applied to local businesses remain, including take away only for restaurants and cafes.

It is expected there will be an increase in the number of groups training within the City’s public reserves, as indoor recreation facilities continue to remain closed. The City issues permits for these businesses, and had not been charging fees during the two-person gathering restriction. To support good physical health in the community, the City will re-commence issuing permits for groups of up to ten people, and will continue to waive the permit fee for the time being. These businesses would still be required to provide evidence of public liability insurance, approved qualifications and adherence to social distancing requirements. The City will monitor closely the demand for public areas for small group fitness training and classes.

In response to the updated directive the City’s Rangers will continue to monitor public spaces to ensure social distancing requirements are being maintained.

Implementation Plan

The Implementation Plan contains a consolidated approach by all Business Units to consider Our Health and Wellbeing, Our Community and Our Organisation.

The following table provides an overview of changes to the ‘Key Actions’ section of the Implementation Plan:

	Total Actions	New Actions	Amended Actions	Completed Actions
Our Health and Wellbeing	8	1	0	1
Our Community	28	0	3	13
Our Organisation	11	1	2	2

New actions have been inserted by Administration upon review of all activities being implemented by the City.

The Implementation Plan contains summarised updates on actions, and detailed updates are provided in separate reports. Some smaller updates in this report include:

1. Service delivery impacts (Action item 3.3)

As a result of COVID-19 a number of business units across the City have been impacted by the Government directives. This has resulted in teams adapting their service delivery and providing alternative service options. **Attachment 2** provides an overview of all service business units outlining whether they are operating as usual, any impacts to services and any additional services in response to COVID-19. The additional services being offered are generally in line with the action items of the Implementation Plan.

As the Government provides updates on lifting of various restrictions, business units would consider the impacts and adapt further.

2. Vincent Community Support Network (Action item 2.28)

In response to a question raised at the 21 April 2020 Committee meeting it is advised that we have had 20 people register to volunteer with more expected to come following a letter drop of postcards promoting the initiative.

3. Workforce optimisation Strategies (Action item 3.7)

In a report presented to the 21 April 2020 Committee meeting, the Committee was advised that a redeployment policy has been created for staff impacted by COVID-19.

- Since 20 March 2020, The City has had 8 employees redeployed who were impacted by the closures of Beatty Park and Library, providing secondment or casual opportunities on a temporary basis.
- The City has had 2 current staff assisting other services who have seen an increase in workload due to COVID-19. These staff members are working part-time in other services in addition to working within their permanent role.

4. Gross Rental Value re-evaluation

An additional action item has been inserted into the Implementation Plan in response to the Committee's request at 21 April 2020 Committee meeting.

CONSULTATION/ADVERTISING:

Nil.

LEGAL/POLICY:

Nil.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS:

COVID-19 is considered a high risk to the City and community.

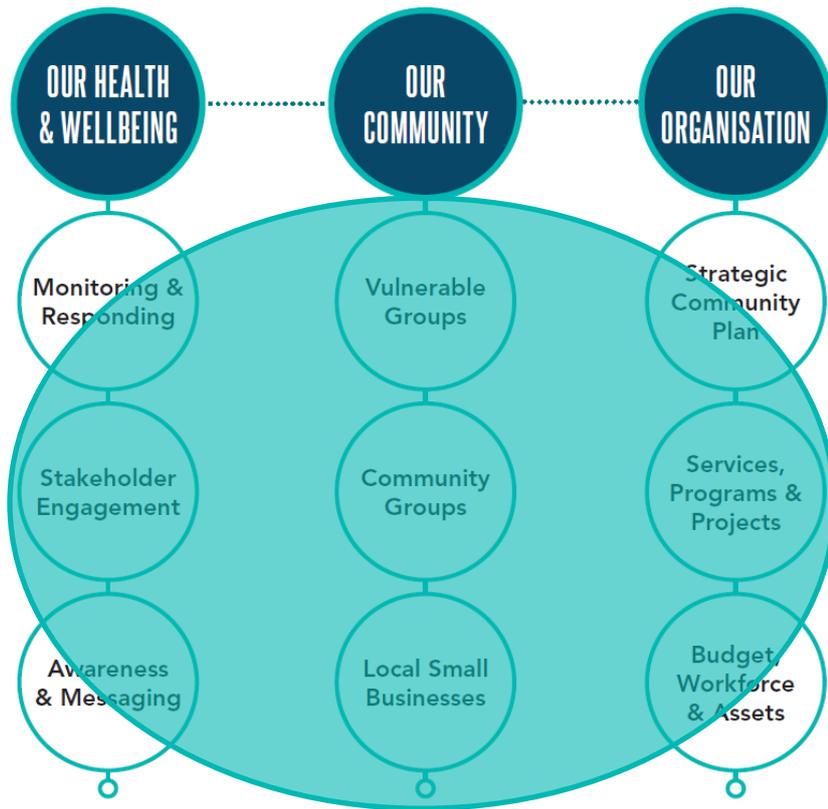
STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:

This is in keeping with the City's *Strategic Community Plan 2018-2028*:

Innovative and Accountable

Our community is aware of what we are doing and how we are meeting our goals.

COVID-19 RELIEF AND RECOVERY STRATEGY ALIGNMENT:



SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

Nil.

FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

The financial and budget implications of COVID-19 will be covered in separate reports to the Committee.