

Notice of Motion, Councillor Beverley Pinder**Change to membership and terms of reference of the Homelessness Advisory Committee****Motion**

That Council resolves as follows:

1. The membership and terms of reference of the City of Melbourne's Homelessness Advisory Committee (Committee) be revised to include an additional member.
2. That the additional member of the Committee provide for participation by Victoria Police through a representative who has portfolio responsibilities or active involvement in programs aimed at responding to homelessness issues within the municipality.
3. The People City Portfolio Chair write to Victoria Police seeking nomination of a representative to become a member of the Committee.
4. The City of Melbourne's Chief Executive Officer is authorised to make the appointment of an additional member following a nomination from Victoria Police.
5. That management update the terms of reference of the Committee to provide for the changes included in this motion.

Background

The proposal outlined in this motion received unanimous support at the City of Melbourne's Homelessness Advisory Committee (Committee) at its meeting on 28 November

The City of Melbourne works in partnership with people experiencing homelessness, support and service agencies, business, Victoria Police, the Victorian and Australian Governments and the community to reduce homelessness in Melbourne.

One of the key mechanisms for this work is through the Committee which provides Council with strategic advice on homelessness and related issues that can be addressed at a Council level. It seeks to address issues, develop options and assist with identification of preferred solutions as part of Council's decision-making process.

The current terms of reference of the Committee provides for ten representatives with personal and or professional experience, knowledge and expertise in homelessness and related issues. This includes persons with a lived experience of homelessness and indigenous and youth representatives as well as business, community and agencies in the homelessness field.

An opportunity to strengthen the Council's approach through the Committee has been identified by the proposed inclusion of a representative of Victoria Police.

Victoria Police have been integral in discussions, forums and other approaches involving key agencies focused on effective strategies to respond to our homelessness problem. Council's relationship and working arrangement with Victoria Police is strong and the Operating Protocol/Operating Statement is a good example of this co-operation and co-ordinated approach.

Victoria Police have been actively exploring avenues and programs through which they may have a greater and more direct contribution and impact in terms of the welfare and safety of people who are homeless. This includes the work being done through the Melbourne East Police Division and those who have portfolio responsibilities or key involvement in programs dealing with homelessness. Some of the activity involves working with the Salvation Army through initiatives such as the Night Café, concierge program and community hub.

Based on Council's engagement and relationship with Victoria Police to date and the work being undertaken through related programs, extension of Committee membership to include Victoria Police is a natural progression. It would reflect Council's current broader approach and relationships with key agencies and would allow the Committee to benefit from input of Victoria Police.

The proposal to amend terms of reference and membership to include Victoria Police representation is supported by Council management.

Moved: Councillor Beverley Pinder

Seconded: Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood