

ITEM 10 POLICY REVIEW: CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL POLICY

The Crime Prevention Council Policy (Policy) has been revised as part of the Council policy review process. The Policy remains current with changes being only minor edits and formatting.

The revised Crime Prevention Council Policy is presented to Council for adoption.

RECOMMENDATION

Council adopt the revised Crime Prevention Council Policy.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Sue Savage, Manager Community Cultural + Economic Development
Authorised by: Kerry Hunt, Director Community Services - Creative and Innovative City

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Draft Crime Prevention Council Policy

BACKGROUND

The current Crime Prevention Council Policy was adopted on 11 December 2017. The policy provides a framework for Council's role in crime prevention to enhance community safety for the residents of the Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA). The Policy outlines our strategic approaches used to improve community safety and refers to the role of Council's Community Safety Reference Group.

The Policy supports Council's Wollongong Community Safety Plan 2021-2025 approach in reducing crime and increasing the perception of safety in our community.

The strategic approach Council uses to prevent crime and improve community safety includes situational crime prevention and social strategies.

Specifically, community development strategies include:

- Developing community partnerships to implement the Community Safety Plan 2021-2025
- Assessment, monitoring, planning and maintenance of Alcohol-Free Zones and Alcohol Prohibited Zones
- Developing projects that improve safety for vulnerable communities
- Conducting community safety audits of public spaces as requested by residents, businesses and other Council divisions
- Coordination and resourcing of Council's Community Safety Reference Group
- Providing advice on development assessments in regard to community safety issues, including liquor licence applications
- Conducting community safety research to understand factors which increase or decrease safety in the community
- Maintain current crime statistics.

The Policy has been reviewed and remains current with the only changes being minor edits and formatting.

PROPOSAL

The reviewed Crime Prevention Council Policy be adopted.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

The Policy was presented to Council’s Community Safety Reference Group for review and feedback. The Reference Group includes representatives from Wollongong Local Area Command and Lake Illawarra Local Area Command, organisations and community representatives.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2028 goal 5 “We have a healthy community in a liveable city”. It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan	Delivery Program 2018-2022	Operational Plan 2020-21
Strategy	4 Year Action	Annual Deliverables
5.4.1 Partnerships continue to strengthen and achieve a safe accessible community	5.4.1.2 Facilitate a range of partnerships and networks to develop community safety initiatives	Contribute to a range of community based safety initiatives in conjunction with community partners
5.4.2 Local crime continues to be prevented and levels of crime reduced	5.4.2.1 Deliver projects and programs to reduce crime in the Wollongong Local Government Area	Provide Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) advice in Development Assessments and Planning
		Monitor and maintain Alcohol Free Zones including new assessments as required
		Continue to liaise with Local Area Commands on key initiatives and crime reduction strategies
		Complete and finalise Safety Audits and relevant reports

The Policy supports the delivery of the Wollongong Community Safety Plan 2021-2025.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Policy will be delivered within existing operational budget.

CONCLUSION

The Crime Prevention Council Policy provides guidance for Council, key stakeholders, community partners and residents on Council’s position regarding strategies and support for a safe community.



CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL POLICY

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL: : [TO BE COMPLETED BY GOVERNANCE]

PURPOSE

To provide a framework for Council's role in crime prevention to enhance community safety for the residents of the Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA).

POLICY INTENT

The main objectives of this policy are to:

1. Detail Council's role in crime prevention
2. Demonstrate Council's commitment to creating a safe community.

WOLLONGONG 2028 OBJECTIVES

The Policy contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2028 goal "We have a healthy community in a liveable city". It specifically contributes to the delivery of Objective 5.4 "Community safety and community perception of safety is improved".

POLICY

Responsibility for a safe community does not reside with any one particular agency or body, rather, it is the responsibility of the community as a whole. While Council is not solely responsible for crime prevention it is well placed to assist the community to address issues of concern. It is close to the community and can influence many of the factors which determine how people live. Therefore, Council has a central leadership role to play in bringing together, identifying and driving the development of specific strategies to improve and enhance community safety.

It is important to note that Council's role does not involve the provision of law enforcement. Some Council Officers may be involved in regulation compliance, but this is not to be confused with a law enforcement role. Law enforcement remains the responsibility of the NSW Police and other law enforcement agencies.

Council participates in the prevention of crime and the creation of a safe community through two key strategic approaches:

Situational Crime Prevention

Situational crime prevention makes crime more difficult to commit and less rewarding. It is used to enhance the physical environment and help improve how safe people feel. Situational crime prevention minimises opportunities for crime to occur and increases the risk to the offender of being caught. Examples of situational crime prevention include trimming trees to create clear sightlines, cleaning off graffiti, providing additional lighting, planting green screening to prevent graffiti, planting trees to enhance the look and feel of a place, organising activities to encourage higher visitation, and incorporating structures such as public art to attract people to an area. The term Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is used when implementing principles to reduce opportunities for crime to occur. This can also be referred to as First Generation CPTED principles.

Social Strategies

Social strategies are designed to improve underlying social conditions such as income, access to housing, employment opportunities, education and training, leisure and recreational opportunities and available community services. Improving these underlying social conditions helps to prevent crime from occurring and thus contribute to enhanced community safety. It works through strengthening communities and social

CRIME PREVENTION POLICY

COUNCIL POLICY

infrastructure. It involves all levels of government, families, individuals and community organisations in a partnership approach. It recognises that crime is a complex social problem that is closely related to unemployment, substance abuse and family breakdown. These approaches which look beyond the built environment are also referred to as Second Generation CPTED principles.

STATEMENT OF PROCEDURES

1. Wollongong City Council will approach crime prevention and the development of safe communities through the operations of its Community Safety Reference Group. Recognising however that crime prevention and creating a safe community does not rest alone with the Community Safety Reference Group, but is a whole of Council responsibility.
2. The Community Safety Officer will use a community development approach to address issues of crime prevention.
3. The Community Safety Reference Group will work in partnership with the NSW Police, local, state and federal government agencies, non-government agencies and the community to:
 - Develop and implement short and long term strategies that broadly encompass the key strategic approaches of situational and social crime prevention so people will feel safe in Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA).
 - Identify and analyse the extent of crime and community concern about safety in Wollongong LGA.
 - Encourage the development of policies by local government and other appropriate authorities on crime prevention through the provision of information, best practice and analysis, so that agencies can operate in a consistent manner with consistent information. This will ensure there is policy interaction and support between agencies.
 - Identify and analyse issues raised by the community and other groups, using crime statistics provided by Police and information sharing between agencies, to assist those communities and groups with the provision of skills, knowledge and resources to participate in making Wollongong LGA a safer place. Make recommendations and regular representations to local, state and federal governments on ongoing issues of community safety. These recommendations and representations should be based on information, analysis and identification of issues of ongoing concern in the Wollongong LGA and should support both the key strategic approaches of situational and social crime prevention.
4. The Community Safety Reference Group should be consulted by all Divisions of Council regarding crime prevention and community safety, particularly in relation to the use of public space.
5. Wollongong City Council and the Community Safety Reference Group will not endorse any security product or service.

REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed every two years from the date of each adoption of the policy, or more frequently as required.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Crime Prevention and Community Safety actions will be coordinated by the Community Cultural and Economic Development Division.

CRIME PREVENTION POLICY

COUNCIL POLICY

APPROVAL AND REVIEW		
Responsible Division	Community, Cultural + Economic Development	
Date/s adopted	<i>EMC</i> [updated by policy owner]	<i>Council</i> [To be inserted by Governance]
Date/s of previous adoptions	11 December 2017 25 November 2013 21 February 2000	
Date of next review	June 2023	