

GREATER SHEPPARTON CITY COUNCIL

Policy Number 25.POL1

International Engagement Policy

Version 1

Adopted 20 April 2017

Last Reviewed 20 February 2019

Business Unit:	Sustainable Development
Responsible Officer:	Manager Economic Development
Approved By:	Chief Executive Officer
Next Review:	June 2021

PURPOSE

This International Engagement Policy is intended to aid Council in taking the appropriate measures when entering into a Friendship or Sister City agreement, managing delegations, deciding what international visits are most appropriate for Council representatives to attend and maintaining current Friendship and Sister City Relationships.

POLICY

1. Sister City and Friendship City Agreements

The following Selection Criteria will be considered by Council when determining whether Council should enter into a Sister City or Friendship City Agreement:

- Economic and Social benefits that the relationship would create for Greater Shepparton.
- The likelihood of increasing the potential for trade between the two cities.
- Synergies that exist between the two cities and whether a clear demand exists for Greater Shepparton product or the opportunity to attract investment or imports.
- The potential to establish international student placement opportunities in conjunction with local Universities and GoTafe.

Each Sister City and Friendship City Agreement should feature the following within the agreement:

- A sunset clause
- A 12 month review period
- Agreed outcomes
- The opportunity to extend the formal relationship
- A clear purpose of the agreement

2. Delegations and Business visits

The following Selection Criteria will be considered by Council when determining whether Council should host an international delegation:

- A clear intention of the visit has been articulated by the potential visitor and there is also a clear understanding of the potential outcomes that can be created as a result of the visit.
- The visit aligns with the International Engagement Strategy and the key objectives within the strategy.
- Visit fits within allocated budget constraints.
- Federal and State Government affairs policies.

3. Invitations to International Cities

The following Selection Criteria will be considered by Council when determining whether Council will accept an international invitation:

- A formal invite has been received from the City.
- Local Greater Shepparton businesses are interested in joining the delegation to visit.
- A clear purpose of the invite has been articulated by the City or State authorities/government and there is a clear understanding of the potential outcomes that can be created as a result of the visit.
- The visit aligns with the International Engagement Strategy and the key objectives within the strategy.
- The visit is a priority taking into consideration other intended overseas visits for the financial year if any.
- Whether there is budget available to allow for the visit.

4. Maintaining current Sister and Friendship City relationships

- All relationships should have a focus on creating both economic and social benefits.
- All relationships should demonstrate economic progression and create opportunities for local business.
- All existing relationships should align with the direction of this policy and the International Engagement Strategy.
- Should it be determined that existing relationships are not achieving economic and social outcomes and do not align with the International Engagement Strategy, the relationship should be considered not a priority. If a sunset clause applies to the relationship, the relationship should not be extended.
- Focus should be applied towards existing prosperous relationships and also entering into relationships with other international cities where benefits can be created between our region and the city.

REVIEW

- The International Engagement Policy is to be reviewed by the Manager Economic Development. Any suggested changes will be presented to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration.

Peter Harriott
Chief Executive Officer

Date
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