



# **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD ON**

**MONDAY, 15 APRIL 2013**

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RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC ON THURSDAY 18 APRIL 2013

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**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE  
DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL HELD AT DAREBIN CIVIC CENTRE,  
350 HIGH ST, PRESTON ON MONDAY 15 APRIL 2013**

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**THE MEETING OPENED AT 7.02PM**

**1. PRESENT**

***Councillors***

Cr. Tim Laurence (Mayor) (Chairperson)  
Cr. Vince Fontana  
Cr. Bo Li  
Cr. Trent McCarthy (8.46pm)  
Cr. Steven Tsitas  
Cr. Angela Villella  
Cr. Oliver Walsh (7.05pm)  
Cr. Julie Williams

***Council Officers***

Rasiah Dev – Chief Executive  
Daniel Freer – Director City Design and Environment  
Darren Rudd – Acting Director City Works and Development  
Fred Warner – Group Manager People and Performance  
Kerrie Jordan – Acting Director Corporate and Business Services  
Katrina Knox – Group Manager Community Services  
Jacinta Stevens – Manager Corporate Governance  
Chris LoPiccolo – Manager City Works  
Meredith Tucker-Evans – Communications Officer  
Ron Downes – Council Business Coordinator  
Jody Brodribb – Governance Officer  
Katia Croce – Council Business Officer  
Karlee Gray – Council Business Officer

**2. APOLOGIES**

It was noted that Cr. Greco is currently on leave of absence.

An apology was lodged for the initial absences of Cr. Walsh and Cr. McCarthy.

**3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Nil.

**4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

<b>COUNCIL RESOLUTION</b>
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**MOVED:** Cr. V. Fontana  
**SECONDED:** Cr. B. Li

**THAT** the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 2 April 2013 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

**CARRIED**

**5. REPORTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS****MINUTE NO. 229****5.1 REPORT OF CR. BO LI**

Cr. Li reported on his attendance at the following functions/activities:

- Metropolitan Transport Forum.
- Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE to present 5 study grants to students.
- Planning Committee meeting.
- Council Briefing Session.
- Council Budget Briefing.
- Preston Business Advisory Committee meeting.
- Active and Healthy Ageing Community Advisory Board meeting.
- Koori Pride Youth Festival at Ray Bramham Gardens.
- 25 March 2013 - Attended Wales Street Primary School to hand over \$200 cheque to winner of Northcote Ride to School Day.

*(Cr. Walsh entered the meeting during the above presentation - 7.05pm)*

**5.2 REPORT OF CR. JULIE WILLIAMS**

Cr. Williams reported on her attendance at the following functions/activities:

- Meeting with Rae Kingsbury from Darebin Women's Advisory Committee meeting.
- Discussion with CEO and planning staff regarding Plenty Road.
- Council meeting.
- Meeting with fellow Councillor Trent McCarthy regarding the "Getting to Zero" campaign.
- Darebin Disability Advisory Committee meeting.
- Planning Briefing meeting.
- Planning Committee meeting.
- Council Briefing Session.
- Preston Library Session and Discussion.
- 2013/2014 Budget meeting.
- St Georges Road Forum at Northcote Town Hall.
- Senior Business Leaders luncheon.

### **5.3 REPORT OF CR. VINCE FONTANA**

Cr. Fontana reported on his attendance at the following functions/activities:

- Darebin Enterprise Centre meeting.
- Planning Committee meeting - 8 April 2013.
- Met with Northern Blues officials to discuss ground issues.
- Met with Madeline Street Preston residents in relation to the upcoming Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) hearing.
- Visited Parkside Football Club to discuss local issues.

### **5.4 REPORT OF CR. OLIVER WALSH**

Cr. Walsh reported on his attendance at the following functions/activities:

- Metropolitan Transport Forum.
- Darebin Enterprise Centre meeting.
- Victorian Local Governance Association Elections Seminar.
- Represented the Mayor at Opening of Hayes Park Pavilion.
- Darebin Disability Advisory Committee meeting.
- Selection meeting for Darebin Youth Advisory Committee.
- St Georges Road planning meeting.
- Senior Business Leaders luncheon.
- Briefing meetings.
- Opening of the Fronditha Aged Care facility.

### **5.5 REPORT OF CR. STEVEN TSITAS**

Cr. Tsitas reported on his attendance at the following functions/activities:

- Planning Committee meeting.
- Council Briefing Session.
- Various constituents matters.

Cr. Tsitas also was pleased to advise that he had successfully completed the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Swinburne Graduate Diploma of Management course.

### **5.6 REPORT OF CR. ANGELA VILLELLA**

Cr. Villella reported on her attendance at the following functions/activities:

- Darebin Environmental Reference Group meeting.
- Darebin's Women's Advisory Committee meeting.
- Council Budget meeting.

- Planning Committee meeting.
- Council Briefing Session.
- Met with Tiffany White, Manager Communications and Advocacy and the Chief Executive Officer to discuss the former Ruthven Primary School site.
- Active and Healthy Ageing Community Advisory Board meeting.
- Leamington Street Youth Space opening
- Darebin Public Education Advocacy Committee meeting.
- Anthology Launch – Dots and Dashes Reservoir Writing Group.
- Darebin Intercultural Centre meeting.

## **5.7 REPORT OF THE MAYOR CR. TIM LAURENCE**

The Mayor, Cr. Laurence reported on his attendance at the following functions/activities:

- Chaired Planning Committee meeting.
- Chaired Council Briefing Sessions.
- Chaired Council meetings.
- Chaired Budget Briefing with Councillors.
- Press meetings.
- Meeting with Darebin Community Legal Centre.
- Strategic Planning Consultation Sessions (MAV).
- Resident meeting regarding Johnson Park.
- 2013/2014 Council Budget meetings.
- Briefing regarding Lancaster Gate.
- Darebin Disability Advisory Committee meeting.
- Senior Business Leaders luncheon at Rydges.
- Koorie Pride Youth Festival.
- Opening of Leamington Street Youth Space.
- East Reservoir Steering Committee meeting.
- Opened the Darebin Intercultural Centre Vaisakhi celebration – a Sikh perspective.
- Meeting with Aboriginal Advancement League and Fitzroy Stars Football Club.
- Municipal Association of Victoria Metropolitan Forum.
- Attended AGM of Northcote Golf Club.

The Mayor, Cr. Laurence, also tabled several copies of a book on Fauja Singh who became the World's oldest marathon runner to complete a race at that distance at Toronto's waterfront marathon aged 100 years in 2011.



**6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME****MINUTE NO. 230**

The Mayor, Cr. Laurence, invited questions from members of the public gallery.

The following questions were submitted:

- Catherine Downs of Thornbury asked a question about a bus stop relocation in Normanby Avenue Thornbury. The question was responded to by the Mayor, Cr. Laurence.
- Olga Fuenzalida of Reservoir, asked a question about correspondence received from Council regarding her property. The question was responded to by the Mayor, Cr. Laurence.
- Diane Woodcroft of Northcote, asked a question about re-establishing turf on her nature strip. The question was responded to by the Mayor, Cr. Laurence
- Diane Woodcroft of Northcote, asked a question about establishing a nature strip action group. The question was responded to by the Mayor, Cr. Laurence.
- Keith Coffey of Reservoir, asked a two-part question about footpath repairs in Don Street and Darebin Boulevard in Reservoir. The question was responded to by the Mayor, Cr. Laurence.

After Public Question Time had concluded, one further question was submitted in writing.

## 7. RECORDS OF ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS

### 7.1 ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS HELD

#### MINUTE NO. 231

An Assembly of Councillors is defined in section 76AA of the *Local Government Act 1989* to include Advisory Committees of Council if at least one Councillor is present or, a planned or scheduled meeting attended by at least half of the Councillors and one Council Officer that considers matters intended or likely to be the subject of a Council decision.

Written records of Assemblies of Councillors must be kept and include the names of all Councillors and members of Council staff attending, the matters considered, any conflict of interest disclosures made by a Councillor attending, and whether a Councillor who has disclosed a conflict of interest leaves the assembly.

Pursuant to section 80A (2) of the Act, these records must be, as soon as practicable, reported at an ordinary meeting of the Council and incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.

An Assembly of Councillors record was kept for:

- Municipal Strategic Statement Workshop – 26 March 2013
- Early Years Reference Group – 26 March 2013
- Governance Meeting – 2 April 2013
- Darebin Environmental Reference Group Meeting – 3 April 2013
- Darebin Women's Advisory Committee Meeting – 4 April 2013
- Councillor Briefing Session – 8 April 2013

#### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

**MOVED:** Cr. B. Li  
**SECONDED:** Cr. O. Walsh

**THAT** the record of the Assembly of Councillors held on 26 March and 2, 3, 4 and 8 April 2013 be noted and incorporated in the minutes of this meeting.

**CARRIED**



## ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS PUBLIC RECORD

<b>ASSEMBLY DETAILS:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	MSS Review Project – Workshop 2
	<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday 26 March 2013
	<b>Location:</b>	Council Chamber, Darebin Civic Centre
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	Cr Tim Laurence, Cr Bo Li, Cr Oliver Walsh, Cr Trent McCarthy
	<b>Council Staff:</b>	Michael Ballock, Emily Hillebrand, Darren Rudd and Gilda Di Vincenzo
	<b>Other:</b>	John Keaney
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>		Cr Steven Tsitas, Cr Angela Villella, Cr Gaetano Greco (on leave of absence), Cr Julie Williams, Cr Vince Fontana

The Assembly commenced at 6.00pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Update via presentation on proposed new Municipal Strategic Statement, and progress on the Darebin Housing strategy and Economic Land Use Strategy projects	No disclosures were made
2	Discussion of concepts for drafting of a new Municipal Strategic Statement	No disclosures were made

The Assembly concluded at 8.05pm

<b>RECORD COMPLETED BY:</b>	<b>Officer Name:</b>	Gilda Di Vincenzo
	<b>Officer Title:</b>	Principal Strategic Planner



## ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS PUBLIC RECORD

<b>ASSEMBLY DETAILS:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Reference Group meeting
	<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday 26 March 2013
	<b>Location:</b>	Function Room, Preston Town Hall
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	Cr Julie Williams
	<b>Council Staff:</b>	Cheryl Hermence, Donna Karmis, Yvette Higgins, Karla Chatfield
	<b>Other:</b>	Representatives from Anglicare Victoria, VACCA, DEECD
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>		Cr Steven Tsitas

The Assembly commenced at 9.30am

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
<b>1</b>	Darebin Early Years Strategy was outlined	No disclosures were made
<b>2</b>	Best Start Project was outlined	No disclosures were made
<b>3</b>	The Terms of Reference for Darebin Early Years Reference Group was discussed and endorsed by the present members	No disclosures were made

The Assembly concluded at 11.15am

<b>RECORD COMPLETED BY:</b>	<b>Officer Name:</b>	Donna Karmis
	<b>Officer Title:</b>	Coordinator Family and Community Programs



## ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS PUBLIC RECORD

<b>ASSEMBLY DETAILS:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	Governance Discussions
	<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday 2 April 2013
	<b>Location:</b>	Council Chamber, Darebin Civic Centre
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	Cr. Laurence (Mayor), Cr. Fontana, Cr. Li, Cr. McCarthy, Cr. Tsitas, Cr. Villella, Cr. Walsh, Cr. Williams
	<b>Council Staff:</b>	Rasiah Dev
	<b>Other:</b>	Nil
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>		Cr. Greco (on leave of absence) Cr. Tsitas left meeting 10.12pm

The Assembly commenced at 10.12pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Behaviour in Council meetings and briefings	No disclosures were made
2	Confidential - Update on Planning Issues	No disclosures were made

The Assembly concluded at 10.35pm

<b>RECORD COMPLETED BY:</b>	<b>Officer Name:</b>	Rasiah Dev
	<b>Officer Title:</b>	Chief Executive Officer



## ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS PUBLIC RECORD

<b>ASSEMBLY DETAILS:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	Darebin Environmental Reference Group
	<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday 3 April 2013
	<b>Location:</b>	Conference Room, Preston Municipal Offices
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	Cr Angela Villella
	<b>Council Staff:</b>	Libby Hynes, Samantha Green
	<b>Other:</b>	Members of the Darebin Environmental Reference Group
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>		Cr Trent McCarthy

The Assembly commenced at 7.00 pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Darebin Council Plan	No disclosures were made
2	Development on Merri Creek north of Blyth St opposite CERES	No disclosures were made
3	Sustainable Homes and Communities – environmental education program conclusion and future program options	No disclosures were made
4	Updates and other DERG business as per agenda	No disclosures were made

The Assembly concluded at 9.00pm

<b>RECORD COMPLETED BY:</b>	<b>Officer Name:</b>	Libby Hynes
	<b>Officer Title:</b>	Manager Environment and Natural Resources



## ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS PUBLIC RECORD

<b>ASSEMBLY DETAILS:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	Darebin Women's Advisory Committee
	<b>Date:</b>	Thursday 4 April 2013
	<b>Location:</b>	Conference Room, 1st floor, 350 High street, Preston
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	Cr Julie Williams, Cr Angela Villella
	<b>Council Staff:</b>	Cécile Taché, Nick Matteo
	<b>Other:</b>	Convenor and members of the Darebin Women's Advisory Committee
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>		

The Assembly commenced at 6.05pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Actions arising from previous meeting	No disclosures were made.
2	Short report on International Women's Day 2013	No disclosures were made
3	Input into draft Council Plan	No disclosures were made
4	Report on process for DWAC plan	No disclosures were made
5	Other business	No disclosures were made

The Assembly concluded at 8.15pm

<b>RECORD COMPLETED BY:</b>	<b>Officer Name:</b>	Cécile Taché
	<b>Officer Title:</b>	Diversity Policy Officer



## ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS PUBLIC RECORD

<b>ASSEMBLY DETAILS:</b>	<b>Title:</b> Councillor Briefing Session  <b>Date:</b> 8 April 2013  <b>Location:</b> Conference Room, Darebin Civic Centre
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b> Cr Tim Laurence (Mayor), Cr Bo Li, Cr Julie Williams, Cr Angela Villella, Cr Steven Tsitas, and Cr Trent McCarthy.  Cr Oliver Walsh joined the Assembly at 8pm.  <b>Council Staff:</b> Michael Ballock, Vanessa Pigrum, Kerrie Jordan, Katrina Knox, and Fred Warner.  <b>Other:</b> Chris LoPiccolo and Darren Rudd (part)
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	Cr Gaetano Greco (on leave of absence) and Cr Vince Fontana

The Assembly commenced at 7.30pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Confidential – Darebin Resource Recovery Centre Management Fee	No disclosures were made
2	Draft St Georges Road Urban Form Study and Draft Plenty Road Corridor Urban Design Framework	No disclosures were made  Crs Tsitas and Walsh left the assembly at 8.12pm. Cr Walsh returned to the assembly at 8.14pm and Cr Tsitas returned at 8.16pm
3	Preston Cemetery Trust - update	No disclosures were made
4	Budget Briefing	No disclosures were made  Cr Walsh left the assembly at 8.40pm and returned at 8.44pm  Cr Li left the assembly at 8.48pm and returned at 8.52pm



The Assembly concluded at 9.15pm

<b>RECORD COMPLETED BY:</b>	<b>Officer Name:</b>	Michael Ballock
	<b>Officer Title:</b>	Director City Works and Development

**8. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS****8.1 FINANCIAL REPORT – 9 MONTHS ENDED 31 MARCH 2013****MINUTE NO. 232****AUTHOR: Acting Chief Financial Officer****REVIEWED BY: Acting Director Corporate and Business Services****SUMMARY:**

A comprehensive financial review has been undertaken for the nine months ended 31 March 2013 to assess the financial performance of Council year-to-date. The outcome of the review indicates that Council has achieved a year-to-date operating surplus of \$30.9 million, which is \$6.5 million ahead of budget and capital works expenditure of \$16.2 million, which is \$8.0 million behind the budget. All material variations have been explained in the report.

**CONSULTATION:**

Managers and Coordinators.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED: Cr. V. Fontana**  
**SECONDED: Cr. J. Williams**

**THAT** the contents of the "Financial Report for the nine months ended 31 March 2013" included as **Appendix A** to this report be received and the year-to-date actual and budgeted operating and capital results be noted.

**CARRIED****REPORT****INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

Under the Local Government Act 1989, at least every three months the Chief Executive Officer is required to present to the Council a statement comparing the budgeted with the actual revenues and expenses for the financial year to date. In complying with the Act, the attached report (**Appendix A**) compares the actual and budgeted operating revenues and expenses and the actual and budgeted capital revenues and expenses for the nine months ended 31 March 2013. It also compares the actual and budgeted movements in the Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Statement for that period.

## ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

### *Operating Performance*

For the nine months ended 31 March 2013 Council has recorded an operating surplus before capital revenue and other items of \$25.4 million, which is \$4.1 million ahead of the year to date budget. The main items contributing to this favourable variance are statutory fees and fines, interest revenue, employee benefits and material and services, partly offset by unfavourable variances in user fees and bad and doubtful debts. After capital and other items, the operating surplus is \$30.9 million, which is \$6.5 million ahead of budget.

### *Capital Performance*

For the nine months ended 31 March 2013 Council has expended \$16.2 million on the capital works program, which is \$8.0 million behind the year to date budget. The variance is due mainly to delays with building works, open space projects, roads works and the purchase of plant and equipment.

### *Financial Position*

The Financial Position as at 31 March 2013 shows a cash balance of \$36.8 million which is \$6.4 million behind budget. The variance is due to a number of factors, primarily the early repayment of the defined benefit unfunded superannuation call, increased development contributions, the delay in purchase of property, infrastructure and equipment, greater than anticipated interest income and the receipt of greater than anticipated government grants. The net current asset position is \$47.1 million which is in line with budget. The net asset position of \$1.15 billion is \$186.2 million greater than budget and is primarily due to asset revaluations at 30 June 2012 of \$195.0 million.

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

### **Environmental Sustainability**

Nil.

### **Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion**

Nil.

### **Other**

Nil.

## FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

**CONCLUSION**

The Financial Report for the nine months ended 31 March 2013 shows that Council's year-to-date operating result is a surplus of \$30.9 million and \$16.2 million has been expended on capital works.

**FUTURE ACTIONS**

A further financial report will be presented to Council for the ten months ending 30 April 2013.

**DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Nil

*The Director City Design and Environment, Daniel Freer, asked that it be noted that he had property in St Georges Road.*

## 8.2 ST GEORGES ROAD URBAN FORM STUDY

MINUTE NO. 233

**AUTHOR:** Manager City Development

**REVIEWED BY:** Director City Works and Development

### SUMMARY:

This report presents the draft St Georges Road Urban Form Study for Council to review and confirm as the basis for further work. The Study area has been divided into 8 Precincts with a primary focus on the future built form of properties addressing and on corners to St Georges Road. The draft Study outlines a process of defining three future development scenarios and applying these along the corridor. These scenarios are then tested to assess the impact on adjoining residential areas set back from St Georges Road and the achievement of good urban design principles for the corridor. From this analysis a "Preferred Future Outcome" will be nominated as the basis for the preparation of a Strategy and Urban Design Framework.

To support the preparation of the solutions in the Urban Design Framework a community consultation program is running in parallel. This will enable balanced solutions to be established as part of the regulatory responses. Further opportunities for participation will be through the planning scheme amendment process.

### CONSULTATION:

Statutory Planning  
Sustainable Transport  
Business Development  
Public Realm  
Councils' Heritage Adviser

## COUNCIL RESOLUTION

**MOVED:** Cr. S. Tsitas  
**SECONDED:** Cr. O. Walsh

### THAT:

- (1) Council note the scope of issues related to the future redevelopment of the St Georges Road corridor canvassed with the community through the feedback form attached as **Appendix A** to this report.
- (2) Council note that the responses received to date:
  - a. Demonstrated support for a range of scenarios (built form) that vary depending in unique site conditions to be applied along the length of the St Georges Road corridor; and

- b. Will be used to inform the Strategy and Urban Design Framework and Guidelines.
- (3) Council note that feedback will continue to be received and incorporated into the preparation of the Strategy and Urban Design Framework until Council seeks authorisation to prepare an amendment.
- (4) Council note that a further opportunity for the community to provide feedback will be made available during the amendment exhibition period due to take place in the latter half of the year.
- (5) Council adopt in-principle the St Georges Road Urban Form Study 2013 attached as **Appendix B** to this report as the basis for preparing a Strategy and Urban Design Framework and Planning Scheme Amendment.
- (6) Council note there may be some minor editorial changes for the purpose of clarification and corrections prior to publishing.
- (7) Once adopted, the St Georges Road Urban Form Study 2013 be given regard in the consideration of planning permit applications in the Study area until a “seriously entertained” document is available and incorporated into the Darebin Planning Scheme.

**CARRIED**

## REPORT

### INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

This is the second report in a series of three leading to the adoption of Strategy/Policy, an Urban Design Framework and Planning Scheme Amendment to introduce built form controls along St Georges Road into the Darebin Planning Scheme.

This draft Study is being prepared in response to a number of recent multi-storey apartment applications for development along St Georges Road. This Corridor is a suitable location to accommodate this growth, as per policy objectives, and it has good access to public transport, a range of services and shops to meet daily needs are nearby. The purpose of the Study is to identify key urban form issues and make recommendations on how to manage this development pressure and change in adjoining areas. Testing for higher density and intensity of residential developments is necessary as the State Government has not supported Council's request for a blanket three storey height limit along this Corridor.

There are a limited number of large sites (greater than 1000m<sup>2</sup>) which can be used to accommodate the anticipated growth. These sites have been identified as having a good level of amenity, are usually on main road corners and are near a range of public transport and services. It is important to harness the development potential for these larger sites to reduce the development pressure on smaller more sensitive sites. The St Georges Road corridor contains a number of “strategic sites” that have been identified as being suitable for more intensive residential development. Once these large sites are taken up, greater pressure for increased density will be applied widely across the City.

## ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

### Policy Gap

Council has directed that this Study and policy be prepared to address a current policy gap that results from the rejected interim three storey height controls. A clear direction to investigate the potential for increased residential development along St Georges Road has been set through a spate of recent permit applications demonstrating development pressure, as well as a number of VCAT decisions. This raises the potential for the development of multi-storey residential apartment building over three storeys. In effect this now sets a new context while the policy is being developed and refined.

Parallel to this policy development process, planning permit applications will continue to be assessed under the current planning scheme rules, having regard to the precedents from VCAT decisions. However, given that a clear direction for some increased level of development is being considered publicly, it is important to be aware that certain issues raised in discussions that directly contradict this view (eg. storey height as a main ground of refusal) will be confusing to the community and build false expectations. These mixed messages have come to the fore at community consultation on the St Georges Road policy and the community is having trouble understanding Council's position (eg. height as a ground of refusal vs. a policy for increased intensification on St Georges Road).

### Study Area

The study area has a primary focus on future development on properties addressing or on corners to St Georges Road and a secondary focus on managing the impacts from this development in the secondary residential areas along the streets abutting St Georges Road.

The Study area is divided into 8 Precincts as a means of organising and distinguishing the differences that occur along the corridor. Precincts have been named on the basis of a main intersection located within a particular section and as an identifying feature. The variety of built form conditions within each Precinct will be further articulated in the development controls to ensure specific sections are appropriately addressed. It is possible that the extent of a particular precinct may change to reflect unique differences or provide a more efficient means of describing the area and establishing a sound policy approach for planning scheme outcomes.

Precinct Description Table

Precinct s south to north	Description	Zone(s) & Overlay(s)	Section
1	Merri Creek	R1Z, IN3Z, PUZ2, PUZ1	Bridge Road to Sumner Street
2	Little Sisters	R1Z, HO175, HO96, HO165	Sumner Street to Auburn Ave
3	Arthurton Road	R1Z, PPRZ, HO166	Auburn Ave to Bent Street
4	Gladstone Ave	B2Z,B1Z,MUZ, R1Z, HO166	Bent Street to Woolton Ave
5	Normanby Road	B1Z, R1Z	Woolton Ave to Ballantyne Street
6	Hutton Street	B1Z, R1Z	Ballantyne Street to Miller Street
7	Oakover Village	MUZ, PPRZ, R1Z	Miller Street to Bell Street
8	Preston Central Western Edge		Bell Street to Murray Road

## Community Consultation

A series of two (one in the northern section and another in the southern section) community Drop-in Sessions were planned to disseminate information and receive feedback from the community within the Study area. An invitation letter has been sent out to over 4,000 land owners and occupiers located within an approximate 150m buffer either side of the Corridor. A feedback form containing 6 key questions seeking people's views about how the anticipated growth pressures in this corridor might best be managed. Laid out as a "reply paid" feedback form, it was included with the invitation letter and will be available at the Drop-in Sessions, in local Libraries and to download off the web.

The northern session held in the Preston Town Hall in March 2013 was attended by over forty people during the two-hour session. There was a range of residents, landowners and people considering future development of their property. A display of 8 information boards containing:

- The existing physical conditions highlighting local features and constraints;
- A graphic representation of each of the growth scenarios;
- A summary of demographic and housing snapshots in the City; and
- Illustrative examples of different housing typologies in photographs.

A second session for the southern section (south of Normanby Road) was to be held in the Northcote Town Hall on 11 April 2013 post completion of this report. A verbal update on this session can be provided at the Council meeting.

A range of issues are being raised from the responses received at the time of writing this report, totalling over 180 feedback forms with more forms expected over the next few weeks.

The form questions related to:

- Managing Growth – Change Scenarios;
- Managing Change – Sensitive Interfaces;
- Managing Change – Public and Private Spaces; and
- Details about respondents.

## Managing Growth – Change Scenarios

This question asked respondents where different amounts of change should occur along the corridor. The responses give a clear indication that incremental and high change scenarios would be appropriate in "defined parts of the Corridor" and "Only on individual sites". This supports the development direction being tested in the Study which identifies selected sections and some key strategic sites as being appropriate for higher and more intensive forms of development.

A number of respondents suggested that there should only be minimal change along the "Whole of the Corridor". While this scenario is being tested in a few select locations it is not a viable option to apply a blanket limited height along the full length of the corridor. In many cases this approach would be viewed as a "back zoning" or a reduction of existing development entitlements currently available in Business and Mixed Use Zones. Application of Minimal Change scenarios along well-served public transport routes also has implications for the overall capacity to absorb growth and would displace this growth pressure to areas of greater sensitivity that are less well serviced.



The community were also asked about the possible benefits to be derived from new developments. The highest response was to see improvements to public spaces and perceptions of safety followed by an increased catchment for public transport and improved services. Achieving these benefits relies on a number of Council actions and initiatives and these benefits would not be realised through the application of height controls. It is likely that a number of non-regulatory actions will be suggested as part of the implementation plan for the corridor and surrounding areas.

### **Managing Change – Sensitive Interfaces**

The top three concerns identified from this question were:

- Increased difficulty in parking on street;
- Overlooking from higher buildings; and
- Overshadowing house and/or backyard.

Although these are not new issues this response highlights the need for a range of solutions to be developed to guide future development applications and assessments. This can be addressed through the Urban Design Framework.

### **Managing Change – Public and Private Spaces**

Question 4 identified six features which could be included at ground level and asked respondents which of these will improve the pedestrian experience with a view to creating a vibrant and safe space. The top three ranked items include:

- Landscaping buffer to new development;
- More street trees; and
- Lighting directed to footpaths for pedestrians.

Wider footpaths, clear street addresses and building entry points and street and directional signage were important but to a smaller number of respondents. A suitable setback and landscaped buffer may be a feature that could be applied to selected sections of the corridor and could be addressed through urban design guidelines and planning scheme controls.

Question 5 sought feedback about preferred setbacks to upper levels of new development. Responses to this question were highly variable due to people's perception of space and distances and an acknowledgement that there are a number of other factors that should be considered when determining appropriate setbacks for a particular development, including established patterns, lot size, land use, etc. The feedback indicated that:

- Rear setbacks are more sensitive than the side and front setbacks;
- When asked about setbacks from all boundaries, the majority of respondents suggested distances between 1- 3 metres to manage impacts; and
- There was a large range of distances between 1m to 7m or greater were suggested.

These responses will be used to develop an appropriate built form envelope and distinguish built form typologies which best fit a particular set of surrounding conditions.

**Details about respondents**

Respondent information shows a diversity of views in relation to residential and property ownership status and language spoken at home. Interestingly over 4% of responses have been from local businesses in Darebin and over 9% are non-resident land owners. With 12% of responses coming from homes where the languages other than English are spoken, there is the opportunity to follow up if further translation assistance is requested.

This feedback will be reviewed and fed into the preparation of the Urban Design Framework and guidelines. A report summarising the feedback received will be submitted to Council on 6 May 2013.

**Project Context and Preliminary Directions*****Existing Conditions***

The first part of the study draws together the existing conditions for each of the Precincts including the:

- Location of key destinations;
- Access barriers and connections;
- Parks and open spaces;
- Schools;
- Potential change streetscapes; and
- Zones and relevant overlays.

Existing Conditions analysis also identify where there are sensitive interfaces issues that need to be addressed.

***Sensitive Interface Issues***

Submissions received in response to recent planning permit applications have raised a number of issues that are pertinent in the consideration of future design and development controls. These submissions are largely from residents in the side streets adjoining St Georges Road where the flow-on impacts of proposed development raises the greatest concerns. The development of these side street areas have been identified as a secondary focus within the Study area.

In some cases properties directly abut properties that front St Georges Road and in other circumstances there may be a laneway that separates the two properties.

Some of the issues include:

- Overlooking from higher buildings;
- Setbacks from side and rear boundaries;
- Screening of upper storey balconies;
- Visual impact on backyards;
- Noise from access lanes and balconies;
- Overshadowing houses and/or back yard;
- Increased difficulty in on-street parking;

- Access onto main roads;
- Pedestrian safety; and
- Street lighting.

### ***Off-site impacts***

Off-site impacts on adjoining neighbours can be managed through additional controls and guidelines in the planning scheme. The impact of these issues diminishes as the distance from the proposed development increases. Other issues perceived to have a wider ranging impact can be strategically managed through a variety of initiatives and Council actions.

### ***Overlooking/overshadowing***

Of particular concern for adjoining neighbours is the bulk and mass of new multi-storey developments currently being proposed. This issue will be addressed through setback, screening and building envelope controls in the Urban Design Framework.

### ***Traffic Management***

VicRoads has indicated that traffic volumes on St Georges Road are expected to increase as a result of its function as a major arterial north/south link and population growth outside the municipality. This increase also places additional pressure on local transport trips in an east/west direction and traffic trying to access key destinations on St Georges Road.

### ***Car parking on-street***

On-street car parking has been a long standing issue that is growing in the southern parts of the municipality. Even without new developments, local demand for on-street parking is increasing due to several trends (more co-habitation and group households, increased use of public transport with private vehicle being left at home during the day) contributing to this shift in parking demand. In addition, the reduction of on-street parking on St Georges Road by VicRoads and the desire to maximise access to properties from side streets is further compounding this issue.

Council will need to take a more comprehensive approach to managing this issue that balances the needs of local businesses, existing and future residents while supporting the ongoing transport function of St Georges Road.

### ***Scenarios of future growth***

Scenarios will be used to assess the impact of development on the surrounding area and provide an indication of development potential in a particular location. From the analysis, implications for the future built form in each precinct will be drawn out to inform recommendations and possible solutions to be further refined in the Urban Design Framework. These Scenarios, as identified in the Draft Housing Strategy, are as follows:

- ***Minimal change***

This Scenario is based on only limited housing growth and change occurring over time. These changes would apply to Residential 1 Zones outside 400m catchment of Principal and Major Activity Centres and be consistent with the type, scale, style and recognised character of an area. This may include low-scale development of several medium density dwellings (1-2 storeys) with design strongly dependant on the prevailing neighbourhood character. This

represents a largely business as usual approach towards development that is currently permissible under the Planning Scheme.

- ***Incremental change***

This Scenario provides for a moderate level of change and housing intensification over the next 20 years. Incremental change encourages development that is generally consistent with the character of an area but recognises this may change due to a more intensive form gradually. On major corridors this may include a mixture of new development that is between 2-4 storeys. This development could take the form of town houses, shop top housing and in cases multi-storey apartment development in selected locations and subject to site conditions. It is likely that new single storey residential development would be discouraged under this scenario for major corridors.

- ***Substantial (High) change***

This Scenario provides for high levels of growth to be accommodated in selected key locations along this corridor. This type of development would be directed to areas where there is an eclectic mix of old and new forms of architectural styles and housing typologies. This includes more recent apartment developments at higher densities and in mixed-use (ground level contains non-residential uses with active frontages) proposals. In these areas a diversity of housing types will be encouraged at higher densities and underdevelopment (not utilising development potential allowable within the controls) is discouraged. New single storey detached and townhouse residential development below three storeys would be discouraged under this scenario for major corridors.

### ***Oakover Village Precinct***

Preliminary investigation has shown that several sites around the intersection of Oakover Road and St Georges Road are potential redevelopment sites. There are at least seven sites in residential and mixed use zones and a mix of public and private ownership that warrant specific focus. A collaborative approach with land owners in planning for the coordinated redevelopment of this area could see a high amenity urban village form at this node, which is near the Bell Street Train Station. In this case both the incremental and high change scenarios would be tested in greater detail, including preparation of development concepts for selected sites, and assessed to identify the best fit development controls.

### ***Next Steps***

The next steps in the process is to prepare a Strategy and Urban Design Framework which outlines a "Preferred Future Outcome" for each of the Precincts which will be identified by testing scenarios of possible growth patterns. The Scenario testing that will be within the Corridor Strategy and UDF will provide the foundation for pursuing a preferred urban form approach for St Georges Road. This will then be expressed as a framework plan and design guidelines.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

### **Environmental Sustainability**

There are environmental benefits with facilitating urban renewal opportunities in and around strategic areas equipped with existing infrastructure and services. More compact built form brings a range of urban efficiency features that improve our overall sustainability.

New developments that are located within a walkable catchment to these areas promote more sustainable forms of transportation including walking, cycling and using public transport. The project is consistent and in line with:

- Going Places – Darebin Transport Strategy 2007 – 2027;
- Darebin City Council Climate Change Action Plan (2007 – 2009);
- Darebin Community Climate Change Action Plan; and
- Green Business Attraction Strategy 2012.

The design guidelines for St Georges Road can promote environmentally sustainable design (grey water systems, water sensitive urban design, etc) and encourage development to achieve passive design principles and energy efficiency. Similarly the strategies for each project can prescribe sustainability features to be achieved for public realm improvements in line with Council policies.

### **Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion**

Darebin is recognised as having a very diverse community. Choice should be offered in location, the type of residential dwellings in which people live and access to local services. Housing stress, housing affordability and rental affordability are serious issues in Darebin. This project considers how this choice can be delivered along the St Georges Road corridor.

