City of Greater Geraldton

2.2 ESTABLISHING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SUSTAINABILITY THEME

Economy

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this policy is to set out the goals, objectives, selection criteria, and the requirements for managing processes associated with the development and operation of formal relationships between the governments of the City of Greater Geraldton and Cities in other Nations.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Council of the City of Greater Geraldton may establish formal or informal relationships with the Governments of Cities in other Nations for the purposes or economic, social, cultural or environmental development in the mutual interests of the Cities.

For the purposes of this policy - Sister City Relationships and Strategic Partnerships are defined as:

Sister City Relationships are formal agreements between City governments with economic, social and cultural dimensions.

Sister City relationships are much broader in scope than a Strategic Partnership, with emphasis on developing and nurturing long-term relationships on behalf of, and involving, their respective businesses and communities

Strategic Partnerships are formal relationships between cities that are typically less broad in scope than a Sister City relationship. This may involve strong business or community level synergies, focused toward specific areas.

POLICY DETAILS

1. Goals and Objectives

International relationships will offer benefits to the City of Greater Geraldton and should align with the City of Greater Geraldton's strategic directions as outlined in the City's current Community Strategic Plan, and other key planning documents, including the *Geraldton Jobs and Growth Plan.*

All international relationship proposals should be analysed based on the following goals and objectives and must be submitted to the Executive Management Team for endorsement and then to Council for deliberation.

Benefits may include:

- Enhanced economic development and trade relationships

- Increased tourism

- Cross cultural community development

- International cooperation

- Educational exchanges and learning.

2. Principles of Establishing International Relationships

The following principles should apply to International relationships:

- The City of Greater Geraldton may have one Sister City per country and a maximum of 6 Sister city relationships at any one time;
- The City of Greater Geraldton may only add one Sister City per year;
- The proposed Candidate City must be with a country with which the Federal Government of Australia and/or Government of Western Australia has a positive relationship;
- In addition to formal Sister Cities, the City may also establish Strategic Partnerships as determined by Council;
- Proposals that conform to the selection criteria will be submitted for endorsement by Executive Management Team followed by a Council decision.

3. Selection Criteria

The following criteria should be utilised in the selection of Sister City or Strategic Partner City.

General Criteria:

- Gross Domestic Product: should be comparable to the Mid West region or larger or of an equivalent proportional GDP ratio of country to region;
- Growth: Candidate Cities should have favourable growth rates;
- Economic Activity: Candidate Cities should have strong trade activity;
- Potential: Candidate Cities should be identified as priorities for future development;
- Investment: Candidate Cities should have potential for mutual investment;
- Commercialisation: Candidate Cities should have potential for cooperation in commercially applicable research;
- Academic organisations: Candidate Cities should have academic institutions such as colleges, universities and research centres;
- Innovation: Candidate Cities should encourage new technologies, research and invention.

Economic Development:

- Support the City of Greater Geraldton's strategic priorities
- Expand the City's network of business contacts and relationships
- Increase international private sector investment in the Mid West
- Provide a conduit between local innovation and international industry
- Accelerate economic growth through commercial partnerships
- Leverage existing industry strengths into increased innovation and job creation
- Grow the Traded Sectors of the City's regional economy
- Promote the Mid West region as an attractive tourist destination

Cross Cultural Development:

- Promote City of Greater Geraldton as an innovative City
- Promote City of Greater Geraldton's cultural community

- Establish relationships between cultural institutions, universities and colleges, museums, heritage institutions, community arts, libraries and sports

International Cooperation:

- Support international education, research and cooperation
- Increase global awareness of the City of Greater Geraldton and the Mid West

4. Process to Establish a New International Relationship

All international relationship proposals should be analysed based on the goals and objectives and must be submitted to the Executive Management Team for endorsement and then to Council for deliberation.

5. Management of International Relationships

After a new relationship has been approved by Council, all activities associated with programs (such as visits overseas, hosting visits and coordinating local groups seeking to engage with Sister Cities or Strategic Partner Cities) should be coordinated by the Economic Development Officer responsible for foreign affairs, in consultation as necessary with the Mayor and CEO, to ensure that all activities meet the objectives of this policy.

6. Relationship Plan

Every International relationship under consideration should have a relationship plan outlining:

- The key objectives of the relationship. For example, encouraging and facilitating economic, social-cultural and environmental exchanges, developing networks;
- Long-term goals;
- Key focus areas for the relationship;
- The main stakeholders;
- Key performance indicators to measure benefits/outcomes.

7. Budget and Resource Commitment

Currently, the City of Greater Geraldton has an on-going and budgeted operational level of funding in order to support existing Sister City or Strategic Partner relationships. This recurrent allocation is reflected in the City's Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) and aligned with actions set out in the City's Corporate Business Plan. Each year the level of funding is reviewed through the annual budget process and review of the LTFP.

Where an existing or proposed new relationship requires a new project or program to be established by the City of Greater Geraldton, a proposal should be developed containing all costs and resource commitments associated with the project or program. This will be subject to the annual budget allocation processes of the City of Greater Geraldton and will treated as a new proposal to be assessed by Council on its merit alongside any other new projects competing for funding through the annual budget process.

8. Termination of Relationships:

Termination of relationships should be based on consensus by both parties, due to the following reasons:

- No actual interactions in 2 years
- Not reaching the goals and objectives set by this Policy

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Director Corporate & Commercial Services is responsible for implementing this policy.

City of Greater Geraldton is the facilitator/enabler of all City-to-City International relationships, including Sister City Relationships and Strategic Partnerships. The City will work with local industries and other groups to maximise benefits from developing international relationships.

WORKPLACE INFORMATION

Local Government Act 1995

City of Greater Geraldton's Code of Conduct

Community Strategic Plan

Corporate Business Plan

Long Term Financial Plan

Geraldton Jobs and Growth Plan

POLICY ADMINISTRATION

Directorate	Officer	Review Cycle	Next Due
Corporate & Commercial Services	Economic Development Officer	Biennial	2021
Version	**Decision Reference**	**Synopsis**	
3.	CCSXXX	Scheduled Review	