

Devonport City Council



The City with Spirit



Devonport Community Safety Strategy 2015-2018

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Community Safety Strategy 2015-2018 aims to promote a co-ordinated, holistic approach to enhancing actual and perceived safety.

The Strategy sets out Devonport City Council's proposed actions in partnership with key stakeholders and the community to ensure that the City is a safe place in which a vibrant and diverse cultural life can flourish. It is based on community consultation and builds on the programs and initiatives established under Council's Community Safety Strategy 2012-2014.

2.0 DEVONPORT COMMUNITY AND SAFETY

Feeling and being safe and secure are significant priorities for the Devonport community. There are a number of factors that provide some unique challenges and opportunities to enhancing community safety in Devonport, including:

- 2,087 people who were living in Devonport City in 2011 were born overseas, and 11% arrived in Australia within 5 years prior to 2011.
- 1,685 people or 6.8% of the population in Devonport City in 2011, reported needing help in their day-to-day lives due to disability.
- Analysis of the service age groups of Devonport City in 2011 compared to Tasmania shows that there was a higher proportion of people in the younger age groups (0 to 17 years) as well as a higher proportion of people in the older age groups (60+ years).
- Overall, 23.8% of the population was aged between 0 and 17, and 25.0% were aged 60 years and over, compared with 23.0% and 22.9% respectively for Tasmania.
- Number of lone person households increased by 196 from 2006 (2,634 or 27.3% households) to 2011 (2,830 or 28.1% households) (ABS Census Data)

3.0 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Through collaborative partnerships with the local community, Devonport City Council will build on existing community strengths to enhance and promote community safety, resilience and wellbeing. Council acknowledges the importance of enhancing opportunities for community engagement and participation in the long term aims of community safety (ie. to strengthen communities resulting in reduced likelihood of issues).

Feedback from consultation with residents and local organisations provides both the experienced and perceived views of safety expressed by the community. This data indicates there are many opportunities where Council, through leadership and partnerships, can enhance community safety and wellbeing further.

To understand community priorities, in relation to safety, a community wide survey was conducted between June and August 2014. This is compared below against the 2011 survey.

2011	2014
The survey showed that 21% of the people surveyed felt very safe in their local community, 68% felt safe and 9% felt unsafe or very unsafe.	The survey showed that 20% of the people surveyed felt very safe in their local community, 70% felt safe and 10% felt unsafe or very unsafe.
During the day and night people felt the most safe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the local shops • At home • In their car • At public and community events 	During the day and night people felt the most safe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the local shops • At home • In their car • At public and community events
They felt the least safe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycling on the roads • Near pubs and clubs • In lane ways • In public toilets 	They felt the least safe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycling on the roads • Near pubs and clubs • In lane ways • In public toilets
Main issues that make people feel unsafe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dangerous drivers • Unsafe traffic conditions • Poor street lighting • People being drunk and rowdy 	Main issues that make people feel unsafe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dangerous drivers • Poor street lighting • People being drunk and rowdy • Uneven footpaths

A number of focus groups and a youth survey were also conducted. Outcomes of these sessions can be found in the Community Safety Strategy Outcomes Report.

4.0 WHAT MAKES UP COMMUNITY SAFETY?

Community safety is a wide ranging subject. For the purposes of this Strategy community safety is considered to include:

- Crime prevention;
- Designing and making safe places including pathways, roads, parklands and other public infrastructure;
- Community perceptions about feeling safe at home or in public places;
- Safe and responsible community behaviour;
- Traffic, transport and road safety; and
- Emergency management.

5.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY and PLANNING LINKS

Devonport's Strategic Plan 2009 - 2030 was developed following community input from a futures workshop. Council adopted the Plan June 2009 with the revised document adopted April 2014.

The **Vision** for the City of Devonport is:

Devonport will be a thriving and welcoming regional City living lightly by river and sea.

The terms thriving and welcoming imply that the City will be safe for residents, business operators and visitors.

