



## CP 4.5 | International Relationships

### Objective

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The City of Perth is an active member of the international community, maintaining a number of Sister City and Charter of Mutual Friendship agreements as part of its relationships with other international cities. These relationships exist to reflect and celebrate the history of Perth and its community, foster international goodwill through collaboration and exchanges and capitalise on existing and future opportunities through relationships with international cities for the benefit of Perth's community, ratepayers and stakeholders.

### Scope

This policy applies to the City's current, and any future, formal international city relationships and associated activities.

This policy seeks to ensure the City's international relationships are creating opportunities for Perth's people, businesses and institutions and seeks to involve them, where possible and appropriate, in relevant activities that may present mutual benefits for involved parties.

### Policy statement

#### Definitions

1. **A Sister City** relationship is a broad-based, long-term partnership between two communities in two countries. A relationship is officially recognised after the highest elected or appointed official from both communities sign an agreement to become Sister Cities.
2. **A Charter of Mutual Friendship** is a long-term partnership between two communities in two countries that is at a lower level of formality than a Sister City relationship. Where appropriate, these Friendship Cities can be potentially upgraded to a Sister City relationship.

#### Purpose and aims of formal international relationship agreements

3. As outlines in the objects of *City of Perth Act 2016*, the City has a unique responsibility to develop and promote the social, economic, cultural, environmental and civic role that it plays as the local government for the capital of Western Australia and the only Australian capital city on the Indian Ocean Rim. The City is proud to represent and promote Perth, the broader metropolitan area and the state at an international level. Formalised international relationships such as Sister City agreements play an integral role in these representation and promotion activities and in fostering inter-governmental relations with other cities.



4. The City's international relationships aim to benefit the community, ratepayers, key stakeholders and businesses by providing the opportunity to participate in cultural, educational, trade, investment and knowledge sharing activities between partnering cities. These relationships can open gateways to new markets, supporting economic growth across a variety of business and industry sectors in Perth and Western Australia.
5. Due to their ongoing nature, these relationships require a strong emphasis on reciprocity, with a high degree of commitment and active involvement from all parties. The City will encourage relevant stakeholders, such as educational, research and cultural institutions, sporting groups, local businesses and media, to engage in and promote activities associated with these international city relationships.
6. The City will develop or support activities or exchange programs that seek to strengthen connections between Perth and its international city counterparts. Funding will be provided in the City's annual budget for international engagement related activities or programs.

## New relationship requests

7. The City will give consideration to the following in its assessment of potential new international relationships:
  8. Where the relationship request has originated and if it is well defined
  9. Capacity of the requesting city to facilitate and service the relationship
  10. How the proposed city compares to Perth in geographic, population and governance aspects
  11. Whether there is compelling economic, trade or investment opportunity for local businesses and institutions
  12. Whether there are existing community or cultural links between the cities or their citizens
  13. How the proposed relationship aligns with the City's Strategic Community Plan and Council's vision
  14. Any existing State/Federal Government links or presence within the requesting city
  15. Whether there is strong support from stakeholders.
16. The formation of any new relationship will be subject to relevant Federal legislation such as the *Australia's Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) Act 2020*.

## International relationship related travel

17. Visits by City representatives to cities where there are bilateral relationships present an opportunity to strengthen ties and harness mutual benefits. Proposals for travel to these cities must outline the visit's objective and proposed outcomes and are subject to current and applicable Council policies and approvals and appropriate funding being made available within the adopted budget or by a decision of Council.



18. Where a major milestone in a relationship is being celebrated, such as a relationship anniversary, it may be appropriate for the Lord Mayor (or delegate) to lead a City outbound delegation. Participation by other relevant industry stakeholders in outbound delegations is to be encouraged. Costs for non-City participants participating in an outbound delegation (such as airfares, accommodation etc) are to be borne by the individual or their organisation.
19. Travel will also be subject to and in line with travel advice provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and any procedures established by the CEO.

### Support for inbound delegations and visits

20. The City will extend, where appropriate, hospitality to visiting representatives from international cities, particularly those with which the City has an existing formal relationship, which may include the development of a visit program and the provision of services such as transportation or interpretation in accordance with any procedures established by the CEO.

## Document control

### Policy context

Legislation, standards & external guidelines	<i>City of Perth Act 2016</i> <i>Australia's Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) Act 2020 (Commonwealth)</i>
Policies and procedures	CP 1.2 Professional Development CP 1.6 Council Member Allowances, Fees and Entitlements
Strategies, plans and frameworks	

### Document custodian

Alliance	Planning and Economic Development	Service unit	Economic Development
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### Review management

Next review due	July 2023	Document management ref.	EDRMS-1336483316-659
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### Document management

Version	Adopted by	Adoption date	Synopsis of changes
1.0	Ordinary Council Meeting	6 July 2021	Council Policy 4.5 adopted - supersedes revoked Council Policies 11.3 – Sister City Relationships and 3.5 – Sending Delegations to External Bodies