

Tamworth City Centre Working Group Terms of Reference

Purpose

To contribute to transforming BluePrint 100 into reality with particular reference to actions relevant to the Tamworth CBD.

To support Council with ideas, advice and opinion on how best to develop and sustain a City Centre that is 'THE place to be' for retail and commercial business, visitors, and locals.

Vision for the City Centre:

Tamworth's City Centre is THE place to be!

Attractive, vibrant, welcoming, safe, engaging and fun – with seamless links through to Bicentennial Park and the Peel River – everyone considers the City Centre to be the heart and soul of the region both by day and by night. There is always an enthralling 'buzz' and when you are present in the City Centre you feel particularly proud of the place you call home.

Progressive in its past and optimistic about its future, the City Centre blends traditional shop-front retailing with quality office, arts and culture, accommodation, leisure, recreation, tourist, eating and entertainment opportunities that have diverse appeal. Our public art is planned, at times provocative, but always admired. Undoubtedly the City Centre gives us a keen sense of our identity as a region and a strong and immediate sense of belonging.

Thriving business in the City Centre means that investors are queuing up and the streetscape continues to flourish with complementary development.

Fresh and clean at all times, the City Centre breathes vitality and inspiration. Residents of all ages and from all backgrounds are compelled to return again and again. Tourists go to great lengths to get here because the Tamworth City Centre's extraordinary look and feel is known far and wide.

Valuable to local residents, Tamworthians love this space and will fiercely protect the City Centre from any action that will compromise its place as the region's primary hub for commerce, community and culture.

Revitalisation Priorities:

To successfully realise the vision Tamworth needs to:

(1) Protect our City Centre from Compromise

Be vigilant to maintain a watching brief and actively protect the City Centre from any activity or action that will compromise achieving the City Centre vision.

(2) Optimise Growth through Smart Development Planning for the City Centre

Ensure that planning provisions (LEP, DCP, Masterplans) support the vision for the City Centre and optimise the opportunity for appropriate growth and investment. Ensure there is provision for a wide range of opportunity for residential and hotel accommodation.

(3) Keep the City Centre Fresh, Clean and Tidy

Ensure empty buildings are well maintained with clean, undamaged and presentable facades.

Ensure an attractive City Centre by keeping it clean, neat, and tidy. Infrastructure should be in good working order and trees and other plantings should be well managed. Encourage and support property owners and retailers to keep their premises in good order, most especially external walls, facades, posts etc.; zero tolerance of graffiti and where necessary, non-compliance with relevant regulations should be enforced.

(4) Brand, Promote and Market the City Centre

Scope and develop a City Centre place brand, develop an integrated marketing and communications strategy to market the City Centre, apply the place brand and associated strategies to all consumer touch points. Market the investment potential of the City Centre for retail, office, food, entertainment and accommodation purposes and grow opportunities for street performance and community events. Promote the CBD via social media or newsletter.

(5) Ensure the City Centre is Accessible

Encourage cycling, pedestrian movement and public transport with the objective of reducing the reliance on vehicle traffic.

People of all ages and all abilities need to be able to move about freely and safely in the City Centre. Minimise congestion in the City Centre, ensure the free flow of necessary traffic and cyclists, provide adequate car parking (quantity, location and type) and install bicycle stands/terminus. Ensure adequate provision of public transport in an out of the city, day and night.

(6) Ensure the City Centre is Safe from Crime and Violence

Ensure vandalism and property damage is minimised, ensure public can move about safely day and night, zero tolerance of drunkenness and antisocial behaviour.

(7) Expand the City Centre Beautification Program and Public Art Program

Progress the beautification and activation of Kable Avenue and by supporting redevelopment projects in Kable Avenue that provide an active street frontage and linkages to Peel Street and the Bicentennial Park Boulevard and consider further beautification extensions such as upper Fitzroy Street or east Peel Street to Hill Street. Commission and install appropriate public art.

Each of the above themes will become standing agenda items for future TCCWG meetings and progress against each theme will be reported to the meeting of the TCCWG.

Encourage the viability of a vibrant night life in the CBD by supporting city centre living and shop-top housing.

Meeting Frequency

Meetings of the Tamworth City Centre Working Group will be held quarterly unless more frequent meetings are required to address specific issues of interest or concern. Written notice will be distributed to the members of the scheduled meetings (with as much notice as practically possible to be given).

Quorum for Meetings

In order to form a quorum for a meeting to proceed, at least half of the working group members plus one, (i.e. a majority of the members), needs to be present. Of this number at least one Councillor is required to be present.

Membership and Terms:

The Tamworth City Centre Working Group shall comprise the following membership:

Tamworth Regional Council

The Mayor and no more than five (5) Councillors

Director Liveable Communities and Manager – Integrated Planning

Business/Community Members

3 x Tamworth Business Chamber Members:

- 1 x Retail Member (from Hospitality Sector),
- 1 x Commercial Member, and
- 1 x Junior Chamber Member

1 x Association of Real Estate Agents

1 x Tamworth Region Arts Advisory Committee delegate

1 x Planning Consultant

1 x Architect

2 x Commercial Property Owner

3 x Community Members

1 x Urban Designer

1 x Landscape Architect

1 x Surveyor

4 year term (EOIs called at the beginning of each term of Council). Council to adopt members based on recommendation of TCCWG Councillors.

Meeting Chair

The Tamworth City Centre Working Group will be chaired by an elected Councillor of Tamworth Regional Council to be determined at the first meeting following the commencement of each Council term.

Community Access

Representation by members of the Tamworth community is encouraged. Membership by community representatives will be coordinated by inviting 'Expressions of Interest' from the community following the commencement of each Council term.

Co-Opting

The Working Group shall have the authority, where necessary, to seek the expert advice of individuals and groups.

Reporting

The Working Group will have no delegated authority from the Council to make decisions. Recommendations of the Working Group will be reported to a subsequent Council meeting for determination under the Management Accountability of the Director of Liveable Communities.

Business Support

Council shall provide administrative support to the Group, and professional advice/input where required.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality is to be maintained by all members of the Group. Discussions occurring within the Group shall be treated as confidential until the minutes are reported to Council or as agreed for release to the media.

Media

The Chairperson, the Director of Liveable Communities and Manager of Integrated Planning are authorised to represent and speak on behalf of the Group in any media discussions.