The **Values** that guide future choices for the City are:

- Continuous improvement and innovation
- Customer satisfactions
- Leadership
- Results and accountability
- Our people

The active adoption of these values across the community will help make Devonport a safe community.

The **Goals and Outcomes** that are aligned with the community safety initiatives in this plan are detailed below:

Goal 2: Building a unique city

Outcome 2.3: The infrastructure priorities to support the development of our unique city are planned and appropriately funded and maintained.

Goal 4: Building quality of life

Outcome 4.1: Sport and recreation facilities and programs are well planned with strong participation.

Outcome 4.2: A vibrant culture is created through the provision of cultural activities, events and facilities.

Outcome 4.4: Our community and visitors are safe and secure in all aspects.

Outcome 4.6: Integrated health and well being services and facilities are accessible to all.

Outcome 4.7: An active, connected, empowered community promotes and values diversity and equity.

Outcome 4.8: Young people are recognised; valued and connected to the community, allowing them to reach their full potential.

Goal 5: Practicing excellent governance

Outcome 5.2: Active and purposeful community engagement and participation is integral to our work.

Other Council policies, plans and strategies addressing community safety include:

- Cycling Strategy
- Pedestrian Strategy
- Road Network Strategy
- Public Lighting Strategy
- East Devonport Community Plan
- Open Space Policy 2013 and Plans
- Graffiti Management Policy

6.0 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1 Local Government

Devonport City Council generally has three roles it can play:

- Provider - it does the work. Regulation is also a provider role;
- Facilitator - it helps or works with others to get things done; or
- Advocate - it speaks out and supports a community issue.

The following table summarises the contribution of various Council Departments to improving community safety.

Council Department	Activities that address the experience and perception of community safety in Devonport
Community Services	<p>Delivers community services for seniors, families, children and young people. Plans, develops and implements social policy and delivers community engagement programs.</p> <p>Delivers community arts and cultural activities, manages facilities including Devonport Regional Gallery and Bass Strait Maritime Centre.</p> <p>Delivers public events to minimise, or prevent, crime and violence and to maximise safety and enjoyment, promoting community cohesion.</p> <p>Supports active and passive recreation and increased community participation in sporting clubs, manages community facilities and recreation centres.</p> <p>Supports the community in emergency management, response and recovery.</p>

Council Department	Activities that address the experience and perception of community safety in Devonport
Media & Communications	Promotes safety related activities.
Customer Service	Provides information to residents, manages safety complaints and requests for action.
Environmental Health	Provides surveillance of food premises and investigation of complaints and food related illness and infectious disease related investigations. Provides childhood immunisations, inspection of premises and investigates residential environmental pollution. Provides regulatory services in accordance with local, state and federal legislation including animal control and management, parking control, and fire prevention. Investigates illegal rubbish dumping issues.
Planning	Implements safer design principles in the planning and design of buildings, amenities and facilities.
Infrastructure & Works	Integrates safer design principles into urban development, park and playground upgrades, walking and cycling infrastructure enhancements and park developments and advocates for better community safety related public transport outcomes. Delivers enhanced road and other transport related infrastructure such as cycling paths, lighting upgrades. Waste services, parks, walkway and roads maintenance, graffiti management.

6.2 Community Safety Special Interest Group

The Community Safety Special Interest Group will oversee the implementation of Strategy and provide an annual report of achievements to Council and the community. The Group was convened in 2002 to develop and implement a range of crime prevention and community safety initiatives. Members of the Group include:

- Devonport City Council
- Tasmania Police
- Tasmania Ambulance
- Devonport Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Retailers
- Devonport Community House
- Youth and Family Focus
- St Vincent de Paul
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Housing Tasmania
- Department of State Growth
- Road Safety

6.3 Devonport Community

The community generally, and each individual in the City, has a responsibility to take reasonable care and to discourage any anti-social behaviour they see, or report it to the authorities. Residents also have the role of generating a culture of connectedness, communication and respect, which promotes feelings of safety.

Licensees, business owners and managers have a responsibility to their customers and the local community to maintain a safe environment in and around their premises.

7.0 STRUCTURE OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTION PLAN

The Community Safety Strategy has a three year implementation period commencing January 2015.

The plan contains three key objectives:

1. Vibrant safe streets and public places;
2. Devonport is a safe city by night;
3. A shared community commitment to safety.

The following tables detail actions in each of these areas. The tables also show:

- Desired outcomes;
- Councils role and possible stakeholders ;
- Timing for implementation; and
- Resources allocated or unallocated.

Definitions

Council Roles:

- Provider - it does the work. Regulation is also a provider role;
- Facilitator - it helps or works with others get things done; or
- Advocate - it speaks out and supports a community issue.

Timing:

Ongoing:	Day-to-day operational activities
Short term:	1-2 years
Medium term:	2-3 years
Long term:	3+ years

Resources:

A-OPEX:	Annual Operational Expenditure – staffing or operational resource allocated as part of the annual plan
F-OPEX:	Future Operational Expenditure – identified increased requirements for future consideration in annual allocation
F/A CAPEX:	Future or 2014/15 Capital Expenditure – identified infrastructure requirements

COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTION PLAN

Objective 1: Vibrant safe streets and public places

Strategy 1.1: Implement and promote traffic management actions and education programs to create safer local streets and neighbourhoods

	Action	Desired outcomes	Council role and other stakeholders	Timing	Resources
1.1.1	Participate in and promote road safety programs such as the Community Road Safety Partnership Program	Reduced number of road accidents Responsible road users	Facilitator DIER Tasmania Police	Ongoing	A-OPEX Grant opportunity
1.1.2	Raise road safety concerns related to infrastructure and engineering works with Council's Traffic Committee	Resolution of concerns	Facilitator Provider DIER Tasmania Police	Ongoing	A-OPEX
1.1.3	Develop and maintain roads, parking, footpaths and cycle ways to improve road safety conditions and accessibility for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists in accordance with existing Council strategies (Pedestrian Strategy, Cycle Strategy, Road Network Strategy, Capital Works Program)	Increased safety for pedestrians and road users Reduced accidents where poor maintenance is a contributing factor	Provider DIER	Ongoing	F/A CAPEX Grant opportunity

Strategy 1.2: Develop and maintain safe and healthy public places

Action		Desired outcomes	Council role and other stakeholders	Timing	Resourcing
1.2.1	Assess lighting levels on walkways and cycle ways as part of the Public Lighting Strategy	Safe access in low light levels	Provider Advocate Tas Networks	Ongoing	F/A CAPEX
1.2.2	Integrate community safety design elements such as Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles, into the LIVING CITY project	Safe public places	Provider	Medium term	F/A CAPEX
1.2.3	Promote safety education programs for using non-motorised vehicles such as skateboards, scooters, bikes and similar devices	Increased safety for pedestrians and users	Facilitator Tasmania Police DIER	Ongoing	A-OPEX
1.2.4	Continue to create and promote diversity of cultural activities and events that are accessible and appealing to all residents	Increased feelings of inclusion, connection, respect and safety	Provider Facilitator	Ongoing	A-OPEX Grant opportunity Partnership opportunity

Action	Desired outcomes	Council role and other stakeholders	Timing	Resourcing
1.2.5 Support the community in emergency management, response and recovery	<p>Inform and prepare the community for emergencies</p> <p>Minimise damage to property and increase personal safety during emergency events</p> <p>Timely restoration of basic services and community recovery after an emergency event</p>	<p>Provider</p> <p>Facilitator</p> <p>DPEM</p> <p>SES</p> <p>DHHS</p> <p>Tasmania Police</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>A-OPEX</p> <p>Grant opportunity</p>
1.2.6 Continue to implement a comprehensive proactive graffiti inspection and removal program	<p>Quantified reduction in graffiti</p> <p>Reduction in anti social behavior</p> <p>Reduced community fear of anti social behaviour</p> <p>Improved visual amenity of the City</p>	<p>Provider</p> <p>Facilitator</p> <p>Tasmania Police</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>A-OPEX</p>

