



**KEMPSEY**  
Shire Council

## **DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICE'S REPORT**

13 September 2005

**DSS1 COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LIFESTYLE COMMITTEES**  
**FILE: \* CJL**

### **SUMMARY:**

Reporting on Committees facilitated by Community Services and Lifestyle.



Community Services and Lifestyle facilitates several committees of Council as listed below:

- Community Services Committee
  - Sub committees of:
    - Arts and Cultural Development Committee
    - Community Safety Council
- Aboriginal Liaison Committee
  - Sub committees of:
    - NAIDOC Week Planning Committee
    - Statement of Commitment Action Plan Committee
    - Aboriginal Culture and Heritage Committee
- Access Committee
- Macleay Valley Community Art Gallery Committee
- Australia Day Committee
- Kempsey Assistance Patrol Advisory Committee

Proposed for establishment this year are a Youth Advisory Committee and a reformed Sports Council.

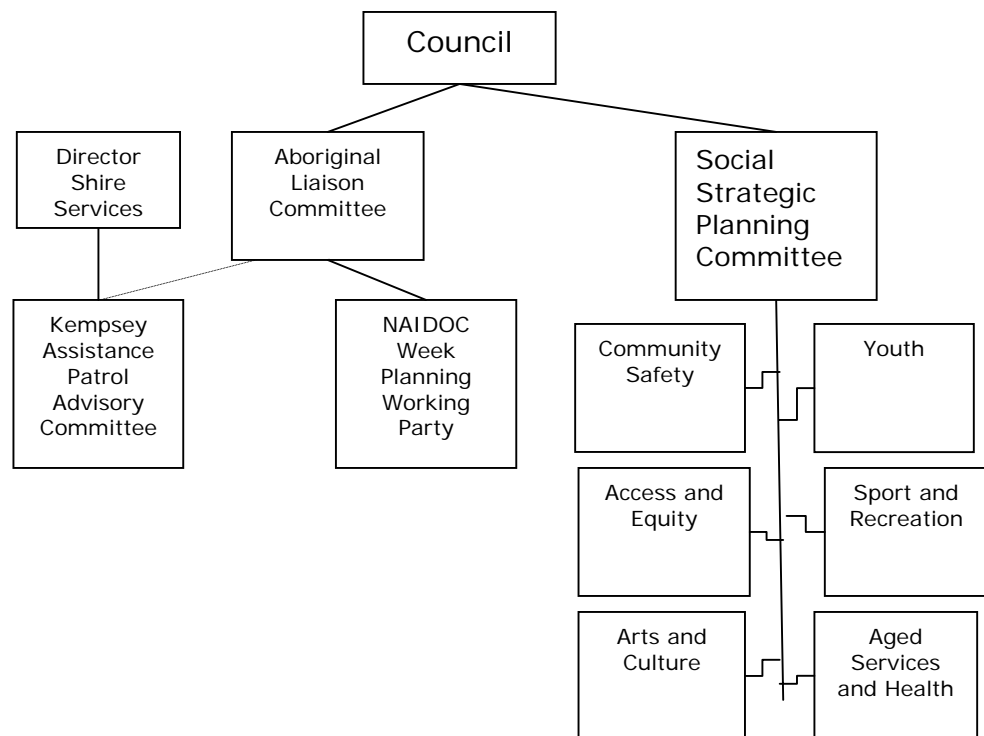
Community Services and Lifestyle also assists the broader community by facilitating Committees that do not report to Council including:

- Community Development and Support Expenditure Committee
- Area Assistance Scheme Kempsey Local Ranking Committee
- West Kempsey Community Renewal Project Advisory Committee
- Greenhills Community Advisory Committee

Community Services and Lifestyle supports these committees because they assist the community, fit within the structure of Council's Social Plan, and are an excellent means of consulting with the community.

It is proposed to streamline the Committees that report to Council to improve the efficiency and outcomes of these committees. The Social Plan provides the guiding principles for Community Services and Lifestyle and a model of Committee structure that takes into account the priorities of this and other plans of Community Services and Lifestyle, as developed in consultation with major stakeholders and partners, will provide a more rationalised and simplified structure.

