

## 1. POLICY STATEMENT

This Policy sets out the City of Marion's commitment to effective community engagement regarding Council decisions which have an impact on the people who live, work, study, conduct business and use the facilities or public places in the City of Marion. We seek to communicate effectively with our community about: decision-making processes; the factors, resources and objectives relevant to the decisions we make; and the decisions themselves.

This policy will:

- Guide effective engagement between Council and the communities
- Promote positive relations and develop ongoing mutually beneficial relationships
- Provide ongoing opportunities for participatory decision making
- Support Council leadership where decision-making style is open, transparent, responsive, inclusive and accountable to the community

## 2. SCOPE

The policy applies to the way we engage our communities in decisions and communicate decision of the organization. The policy applies to council members, council employees, contractors and consultants acting on behalf of Council.

## 3. CONTEXT

The City of Marion acknowledges that people want to have a say about decisions that affect their lives. Better decisions are made when the decision-maker takes into account the knowledge, experience and opinions of those affected by the decision.

According to The City of Marion's Strategic Plan Towards 2040 we will strive to make every decision with integrity and in the best interests of our community.

## 4. PRINCIPLES

- 4.1 Elected Members are acknowledged as the representatives of community and empowered to make decisions. The role of staff is to present to the Elected Members all facts (which may include community perspectives) relevant to Council decisions, and subsequently to implement the decisions of Council.
- 4.2 We communicate openly and honestly about the degree of influence communities are able to exercise in any engagement activity or key decision.
- 4.3 We value the diversity of our communities and will utilise inclusive, representative and accessible approaches.
- 4.4 We commit to evaluation and continuous improvement in our community engagement.
- 4.5 The City of Marion will commit to appropriate levels of community engagement before making significant decisions taking into account the number of people affected and the likely degree of

impact of the decision.

4.6 The City of Marion shall consider the following methods of including the community:

- Inform – communicating balanced and objective information to help the community understand the decision.
- Consult - providing information, ideally presenting a number of options, to allow the community to express their preferences regarding the decision.
- Involve - working directly with the community throughout a project to ensure that concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered as the project evolves through to completion.
- Collaborate - working in partnership with the community, with a shared sense of responsibility for the work and the outcome.
- Empower – Places the decision-making about specific projects in the hands of the community. The community takes responsibility and is accountable for the outcomes of decisions made.

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Local Government Act 1999 (SA)
- The City of Marion’s Strategic Plan – Towards 2040

Policy Name and version no.	City of Marion Community Engagement Policy - V1.0
Last update	27 September 2016
Last Council review (report reference)	GC270916R15
Next review due	27 September 2018
Responsibility	Manager, Innovation and Strategy

Date: 27 September 2016