

**POLICY:** **SISTER CITIES POLICY STATEMENT**

**GROUP RESPONSIBLE:** Customer and Financial Services

**DATE APPROVED:** 27/6/07

**DATE AMENDED:**

**FILE NO:** 100/45/1/3

**POLICY DETAIL:**

**1. Southland District Council's involvement in establishing and maintaining international relationships should contribute to:**

- (a) Extending the hand of friendship nationally and internationally on a person-to-person basis, utilising the tools of local government;
- (b) Perpetuating an understanding between people at all levels and of different countries and cultures;
- (c) Bringing together like interest groups in each city;
- (d) Providing a forum of exchange of sister city experiences;
- (e) Promoting knowledge and understanding and extend the level of contacts throughout all sectors of the community, and
- (f) Developing economic, trade, cultural, educational, sporting and other beneficial exchanges.

**2. Southland District Council will pursue a range of relationships to ensure opportunities are maximised.**

Four different types of relationship have been identified that allow for different outcomes, management processes, resource commitments, and review processes, and helps clarify expectations. These are outlined in Appendix 1.

Review periods will be incorporated into all international relationships, with an opportunity to re-classify or exit the relationship should it no longer meet its objectives.

**3. Any formal relationships Southland District Council enters into will be well researched to ensure that:**

- (a) That there exists significant historical, cultural, social or geographic similarities between Southland District and the prospective sister city;
- (b) That the prospective city is, or is moving towards, being governed in a democratic fashion;
- (c) That the prospective city is, or is moving towards, a reasonable human rights record;
- (d) That the establishment of the proposed relationship will benefit specific strategic, national and/or regional interests;

- (e) That there exists significant community support for the proposed relationship;
- (f) That there is funding available for the relationship.

**4. This policy to be reviewed again no later than two years after Council agrees to it.**

**Appendix 1: Types of Relationships**

Type of Relationship	Description of Activity
<b>Formal City-to-City Relationships</b>	
<b>Sister City Relationship</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formal agreement signed between Mayors of both cities.</li> <li>• Agreement involves wide-ranging exchanges, including Local Government and community.</li> <li>• Agreement is long-term and assessed annually.</li> <li>• City will share some sort of similarity, be it community, locality, geographic composition, etc.</li> <li>• Relationship must have actual or potential local community interest and support.</li> <li>• Opportunities for partnering with the private sector must be identified and encouraged.</li> </ul>
<b>Friendship City Relationship</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exchanges focus on specific areas of interest to both communities, which should be defined in formal agreements.</li> <li>• Agreement is long-term and assessed annually.</li> <li>• City will share some sort of similarity, be it community, locality, geographic composition, etc.</li> <li>• Opportunities for partnering with the private sector must be identified and encouraged.</li> </ul>
<b>Informal City-to-City Relationships</b>	
<b>Strategic Partnership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-Sister City or friendly agreement, focusing on areas of economic benefit to both partners involved.</li> <li>• Agreements are short-term.</li> </ul>
<b>Ad-hoc Visits/Delegations</b>	
<b>One-off Hosting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visiting groups request a civic reception of some kind.</li> <li>• Basis of visit could be technical, commercial, educational, social.</li> <li>• The Mayor is invited to be part of an overseas delegation.</li> <li>• Because of the need to keep within budget constraints, requests may be declined or charges applied.</li> </ul>