

## Report to the Future Melbourne Committee

Agenda item 6.3

### Affordable Housing People's Panel

5 September 2023

**Presenter:** Elliot Anderson, Acting Director Community Development

#### Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval to commence a People's Panel on the issue of affordable housing. This includes approval for the remit which will be the key question on which the Affordable Housing People's Panel (Panel) will deliberate.
2. City of Melbourne is committed to delivering more affordable housing as guided by the Affordable Housing Strategy 2020–30, endorsed in December 2020. The current shortage of affordable housing is not the result of a single decision, rather the consequence of long term underinvestment in the development and maintenance of affordable and social housing. Responding to this housing crisis, including through delivering on the Affordable Housing Strategy, requires innovative solutions and collective action and support from all levels of society.
3. The Panel findings and outcomes will support how the City of Melbourne delivers and implements the Affordable Housing Strategy. The recommendations will include what Council and community can do together to facilitate the development of more affordable housing across the municipality.

#### Key issues

4. This approach will bring together 40 randomly selected participants from across the municipality to deliberate over three days. The Strategic Engagement Plan (Attachment 2) sets out the key question and scope for the Panel.
5. One of the core principles for a successful deliberative engagement process is setting a clear and appropriate remit. The remit is the question that gets at the core of the issue to be deliberated on by the Panel and sets the scope for the group deliberation.
6. The remit for this Panel is:
  - 6.1. The City of Melbourne is committed to delivering more affordable housing across our neighbourhoods. It is essential infrastructure needed to support the diversity of our community and the productivity of our city. How can the City of Melbourne and the community deliver more affordable housing effectively?
7. Within this remit the Panel will be provided with information, resources and access to subject matter experts to facilitate their deliberation and provide recommendations to Council on:
  - 7.1. how Council and community can work together to deliver more affordable housing
  - 7.2. what Council can do to support more affordable housing, such as other ideas, strategies, incentives and/or priorities
  - 7.3. what Council should be advocating for to the Victorian Government and the Australian Government.
8. Recruitment of the Panel participants will be undertaken by a specialist recruitment consultant to ensure independence. Recruitment will occur through September and October with an introductory session with the participants scheduled for 26 October. Three all-day sessions will then take place through until 18 November.
9. Following these sessions, Council will receive recommendations from the Panel and work through incorporating these into affordable housing decisions to the maximum extent possible.

## **Recommendation from management**

10. That the Future Melbourne Committee:
  - 10.1. Approves the remit for the Affordable Housing People's Panel and commits to incorporating the Panel's recommendations into Council's decisions to the maximum extent possible, as per the guidelines set out by the International Association for Public Participation Spectrum.
  - 10.2. Approves management proceeding to recruitment of the participants and the delivery of the Affordable Housing People's Panel.

### **Attachments:**

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 3 of 6)
2. Strategic Engagement Plan (Page 4 of 6)

## Supporting Attachment

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### Legal

1. This report relates to the conduct of a community engagement process and no legal issues have been identified.

### Finance

2. Expenses related to the delivery of the Peoples Panel will be accommodated in the Council's Budget 2023–24.

### Conflict of interest

3. No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a material or general conflict of interest in relation to the matter of the report.

### Health and Safety

4. In developing this proposal, no occupational health and safety issues or opportunities have been identified.

### Stakeholder consultation

5. This report sets out the approach to community consultation.

### Relation to Council policy

6. The recommendations in this report are pursuant to Council's Community Engagement Policy 2021.
7. The consultation is being undertaken to support the delivery of Council's affordable housing commitments, including pursuant to:
  - 7.1. Council Plan 2021–25, Major Initiative 44 to 'coordinate and facilitate more affordable housing for key workers and people on low incomes'
  - 7.2. Affordable Housing Strategy 2020–30.

### Environmental sustainability

8. In developing this proposal, no environmental sustainability issues or opportunities have been identified.



# CITY OF MELBOURNE - AFFORDABLE HOUSING PEOPLE'S PANEL STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT PLAN



## CONTEXT

**Everyone deserves a roof over their head, regardless of their financial circumstance. Yet many in our community are finding it increasingly difficult to afford a safe and stable place to call home.**

Accessing affordable rental housing is not a new problem, and it's happening across Australia. Decades of under-investment combined with significant population growth, rising housing costs, and the COVID-19 pandemic means there is a severe shortage of affordable homes for people on very low, low and moderate incomes.