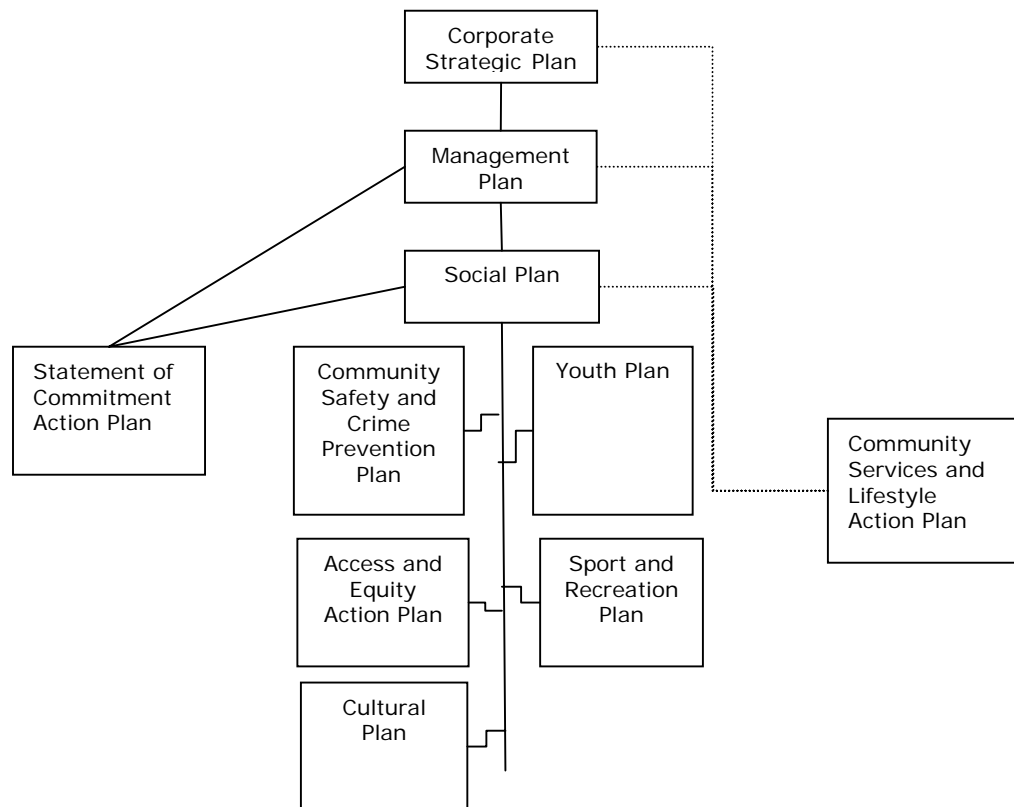
Below is a flow chart of the proposed restructure of Community Services and Lifestyle committees. It is suggested to rename the Community Services Committee as the Social Strategic Planning Committee, which will better reflect the purpose of the committee. The sections under the Social Strategic Planning Committee are not committees but working parties that broadly correspond to the portfolios of Community Services and Lifestyle, and to the identified issues in the Social Plan.



It is envisaged that the Social Strategic Planning Committee will meet four (4) times per year, bringing together government and non-government organisations, service providers and other stakeholders to implement and evaluate the Social Plan. The working parties will meet as necessary as a means of consultation regarding specific issues, and to give advice and recommendations for the consideration of the committee, or Council, as appropriate. The Social Strategic Planning Committee and working groups will also consult regularly with the community via existing focus groups and various consultation methods as needed. Members of the Social Strategic Planning Committee will form the working groups, enlisting the assistance of others as required.

The Aboriginal Liaison Committee will meet bi monthly, as will the Kempsey Assistance Patrol Advisory Committee. The NAIDOC Week Planning Committee will be formed as needed prior to NAIDOC week. The business of other existing sub committees of the Aboriginal Liaison Committee will be considered at their regular meetings.

The priorities of the Community Services section will be set once a year in a Community Services and Lifestyle Action Plan, based on the Corporate Strategic Plan, Management Plan, Social Plan and other relevant plans as detailed below. Consultation with the Social Strategic Planning Committee will inform the yearly Community Services and Lifestyle Action Plan.



Creating a yearly plan based on the above structure will ensure that priorities are set based on all the plans that influence the operations of Community Services and Lifestyle. This will also assist to produce one vision that can be worked towards, with a whole of section approach. A yearly work plan will be used to inform other sections of Council about this section's priorities, and will assist with funding applications and budgetary matters.

Restructuring the committees will improve communication, improve consultation, improve out comes and provide for more organised and systematic planning.

**REPORT IMPLICATIONS:**

- **Environmental**

*Nil*

- *Social*

*As discussed in the body of the report*

- *Economic (Financial)*

*There are no immediate financial implications in that this change will not have any associated cost to Council. It will assist with funding applications and budgetary matters*

- *Policy or Statutory*

*The Local Government (General) Regulation 1999 requires all Councils to develop and implement a Social/Community Plan every five (5) years and to review it annually in conjunction with Council's Management Plan. Council's must also report on access and equity issues in their Annual Reports. This Committee and planning structure will assist to meet these requirements.*

- *Director's Review*

*The proposed streamlines the number and focus of committees and should result in a positive outcome for Council. Council is asked to support the recommendation.*

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That the committees facilitated by Community Services and Lifestyle be restructured as detailed in the report.
2. That the Community Services Committee be renamed the Social Strategic Planning Committee.

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**K J Finnie**  
**DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES**