

Community Infrastructure Planning Policy

Version No.	1.0 30 June 2016
Endorsement	Community Infrastructure Framework Project Control Group, 18 May 2016 Policy Review Panel 30 June 2016
Authorisation	Council, 22 August 2016
Review date	30 July 2019
Responsible officer	Community Planning Manager
Policy owner	Community Infrastructure Planner

1. Purpose

Describes the elements of Council’s Community Infrastructure Framework by which decisions regarding community infrastructure are made.

2. Scope

This policy applies across all of Council.

3. Definitions

Word/Term	Definition
Adaptable	The capacity of a building to accommodate effectively and economically the evolving demands of its context, thus maximizing value through life.
Community infrastructure	Physical and related organisational structures that support individuals, and communities to meet their social needs, maximise their potential for development, and enhance community wellbeing, traditionally provided at a municipal or sub-municipal level.
Demand management	Strategies that preference increasing the efficiency and utility of existing infrastructure before investing in new infrastructure, particularly by mediating the way raw demand is expressed.
Early provision	A policy position that prioritises access to an appropriate level of community infrastructure for a new residential community.
Environmentally sustainable design	A design philosophy that prioritises reduction of the impacts of construction and use of buildings on the natural environment.
Greenfield	A description of undeveloped or agricultural land with potential for development and use for industrial or urban purposes.
Infrastructure hierarchy	A system for classifying infrastructure according to the size of the service catchment it serves.
Sustainable	The physical state in which the present generation’s needs are met without compromising the needs of future generations.
Universally accessible	Design of infrastructure to serve the needs of all community members, regardless of distinction as to age, ability, sex or other status.

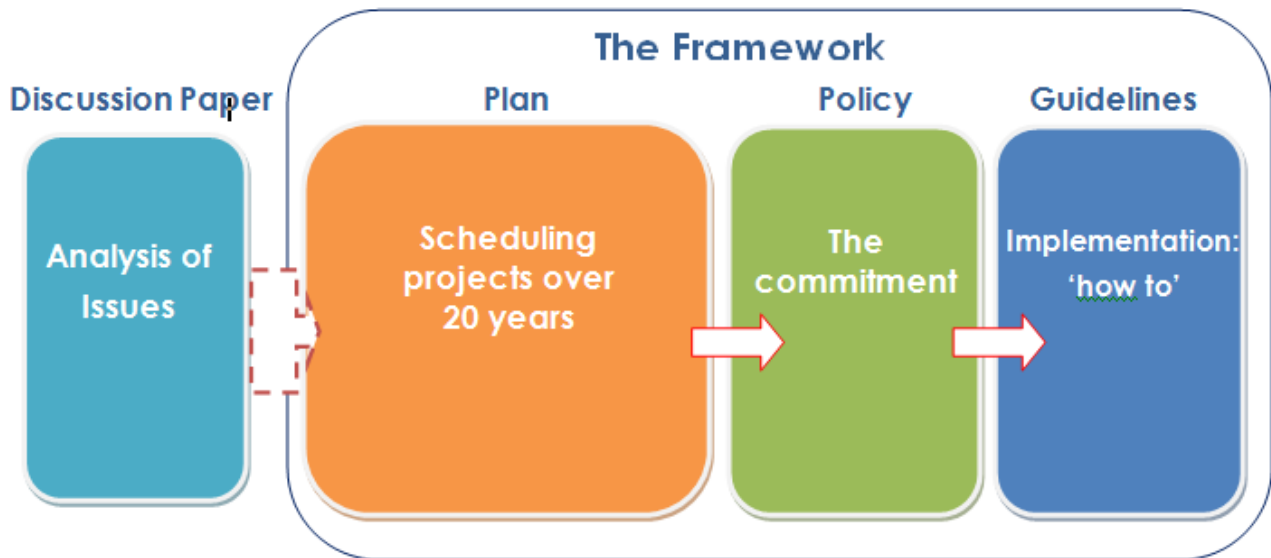
4. Policy

Council is committed to providing a diverse range of community infrastructure in support of its communities. It will therefore implement a Community Infrastructure Framework (“the Framework”) to guide decision-making on related issues.

The elements of the Community Infrastructure Framework are:

1. Community Infrastructure Planning Policy: setting out Council’s commitment (Nb “this Policy”)
2. Community Infrastructure Plan: identifying particular actions over a twenty year planning horizon that will implement this commitment
3. Community Infrastructure Guidelines and Procedures: a range of supporting documentation that will assist to implement directions contained in the above Policy and Plan.

Additionally, a Discussion Paper identified a range of issues that the Framework would seek to address. While not part of the Framework, this provides relevant background for its interpretation.



4.1 Vision

For the purposes of the Framework, Council’s vision is of ‘strong and resilient communities with equitable access to a diverse range of supportive community infrastructure’.

4.2 Strategy

This Framework provides the strategic line of sight between the Council Plan and related documents, and the governance arrangements pertaining to community infrastructure planning and provision.

4.3 Principles

Principles to guide decision-making with respect to community infrastructure are:

- Desirable
 - Community infrastructure is attractive and welcoming for residents and visitors
 - Community infrastructure is safe and perceived to be safe, incorporating Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles
 - Community infrastructure is at the heart of the community, contributing to a sense of place and of community pride
 - Decision-making about community infrastructure incorporates appropriate levels of community participation
- Accessible
 - Community Infrastructure is distributed equitably within the municipality, and across its various population catchments

- Community infrastructure is designed to be universally accessible to people, regardless of age, ability, gender, cultural background or other status
- Community infrastructure is staged according to demand management principles, balanced against the need for appropriate levels of early provision in isolated Greenfield developments
- Community infrastructure is located to promote the most sustainable transport modes practicable
- **Diverse**
 - Community infrastructure supports a diverse range of functions and activities that reflects the diversity of community needs and interests
 - Community infrastructure is designed to reflect and promote local character and identity
 - Community infrastructure is either co-located with or in proximity to other compatible uses, consistent with the community infrastructure hierarchy
- **Sustainable**
 - Community infrastructure is designed to be adaptable, with an adequate supply of suitable land, in order to preserve the opportunities of future generations
 - Planning for community infrastructure promotes efficient use of resources, and takes into account the long term costs of maintaining and managing infrastructure
 - Environmentally sustainable design principles and practices are factored into community infrastructure decision-making.

4.4 Community Infrastructure Hierarchy

Community infrastructure is classified according to the following hierarchy, relating to the size of service catchments.

Hierarchy	Infrastructure Items
Level 1 – Up to 10,000 residents	Regulated children’s rooms
	Recreation pavilions
	Consulting suites (including for Maternal & Child Health)
	Community meeting rooms and larger activity rooms
Level 2 – Every second level 1 facility	Neighbourhood houses
Level 3 or above – District catchment around a Major Activity Centre	Community halls
	Libraries
	Youth facilities
	Social support age friendly facilities
	Indoor recreation facilities, including aquatic centres
	Cultural facilities including Art Galleries, Museums, Performing Arts Centres

4.5 Governance and Review

It is intended that elements of the Community Infrastructure Framework will need to be reviewed iteratively to maintain currency. Proposals to revise the timing, scope, location or budget of projects in the Plan will be made jointly with responsible service units on the recommendation of the Capital Works Planning Committee as part of the annual budget process.

4.6 Guidelines & Procedures

This Policy authorises the Executive Team to adopt operational guidelines and procedures to assist Council officers and contractors to implement the Community Infrastructure Policy and Plan.

5. Responsibility /Accountability

5.1	Community Infrastructure Planner <ul style="list-style-type: none">Responsible for developing and reviewing this Policy and related items in the Community Infrastructure Framework
5.2	All Council officers and contractors <ul style="list-style-type: none">Responsible for adhering to this Policy.

6. References and links to legislation and other documents

Name	Location
<i>Local Government Act 1989</i>	www.legislation.vic.gov.au
<i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i>	www.legislation.vic.gov.au