Report by David Backhouse, General Manager

RECOMMENDATION

That the Delivery Program progress report for Connectivity for the period July to December 2012 be noted.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide Council with the Delivery Program progress report for Connectivity for the period July to December 2012.

REPORT

Background

In accordance with the requirements of the NSW Division of Local Government’s Integrated Planning and Reporting guidelines and Section 404 of the Local Government Act 1993, a six monthly progress report is presented to Council on the principal activities in the Delivery Program.

In 2012, Council adopted its Community Strategic Plan ‘Strathfield 2025’. This plan and the supporting Delivery Program and Operational Plan are based on extensive community engagement and consultation. The themes of Strathfield 2025, which frame all subordinate plans, are Connectivity, Community Wellbeing, Prosperity and Opportunities, Liveable Neighbourhoods and Responsible Leadership.

The Delivery Program 2012-2016 and Operational Plan 2012-2013 were endorsed by Council on the 29 June 2012, with commencement from 1 July 2012. The Delivery Program contains four year objectives against each of the five principal themes and the Operational Plan conveys yearly actions and key performance indicators to detail what Council intends on doing and how progress will be measured.

In October 2012, Council adopted a Standing Committee structure which aligns with the five strategic themes set out in Council’s Community Strategic Plan ‘Strathfield 2025’. Progress reports will be presented to the relevant Council Standing Committee for review.

Strategic Theme: Connectivity

The Connectivity strategic theme has three major strategies, in which Council’s programs, activities and services are aligned. These strategies are:

- Movement to and from Strathfield is easy and safe
- Infrastructure and development is integrated, planned and sustainable
- Information and digital technologies connect local to global
The development of these strategies was based on extensive community consultation to identify the community’s short-term to long-term views and aspirations for Strathfield. The focus of the Connectivity theme in the Delivery Program and Operational Plan includes:

- **Strathfield is situated in one of the fastest growing regions in Australia. Moving around easily and safely is central to quality of life, reducing social isolation, providing access to services, workplaces and education, strengthening local and regional economies and being able to enjoy parks, recreation and open spaces.**

- **Maintaining and upgrading local transport infrastructure is essential to reducing traffic congestion.**

- **Catering for population growth requires good planning and must be supported by improvements in infrastructure and services at the State and local level as well as consideration for the impacts of urban development on built and natural environments.**

- **Technology connects Strathfield communities to information and services at a local, national and global level. New technologies provide opportunities to improve how Council services are accessed and delivered.**

The attached progress report covers the period July to December 2012. The report indicates that Council is progressing well against its objectives and meeting targets and service standards.

**REFERRAL FROM OTHER DEPARTMENT**

All Council departments, Directors and Managers were consulted in the production of this progress report.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Connectivity Delivery Program and Operational Plan progress report – July to December 2012