

Kingston Collaborative Engagement Group Deliberation Panel Report

Remit:

Council's limited budget must serve diverse and broad community needs.

How do we fairly prioritise what we deliver to meet community needs now and into the future?

INTRODUCTION

We started with a group of 48 community representatives across diverse backgrounds and cultures reflecting the demographic makeup of the City of Kingston. Spanning 4 months we collaborated over 6 sessions, approximately 4.5 days, focussing on the Council problem of “How do we fairly prioritise what we deliver to meet community needs now and into the future?”

Using a structured and externally facilitated process, the group were presented with the Council dilemmas.

The process included provided data, the ability to ask questions of subject matter experts and Council representatives. This allowed the group to gather the ideas to address the dilemmas. We then prioritised and grouped similar ideas which then created the basis for our recommendations.

The following is the result of this robust deliberation process of the 2024 Kingston Collaborative Engagement Group:

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

Heading [insert heading here max 5-7 words]	Environmentally sustainable strategies
Description of recommendation [insert 1-2 sentences here]	Investigate and implement innovative council programs which incorporate best practices for environmental sustainability.
Rationale, why is this important for us as an outcome? (1 or 2 key points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Reduce landfill volume- Facilitate and encourage circular economy modelling (reduce, reuse, recycle) to further minimise waste while also reducing impacts of climate change.

Recommendation 2

Heading [insert heading here max 5-7 words]	Asset Utilisation for Community Outcomes
Description of recommendation [insert 1-2 sentences here]	Council to identify underperforming assets (i.e. currently underutilised/ providing minimal community benefits) and implement strategies to maximise their utility by repurposing them in a way that delivers greater community benefits (e.g. make available to entities that provide services that are currently lacking in the area).
Rationale, why is this important for us as an outcome? (1 or 2 key points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Makes use of council assets to full potential- Increases liveability by bolstering community services- Promotes social cohesion by establishing multi-use hubs and spaces

Recommendation 3

Heading [insert heading here max 5-7 words]	Evidence-based decision making
Description of recommendation [insert 1-2 sentences here]	Utilise the most relevant, current and accurate evidence-based data in the decision making process with consideration of other aspects including financial position.
Rationale, why is this important for us as an outcome? (1 or 2 key points)	Decisions based on quality data are more likely to produce better outcomes for the community.

Recommendation 4

Heading [insert heading here max 5-7 words]	Planning for the future
Description of recommendation [insert 1-2 sentences here]	Plan to be long-term focused and take into consideration emerging technologies.
Rationale, why is this important for us as an outcome? (1 or 2 key points)	Emerging technologies would enable the council to plan for the long term. This takes into consideration the changing needs of the community and the environment.

Recommendation 5

Heading [insert heading here max 5-7 words]	Commitment to community safety and wellbeing
Description of recommendation [insert 1-2 sentences here]	Incorporating safety and wellbeing of the community within all departmental projects/programmes must be at the forefront of Council's decision-making process.
Rationale, why is this important for us as an outcome? (1 or 2 key points)	People have a right and a desire to feel safe and be safe at all times throughout the community. Safety fosters community engagement and promotes overall wellbeing.

Recommendation 6

Heading [insert heading here max 5-7 words]	Create alternative revenue sources
Description of recommendation [insert 1-2 sentences here]	Council to utilise existing underused assets and services to generate revenue from external sources.
Rationale, why is this important for us as an outcome? (1 or 2 key points)	Ensure financial health of the Kingston council. Provide supplementary revenue outside of traditional income streams (e.g. rates and fines), whilst making greater use of existing underused assets and services that are otherwise not at capacity.

Recommendation 7

Heading [insert heading here max 5-7 words]	Sustainable decision making
Description of recommendation [insert 1-2 sentences here]	Consider opportunities for implementing sustainable and/or renewable resources when planning programs or projects.
Rationale, why is this important for us as an outcome? (1 or 2 key points)	Saving money and the environment for future generations.

Recommendation 8

Heading [insert heading here max 5-7 words]	Prioritise funding for maintenance of public works
Description of recommendation [insert 1-2 sentences here]	Ensure funding for the upkeep and maintenance of existing and new public works and aesthetic environment.
Rationale, why is this important for us as an outcome? (1 or 2 key points)	<p>Understanding the grassroots importance of maintaining this infrastructure for the purpose of public safety and aesthetic pride.</p> <p>Improving the liveability of the Kingston residents and encouraging the public to take pride in their environment as well.</p> <p>Ensure public environments are well maintained in a cost-effective manner.</p>

Recommendation 9

Heading [insert heading here max 5-7 words]	Prioritise community needs over wants
Description of recommendation [insert 1-2 sentences here]	Use the available data to prioritise the needs of the majority of the community over the wants of the community, including the needs of the vulnerable.
Rationale, why is this important for us as an outcome? (1 or 2 key points)	Given the limited resources available, the Council constraints are unable to deliver what the entire community wants within their budget and timelines.

Recommendation 10

Heading [insert heading here max 5-7 words]	Nurture community connections
Description of recommendation [insert 1-2 sentences here]	Create and support opportunities to establish non-existent, and strengthen existing connections between members of the community, community groups and businesses.
Rationale, why is this important for us as an outcome? (1 or 2 key points)	Builds on community connection, creating a sense of belonging which, in turn, contributes to a harmonious environment.

Recommendation 11

Heading [insert heading here max 5-7 words]	Accountable community communication
Description of recommendation [insert 1-2 sentences here]	Focus on open lines of communication between Council and community. Communications reach the community in a form that is accessible to all (e.g. translated and all mediums).
Rationale, why is this important for us as an outcome? (1 or 2 key points)	Establish and maintain regular open and transparent communication channels with community and stakeholder groups.

MINORITY REPORTS

Minority report 1

What is this in relation to?

Strengthen transport access and integration

Comments we would like noted:

Improve connectivity for residents and stakeholders allowing access to the integrated transportation network, essential services and infrastructure.

Accessibility for all segments needs to be considered, regardless of socioeconomic status, age, physical or mental ability.

Provide a more integrated and comprehensive transportation network for the community to enable all community members to be better connected.

Include and allow underprivileged and under-served areas of the city to have greater and more efficient mobility and access to both services and places of interest.

- Bolstering health and wellbeing, supporting local businesses, taking traffic stress off roads, making it safer to get around, and improving overall sustainability