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Sponsor/Group:	General Manager – People and Organisational Performance

## International Relations Policy

### Purpose and scope

1. The purpose of this Policy is to outline the mechanisms with which Council engages international relationships for the benefit of the economic, cultural, social and environmental wellbeing of the city.
2. Hamilton City Council has forged relationships with a number of international cities with the aim of delivering strategic benefits for the city. Council seeks to establish new links with international cities to maximise economic development opportunities for business.
3. This policy sets out the types of international relationships Hamilton will have with international cities and the criteria considered in engaging in international relationships.

### Strategic alignment

4. One of the Council's objectives – as set out in legislation – is to improve the economic cultural, social and environmental wellbeing of Hamiltonians. This Policy helps to achieve that. It also helps to achieve Council's five priorities, as set out in [Our Vision for Hamilton Kirikiriroa](#):
  - Shaping a city that's easy to live in
  - Shaping a city where our people thrive
  - Shaping a central city where people love to be
  - Shaping a fun city with lots to do
  - Shaping a green city – sharing best practice
5. It does this through creating opportunities for economic growth internationally; through facilitating cultural, educational and sporting exchanges; and through sharing of best practice.

### Principles

6. The guiding principles for this Policy are:
  - a. Council recognises the importance of international relations to the economic, cultural, social and environmental wellbeing of the city.
  - b. Effective international relationships will support the Council's strategic vision, outcomes and goals.
  - c. The Mayor will play a lead role in the development of international relationships.

## Policy

### International Relationships

7. Hamilton City Council will pursue a range of relationships to ensure international opportunities are harnessed and maximised. This will be a combination of proactively identifying cities that present Hamilton and city businesses with good opportunities and cities expressing an interest in partnering with Hamilton.
8. Decisions to enter into international relationships will be made by Council, with the exception of fee-paying delegations.
9. Relationships will only be entered into if they are sustainable and adequately resourced.
10. The following factors will be used to guide decisions when entering into or reviewing international relationships.
  - a. Ability to **enhance understanding and idea sharing** based on student/teacher exchange programmes, educational institutions linkages, people-to-people interest, energy and commitment.
  - b. Ability to add to Hamilton's sense of place and the vitality/diversity of the city based on similar geographic features, similar social infrastructure and history of cooperation in political, economic, commercial and cultural fields.
  - c. Ability to realise opportunities for growing the local economy through comparative key industries, economic climate, and trade and investment linkages.
  - d. Ability to promote Hamilton based on tourism potential.
11. Review periods will be incorporated into all new relationships with an opportunity to exit the relationship should it no longer meet its objectives.
12. Records of all relationships will be maintained including an International Visits Register.
13. The Council will work with local stakeholders to support their international activities where they align with one or more of the following relationship categories.

### Relationship categories

14. Four different types of relationships have been identified:

#### *Sister City relationships*

15. Council has forged a number of Sister City relationships with a primary focus to foster and enhance economic, cultural, social and environmental wellbeing.
16. Sister City relationships will be formalised in a Sister City Agreement.

#### *City to City Strategic partnerships*

17. This relationship is a strategic partnership with the targeted purpose of fostering and enhancing economic development.
18. These relationships may be led by other people from the city and may be entered into to support private sector relationships, such as those in the education sector.
19. There may be times when a City to City strategic partnership is established for strengthening cultural and social connections.
20. City to City relationships will be formalised in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

### *Friendship City relationships*

21. These relationships may be a starting point to a more formal relationship and are focused on social and cultural engagement.

### *Fee Paying Delegations*

22. Parties or individuals who do not qualify as Sister City relationships, City to City strategic partnerships or Friendship City relationships may be required to pay a fee to Hamilton City Council for visits or functions hosted at their request.

### **International security**

23. The Council will follow all advice from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and other government agencies when considering new international relationships and advancing existing relationships.

### **Monitoring and implementation**

24. The Director of the Mayor's Office will monitor the implementation of this Policy.
25. The Policy will be reviewed every three years or at the request of Council or in response to changed legislative and statutory requirements or in response to any issues that may arise.

### **References**

- MoU guidelines
- International relationship protocols
- Guidelines for Fee-Paying Delegations