
Council Resolution Item

Action is required from the Council Meeting on **16 December 2014** as per the Resolution outlined below.

MM/7	Mayoral Minute: Update on Fit for the Future (MM)
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MAYOR:	Cr Peter Abelson
MOSPLAN REF:	LE.02

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the work undertaken to engage with other Councils to date on Fit for the Future, together with the program of community engagement outlined in this Mayoral Minute.

MAYORAL MINUTE

In September 2014 the NSW Government put all councils on notice that they should consider amalgamation and show that they were "fit for the future" with, or possibly without, amalgamation by 30 June 2015.

For Mosman this meant considering amalgamation with North Sydney, Lane Cove, Willoughby, Hunters Hill and Ryde (the eastern part of) Councils as recommended by the Independent Local Government Review Panel.

To be "fit for the future", according to the State Government, councils must be able to demonstrate "scale and capacity" where capacity is strategic capacity and financial sustainability.

However the State Government has not shown why scale (population size) matters when a council has adequate strategic and financial capacity either on its own or through shared services and strategies. Nor has it shown that financial capacity is related to population size.

The purpose of this minute is to briefly update councillors and our residents and ratepayers on our actions since this announcement and our plans going forward into the new year.

Council has had four meetings with the other five councils in our nominated group. Mosman, North Sydney, Lane Cove, Hunters Hill and Ryde councils have advised the group that they are opposed to the proposed amalgamation. Our position is based on the 81.31% vote against amalgamation at the 2012 election.

All six councils including Willoughby have agreed to examine a structure for joint operations including shared services and strategic planning which would complement our independent powers and services.

In this respect it should be noted that Mosman has long been an active member of the Northern Beaches organisation comprising Pittwater, Warringah, Manly and Mosman, known as SHOROC, which has significant shared services, for example in waste management, and shared strategic planning. Mosman also has other major shared services for example in Library services with four other councils.

We have also re-established our Mosman Independence Community Committee with four citizen members, which has recently set up a Mosman Independence Facebook page.

Moving forward, we will be setting out our options for community information and consultation in mid-February for about five weeks, including a public meeting around the third week of February.

Having received community feedback on the options we will prepare a preferred option and exhibit this around the end of April for consultation for about four weeks.

This will enable Council to provide a detailed submission to the panel by the NSW Government by 30 June.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Motion White/Corrigan

That Council endorse the work undertaken to engage with other Councils to date on Fit for the Future, together with the program of community engagement outlined in this Mayoral Minute.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY