

STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

D18/36607

POLICY: COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

DEPARTMENT: Community Services	RESPONSIBILITY: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Director Community Services
SECTION: Community Development	
REVIEW DATE:	NEXT REVIEW: 2025/2026
VERSION: 1	APPROVAL DATE: 26/04/2020

PURPOSE

This policy, in conjunction with the Community Relationships Framework streamlines Stratford District Council's approach to engaging and collaborating with external community focused groups. It will ensure we are progressive and consistent with allocating resourcing to achieving our future aspirations. As a leading organisation within the Stratford community, we strive towards providing positive interactions that allow solid relationships and trust to be built on.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all staff members, elected officials and appointed contractors who represent Stratford District Council when interacting with stakeholders and/or the community to maintain or establish ongoing working relationships.

The way in which we conduct ourselves while representing Stratford District Council is integral to building trusting relationships with our stakeholders and our community. Our interactions will align with the *Stratford District Council Customer Service Charter*.

RELATIONSHIPS

Resourcing

1. Stratford District Council may, through its *Community Development Strategy*, *Economic Development Strategy* and budgeting process provide resourcing support to organisations recognised as contributing to good quality public service and the well-being of the district.
2. Stratford District Council may redistribute allocated resourcing according to priority and availability.
3. Stratford District Council will engage in relationships that align with the guiding principles and community outcomes as outlined in *the Community Relationships Framework* in a manner that reflects current best practice and resourcing capabilities.

4. The Community Development team will develop a work programme prior to each financial year to confirm resource allocations. If deliverables outweigh the resource allocation then Elected Members will be requested to either increase available resources or reallocate or decline deliverables to fit within the available budgets.

Expectations

1. Community groups feel supported and empowered in delivering on their contribution to the wellbeing of Stratford as well as providing input into decision making.
2. Stratford District Council takes a collaborative approach to ensuring a quality level of community wellbeing is met.
3. Relationships between Stratford District Council and community groups are clearly defined and transparent.
4. Stratford District Council acts responsibly with its resourcing and legal obligations under the Local Government Act to deliver good quality local public service.

Eligibility

Support will only be available to entities, groups and organisations who are a not-for-profit or charitable organisation, and/or are for the well-being of Stratford District community.

Expressions of Interest (EOI)

Organisations who currently do not receive resource support from Stratford District Council will need to formally write an EOI to the Director - Community Services. The EOI will outline the request, how the organisation or project will benefit the community and how it aligns with council priorities. All EOIs received requiring resourcing beyond current capacity will be considered for the following financial year.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

- Local Government Act 2002