Community and Recreation Facilities Management Policy

1. Purpose
The purpose of this policy is to define roles and responsibilities for managing the provision of community, recreation, sporting and cultural facilities for the use of the community and visitors to the region.

2. Scope
Council provides an extensive range of built facilities and grounds for use by members of the community, recreational and cultural groups and visitors to the region. In providing these facilities Council has identified the requirement for a policy framework to be developed that addresses the management of these facilities in an equitable, efficient and effective manner.

This policy identifies and communicates Council’s intentions relating to the management of community facilities with key stakeholders and the broader community.

3. Legislative Framework
The Local Government Act, 1999 provides the basis for Council to govern and manage its area at the local level, particularly;

“Section 6 – Principal role of a council
(b) to provide and co-ordinate various public services and facilities and to develop its community and resources in a socially just and ecologically sustainable manner; and
(c) to encourage and develop initiatives within its community for improving the quality of life of the community”

“Section 7 – Functions of a council
(b) to provide services and facilities that benefit its area, its ratepayers and residents, and visitors to its area (including general public services or facilities (including electricity, gas and water services, and waste collection, control or disposal services or facilities), health, welfare or community services or facilities, and cultural or recreational services or facilities);
(c) to provide for the welfare, well-being and interests of individuals and groups within its community;"

4. Policy Objectives
The objectives of the Policy are:

4.1 To strengthen communities through the placement of community infrastructure with groups and organisations through the development of sound management, leasing strategies and practices;
4.2 To ensure that the provision of management, leasing strategies and practices provides a fair and equitable response to community needs;

4.3 To provide a link between these objectives and the goals of the Light Regional Council Strategic Plan 2016/17 – 2019/20.

5. **Principles**

The following principles apply to management and leasing of community facilities:

5.1 A formal agreement must be in place for all organised activities using Council land and/or facilities. For temporary use of community facilities (e.g. events), refer to Council’s Event Management Policy.

5.2 Any formal agreements established should ensure that land and community facilities will meet the needs of the Light community.

5.3 Council supports the equitable, responsible use of its land and facilities by members of the community for appropriate purposes and encourages community ownership of those facilities.

5.4 Council recognises the need to provide consistency in the way in which community, sporting and recreational facilities are managed including equity between groups.

5.5 Council recognises that the community is often best placed to ensure that community facilities and land are used and managed in a way that maximises both their potential as well as their flexibility to meet several areas of community need.

5.6 Council, mindful of its obligations to provide sound asset management on behalf of its community, will consider opportunities to transfer responsibilities for community facilities to management groups where circumstances are appropriate to do so.

5.7 Where a group or organisation has regular use of a facility and has entered into a management agreement they will be required to contribute to the facility’s management and maintenance costs.

5.8 Appropriate contributions from users of community facilities (i.e. hirers, sub-letting agreements, memberships) will be required to cover the management, operation, maintenance and renewal costs of the facility, and for the development of activities or services associated with the facility.

**History of Policy Amendment**

2. Policy reviewed at Council meeting held 22 April 2014 Minute Reference page 2014/74
3. Policy reviewed at Council meeting held 26 September 2017 Minute Reference page 2017/255