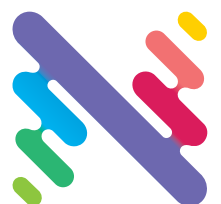


Local Social Strategy – Summary

2030



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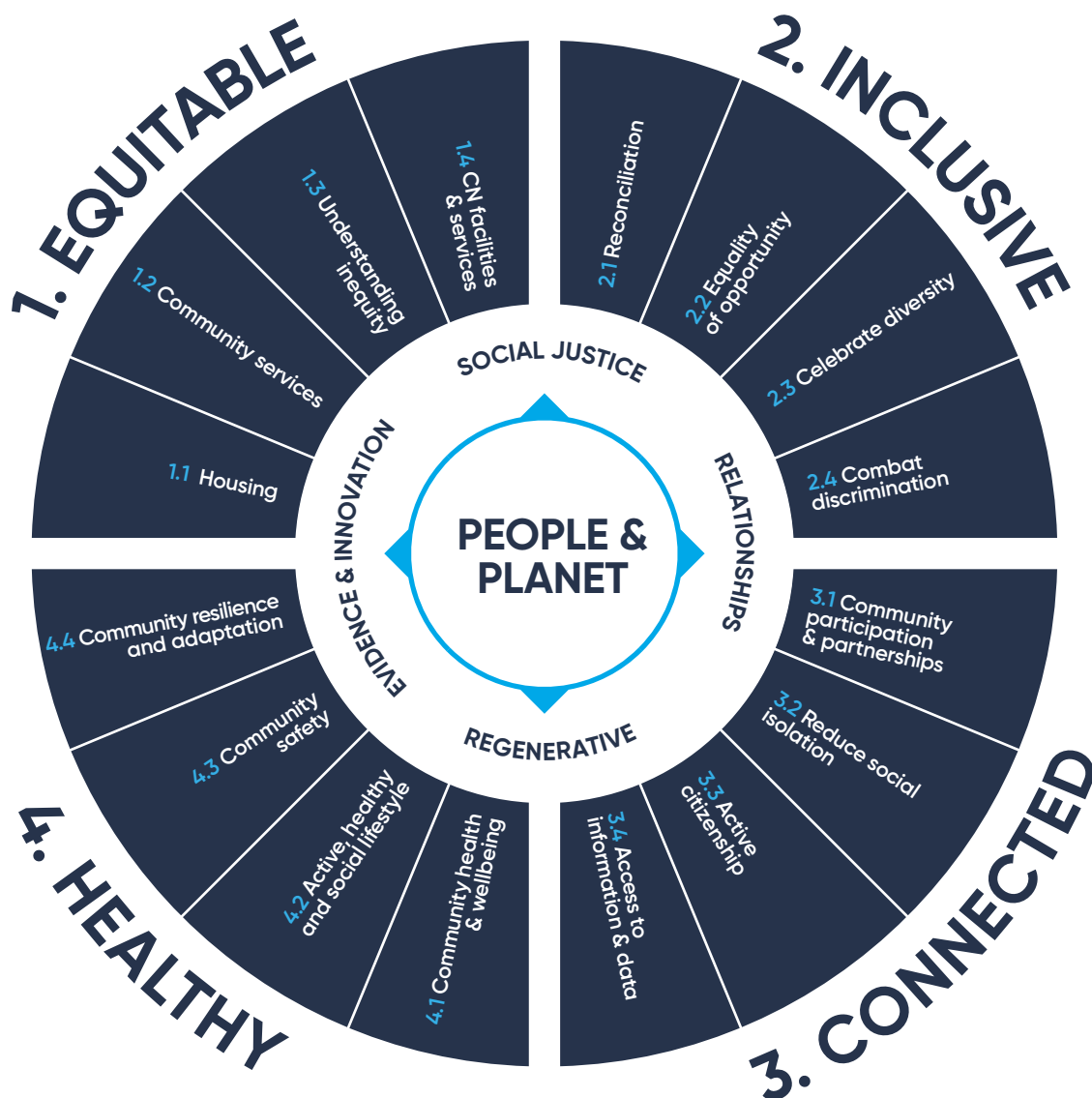


