



TOWN OF
VICTORIA PARK

Homelessness Implementation Plan

2022-2026



WE'RE OPEN
VIC PARK

The Town's Role

As the tier of government closest to the community, local governments are well positioned to be a central point of information and connector for the community and other levels of government. The Town aims to facilitate connections, advocate to other tiers of government, deliver awareness-raising and helpful resources, and partner with other stakeholders to meet the needs of people who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness. This implementation plan details the actions that will be undertaken by the Town to operationalise Policy 113 – Homelessness – The Town's Role.

Principles

Compassion	The Town recognises that people who are homeless are some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in our community, and that homelessness may have been caused by extended periods of disadvantage or as a result of a single life event. The Town will show compassion and care when interacting and working with people experiencing homelessness in the community.
Respect	The Town will have due regard for the feelings, needs and rights of people who experience homelessness.
Inclusiveness	The Town encourages and promotes inclusive access to public spaces and amenities, acknowledging the rights of people experiencing homelessness, whilst also acknowledging the responsibility of all community members to respect the rights of others to live in a safe and peaceful environment.
Right to housing	The Town recognises that access to housing that is affordable, secure and appropriate is a basic human right, essential to individuals' mental and physical wellbeing and necessary for community members to meaningfully participate in society. The Town has a responsibility to understand acute housing needs, including homelessness, and to work collaboratively among all stakeholders to address local housing needs.
Partnerships & collaboration	The Town acknowledges that ending homelessness requires a committed, whole-of-community response. The Town will work in partnership and collaboratively with all levels of government, homeless support services, businesses, community organisations and neighbouring local governments towards a coordinated, effective, and evidence-based approach to ending homelessness in the local community and the greater inner-City region.
No wrong door	The Town acknowledges that people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness often connect with the Town. The Town is committed to implementing a 'no wrong door' approach to ensuring people in need are not turned away and are provided with the information and support to access services to meet their needs.




























Commitments

1	The Town will play an active role in homelessness prevention through providing information on services, resources and facilities to assist people who are experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness.
2	The Town will work with community organisations to build their capability and capacity to contribute to preventing and to ending homelessness through funding and support mechanisms such as a community funding or grant programs, access to or use of Council land or buildings, subsidised rent, and/or rate relief, and by facilitating partnerships and coordinating local action.
3	The Town will proactively ensure public spaces and amenities are safe and inclusive for people experiencing homelessness.
4	Subject to compliance with any requirements of privacy legislation and confidentiality, the Town will collect and share accurate data, including utilising the By Name List, to understand, monitor, and respond to trends regarding homelessness in the community.
5	The Town recognises the important role that a healthy supply of social and affordable rental housing plays in addressing homelessness, and will investigate affordable housing options as outlined in the Local Planning Strategy.
6	The Town will facilitate training for staff on how to respond with compassion, care, and respect to people experiencing homelessness.
7	The Town will seek to remove the capacity for any negative impacts on people experiencing homelessness through the scheduled review of local laws.
8	The Town will actively partner and collaborate with neighbouring local governments, community services, local business, and the broader community to prevent and to end homelessness.
9	The Town will engage in evidenced-based advocacy with local, state, and federal governments for a collaborative, coordinated approach to prevent and to end homelessness.
10	The Town will raise awareness of the nature, impacts and challenges of homelessness and how the community, including local businesses, can play a part in minimising the impact of and prevent homelessness in the community.



Deliverables

The following deliverables are directly linked to the defined policy commitments.

#	Deliverable	Lead	Partner	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26
1.1	Review, update and re-print the Support Service Directory brochures, incorporating accessibility considerations such as low literacy.	Community Development	Communications & Engagement				
1.2	Update the 'Homelessness' landing page on the Town's website.	Community Development	Communications & Engagement				
2.1	Promote the Community Grants Program and information on how to apply for it to organisations who assist people experiencing homelessness.	Community Development	Events, Arts & Funding				
2.2	Promote the release of vacancies and office space in Town properties and local landowners to organisations and community groups providing services to people experiencing homelessness or similar support services. Support a balanced approach to making leasing decisions through weighting of community benefit and alignment with the Town's strategies, plans, and policies.	Properties & Leasing	Community Development				
3.1	Regularly update Homelessness Management Practice to guide the Town's responses to rough sleepers, left belongings, and squatters.	Community Development	Parking & Rangers; Customer Relations				
4.1	Work with an external outreach service provider and the Department of Communities Office of Homelessness to gather and share data, contribute to the By Name List and Return to Country operations, and to respond appropriately to any emerging trends.	Community Development	External Provider; Department of Communities Office of Homelessness				
5.1	Support affordable housing by investigating local demand/gaps and opportunities for the Town.	Community Development	Place Planning				



#	Deliverable	Lead	Partner	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26
6.1	Investigate and deliver homelessness awareness training to frontline staff and relevant policy and development staff.	Community Development; People & Culture	Relevant External Organisations	✓	✓	✓	✓
7.1	Include 'consultation with the Community Development team' into the Local Law Review Guidelines to ensure that, throughout the review process, the rights of people experiencing homelessness are upheld.	Governance	Community Development		✓		
8.1	Attend and encourage membership uptake in the Department of Communities Homelessness Working Group and the Belmont & Victoria Park Emergency Relief Network.	Community Development		✓	✓	✓	✓
8.2	Provide administrative support to the Healthy Relationships Strategy Group.	Community Development		✓	✓	✓	✓
8.3	Engage with local stakeholders in the homelessness space to discuss opportunities for collaboration	Community Development		✓	✓	✓	✓
9.1	Actively participate in the Department of Communities Commissioning Process to map and coordinate homelessness services across Western Australia.	Department of Communities	Community Development	✓	✓		
9.2	Re-establish an Internal Working Group to monitor and review the progress of the Homelessness Policy Action Plan.	Community Development	All Relevant Service Areas	✓	✓	✓	✓
10.1	The Town will develop and deliver a Communications Plan to raise awareness of the nature, impacts and challenges of homelessness, and pathways out of homelessness.	Communications & Engagement	Community Development	✓	✓	✓	✓
10.2	The Town will deliver an awareness-raising activity during Homelessness Week in collaboration with other local service providers.	Community Development	External Service Provider(s)	✓	✓	✓	✓









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