Objective 2: Devonport is a safe city by night

Strategy 2.1: Monitor services which support public safety at night

Actions		Desired outcomes	Council role and other stakeholders	Timing	Resourcing
2.1	Monitor the CCTV system	Reduction in the perception of fear of crime in public places A reduction in crime in public places Help Tasmania Police prosecute offenders	Provider Facilitator Tasmania Police	Ongoing	F/A CAPEX
2.2	Monitor public transport concerns and recommend alternative transport solutions	Increased availability of after hours transport Improved timetabling	Advocate Taxi companies Bus companies	Ongoing	Grant or partnership opportunity

Objective 3: A shared community commitment to safety

Strategy 3.1: Provide programs and services to increase feelings of safety and connectedness for children and young people

Actions		Desired outcomes	Council role and other stakeholders	Timing	Resourcing
3.1.1	Support the delivery of alternative education programs integrated with the Learning Communities framework	Appropriate educational opportunities for young people at risk of slipping through the educational system	Advocate Tasmanian Education Department Local Schools Community service organisations	Medium term	A-OPEX

Actions	Desired outcomes	Council role and other stakeholders	Timing	Resourcing
3.1.2 Assist in promotion of programs that aim to reduce the level of young people involved in crime	Decreased anti social behaviour by young people Increased avenues for diversion of young people demonstrating anti social behaviours Improved public perception and reduction of fear about anti social behaviour	Advocate Tasmania Police Community service organisations	Ongoing	A-OPEX Grant opportunity
3.1.3 Continue to implement and support services and activities for children and young people	Improved safety and connectedness for children and young people Young people accessing services	Provider Facilitator Youth, Family and Community Connections Community Houses Community service organisations	Ongoing	A-OPEX
3.1.4 Establish and maintain infrastructure, based on community priorities, that is safe and accessible, such as play spaces skate parks	Increase in respectful behaviours Increase youth engagement in decision-making Year round access to facilities	Provider Facilitator Community service organisations	Ongoing	F/A CAPEX Partnership opportunity Grant opportunity

Strategy 3.2: Increase engagement and participation of the community to enhance safety and well-being

Actions		Desired outcomes	Council role and other stakeholders	Timing	Resourcing
3.2.1	Develop and implement processes to ensure all sections of the community have the opportunity to provide input into decision making	Community actively involved in decision making	Provider	Ongoing	A-OPEX
3.2.2	Establish forum for people to raise access concerns	Community actively involved in decision making Reduced number of pedestrian accidents	Provider	Medium term	A-OPEX
3.2.3	Implement the Devonport Food Connection project to increase access to affordable nutritious food	All levels of the community have access to adequate and nutritional food	Facilitator Community Houses Gateway Community Care – Heaven's Kitchen Gran's Van Charitable/community organisations Produce suppliers	Short term	Grant funded \$300,000 Tasmania Medicare Local
3.2.4	Support community in addressing homelessness and housing issues	A reduction in homelessness in Devonport Increased availability of housing and associated services	Advocate Service providers Churches Housing Tasmania	Long term	Partnership opportunity

Actions	Desired outcomes	Council role and other stakeholders	Timing	Resourcing
3.2.5 Facilitate the provision of community strengthening activities based on social inclusion	Increased feelings of connectedness, belonging and respect for residents	Facilitator Provider Community service organisations	Ongoing	A-OPEX Grant opportunity
3.2.6 Promote community and Council volunteer opportunities	Increased feelings of connectedness, belonging and respect for residents	Provider Facilitator Volunteering Tasmania Community service organisations	Ongoing	A-OPEX
3.2.7 Promote cyber safety initiatives for children, youth, seniors and their families	Improved safety and well-being for children, young people and seniors	Facilitator Schools Community service organisations	Ongoing	A-OPEX Grant opportunity
3.2.8 Address the perceptions of safety through community information processes including social media platforms	Create a positive safety culture Provide accurate and timely information regarding crime. Increase the level of knowledge in the community about personal and property safety	Provider Community Safety Liaison Group	Ongoing	A-OPEX