City of
Newcastle

Local Social Strategy

The City of Newcastle (CN)'s *Local Social Strategy 2030* places people at the centre of its vision of a socially just and inclusive place for all. We recognise that human health and the health of our planet are deeply interwoven. We must balance our social foundations – things like healthcare, education and food – with ecological concerns such as a healthy climate, biodiversity and clean water. From this basis, our strategy champions evidence-based decision-making and innovative practice to inform our approach, while ensuring strong, respectful and transparent relationships with our community partners.





Based on community consultation with close to 300 people, primary research with over 2,100 participants, and desk-based literature reviews and demographic trend analysis, key areas of social concern for the people of Newcastle can be grouped into four themes:

- 1. Equity** concerns refer to rising living costs; housing unaffordability and insecurity; and inadequate access to transport, social infrastructure and services.
- 2. Inclusion** concerns refer to inequality of opportunity, particularly within employment and training; discrimination against diverse groups; and limited opportunity to express and connect to culture.
- 3. Connection** concerns refer to increasing social isolation and disconnection, as well as limited opportunity for participating in and influencing local decisions.
- 4. Health** concerns refer to health and wellbeing issues, mental ill-health, risk of violence, and safety in the community.

These concerns and challenges are further exacerbated by the climate emergency, considered humanity's single biggest threat, and the COVID-19 pandemic, both of which disproportionately affect the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our communities.

A social strategy provides a framework for CN and the community to respond to the social challenges facing our communities, now and into the future. The *Local Social Strategy* is for the whole community. However, CN acknowledges that some groups in Newcastle are more likely to be excluded from social, economic and political opportunities due to discrimination and other access barriers. Therefore, this strategy focuses on enabling priority communities and groups to be involved in all aspects of life in Newcastle.

To work towards a socially just and inclusive place for all, the *Local Social Strategy* has identified four strategic priority areas outlined below and a suite of clear, timely and measurable actions that CN and partners will implement through its four-year delivery programs.



Priority 1: Equitable communities

Delivery programs include:

Housing First: Support and advocate for access to affordable, sustainable and inclusive housing for all community members.

Community-Focused Services: Support access to community services such as transport, health and social services, as well as delivery of effective, coordinated and innovative community services.

Understanding Equity: Understand the reality of inequity in Newcastle to develop local responses.

City Access: Provide equitable access to CN community programs, grants, services and social infrastructure.



Priority 2: Inclusive communities

Delivery programs include:

Strength in Diversity: Foster reconciliation, inclusion and connection to culture for diverse communities in Newcastle, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Equal Opportunity: Work towards equality of opportunity in employment, training and digital inclusion.

Welcoming City: Celebrate diversity, creating a sense of belonging and welcome in our communities.

Respectful Communities: Combat discrimination and promote inclusive communities through respect, education and commitment to change.



Priority 3: Connected communities

Delivery programs include:

Engaged Communities: Facilitate innovative community-focused participation, collaboration and partnerships to strengthen social cohesion, foster inclusive decision-making and address local social issues.

Social Connection: Increase social connectedness among diverse communities to reduce social isolation, enhance trust and build supportive social networks.

Active Citizenship: Enable active citizenship through community representation, civic awareness and public participation in civic life.

Local Data: Facilitate access to information for community participation and active citizenship.



Priority 4: Healthy communities

Delivery programs include:

Community Health and Wellbeing: Support the health and wellbeing of our communities, including physical and mental health.

Active People: Enable an active, healthy and social lifestyle supported by local facilities, services and spaces.

Safe City: Contribute to improvements in community safety, including domestic and family violence and perceptions of safety.

Community Resilience and Adaptation: Facilitate community resilience and adaptation in the face of climate change and crises (e.g. the COVID-19 pandemic).