The City of Melbourne wants to change this. We see affordable housing as essential infrastructure that helps Melbourne continue to be a liveable, inclusive and prosperous city. We know it supports our diverse community and keeps our economy productive - research demonstrates that for every \$1 invested in affordable housing, the community benefit is \$3.

In 2019, it was estimated there was a shortfall of 6,000 affordable homes in the City of Melbourne. By 2036, this shortfall will grow to 23,200 affordable homes.

We are committed to redressing the significant shortage of affordable housing within the municipality, and there is strong support at all levels of government to partner with developers and the community housing sector to deliver solutions for our community. You can read more in our [Affordable Housing Strategy](#).

The community agrees as well, with broad support for affordable housing projects within the city. However, this support reduces when communities consider affordable housing options in their own neighbourhoods.

Now is the time to bring the community together through a People's Panel. This panel will comprise 40 individuals who are collectively representative of our resident community, to hear from the experts, learn about the benefits of affordable housing to the whole community and explore new and innovative ways to truly make Melbourne a city that everyone can call home.

## REMIT

The City of Melbourne is committed to delivering more affordable housing across our neighbourhoods. It is essential infrastructure needed to support the diversity of our community and the productivity of our city.



**How can the City of Melbourne and the community deliver more affordable housing effectively?**



### What is affordable housing?

*In the City of Melbourne, we define affordable housing as high quality rental properties for very low-, low- or moderate-income households, that cost no more than 30 per cent of the household's gross income.*







# CITY OF MELBOURNE - AFFORDABLE HOUSING PEOPLE'S PANEL STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT PLAN



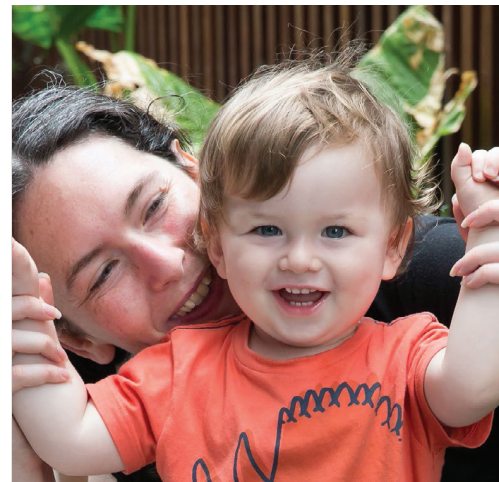
## SUCCESS OBJECTIVES

**Rational**

- A set of recommendations on what the community and Council can do to facilitate the development of more affordable housing across the city
- Test information, knowledge, activities and messaging that will help to build community understanding about affordable housing
- Increase community awareness about the housing crisis, what affordable housing is and how the City of Melbourne is addressing the issue

**Experiential**

- Participants feel heard and are proud that their contribution has been meaningful and helpful to council
- Participants have the opportunity to expand their understanding of the issue
- Participants are inspired and empowered to take these conversations about affordable housing forward into their own networks (champions of change)



## SCOPE

**What the People's Panel can influence**

- How Council and community can work together to deliver more affordable housing
- What Council can do to support more affordable housing, such as other ideas, strategies, incentives and/or priorities
- What Council should be advocating for to state and federal government

**What the People's Panel cannot influence**

- Affordable housing is an essential infrastructure in every neighbourhood. Doing nothing is not an option
- Commitments outlined in the endorsed Affordable Housing Strategy
- Committed City of Melbourne budget/funding allocations
- Who is eligible to access affordable housing as endorsed in the Affordable Housing Strategy



## LEVEL OF INFLUENCE

The highest level of engagement being sought through this process is

# COLLABORATE

(International Association for Public Participation Engagement Spectrum).

**COLLABORATE means:** We will work together with you to formulate solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible

## PROMISES

**We promise to...**

- Listen to what people say
- Document and record all inputs
- Report back on what we have heard
- Work to understand your concerns and priorities
- Incorporate the Panel's recommendations to the maximum extent possible
- Identify where the Panel's recommendations have influenced Council's thinking
- Identify where Council can't incorporate a recommendation and clearly explain why
- Provide transparent, annual progress updates during implementation



# CITY OF MELBOURNE - AFFORDABLE HOUSING PEOPLE'S PANEL STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT PLAN



## ROADMAP