Place management principles that reflect how the community see neighbourhood development changes rather than purely a technical analysis are being applied. Compact urban form and detailed consideration of pedestrian scale development of the public realm will lead to more accessible and liveable environments.

### **Other**

This project will run in parallel to the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) Review and other key municipal strategic projects. It affords the ability to apply these policies at a local level and consider on-the-ground implications and leads to further refinement prior to their adoption.

These Studies are influenced by several city wide strategies currently being prepared:

- Draft Darebin Housing Strategy;
- Draft Darebin Economic Land Use Strategy
- MSS Review;
- Business Development and Employment Strategy 2012 – 2015;
- Greenstreets Streetscape Strategy 2012 – 2020; and
- Darebin Cycling Strategy 2013.

### **FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

The project is progressing on time and within current budget allocation.

Ongoing benefits for Council will be derived from setting a clear direction for growth and in managing development industry expectations. The final Study and Planning Scheme amendment package will provide the rationale to support the application of building height controls in defined areas and to assist the Statutory Planning Unit to implement the Planning Scheme efficiently.

## CONCLUSION

There is the potential to include substantial and incremental change at selected sections and key strategic sites along the St Georges Road corridor. This draft Study sets out a solid foundation to proceed to more detailed analysis and derive a Strategy and Urban Design Framework.

A clear direction for future growth will be given through the identification of a “Preferred Future Outcome” for each Precinct. Managing the shift towards this change will be best delivered through a comprehensive set of rules for built form and guidelines to direct future development.

The community consultation program, running in parallel to the preparation of the Strategy and Urban Design Framework, has confirmed the project directions. Further community participation will occur during the planning scheme amendment process.

## FUTURE ACTIONS

A draft Strategy and Urban Design Framework will be reported to Council in its May 2013 cycle of meetings.

## DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Darebin Cycling Strategy, City of Darebin, 2013
- Darebin Economic Land Use Strategy – Stage 1: Background research and literature review, Spade Consultants, March 2012
- Darebin Economic Land Use Strategy (Draft), Spade Consultants, November 2012
- Darebin Business Development and Employment Strategy 2012-2015
- Plenty Road Integrated Land Use and Transport Study, City of Darebin, 2013
- Darebin Review of Land Use Controls – Report 1: Review of Land Use Controls, and Report 2 Precinct Frameworks, Tract, November 2011
- Metropolitan Strategy Discussion Paper “Melbourne - Let’s Talk the Future” – relevant principles and Council’s submission
- The Bell Street Corridor Strategy (Hansen Partnership, 2006)
- Urban Renewal Strategy (High Street and Plenty Road (URS), Charter Keck Cramer, 2011
- Council Briefing 25 February 2013

- Council Meeting 4 March 2013
- Council Briefing 8 April 2013

**8.3 EXHIBITION OF ENVIRONMENTALLY EFFICIENT DESIGN (EED) LOCAL PLANNING POLICIES – DAREBIN'S RESPONSE****MINUTE NO. 234****AUTHOR: Manager City Development****REVIEWED BY: Director City Works and Development****SUMMARY:**

A coalition of Councils - Cities of Banyule, Moreland, Port Phillip, Whitehorse and Yarra – has written to Darebin seeking support for a Planning Scheme Amendment to introduce a Local Planning Policy concerning Environmentally Efficient Design (EED) into their respective planning schemes. Notice of exhibition of the five amendments appeared in the Victoria Government Gazette on 28 February 2013 and the closing date for submissions to the amendment is Monday 29 April 2013.

Darebin is a member of the Council Alliance for Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) which advocates for the consideration of environmentally sustainable design (ESD) in planning and should provide its support for this policy approach. Darebin currently seeks to achieve ESD outcomes in the planning process, similar to those in the proposed Amendment, through utilising the Sustainable Tool for Environmental Performance (STEPS) program for residential developments of 5 or more dwellings and the Sustainable Design Scorecard (SDS) for non-residential buildings. These web-based tools provide an assessment of the environmental performance of a planning application and give Officers information to assist in negotiations with proponents during the planning permit application process. Darebin also employs an ESD Officer to give applicants advice and guidance on passive solar design, water sensitive urban design, bike parking and waste.

The lack of specific State policy direction on ESD in the planning process highlights the importance of Councils working collaboratively to advocate to the State Government for greater tools and direction to achieve improved ESD outcomes. In particular, a consistent approach to ESD assessment processes is considered crucial in obtaining acceptance at State level of an ESD planning policy.

**CONSULTATION:**

ESD Advisor – City Development  
Statutory Planning - City Development



**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED:** Cr. S. Tsitas

**SECONDED:** Cr. B. Li

**THAT** Council:

- (1) Write to the Cities of Banyule, Moreland, Port Phillip, Whitehorse and Yarra supporting the proposed Amendment to the Planning Scheme to introduce a Local Planning Policy concerning Environmentally Efficient Design (EED) into their respective planning schemes; and
- (2) Note that a future briefing will be provided following the outcome of the Amendment consideration process, outlining any implications for how Darebin can respond with its own approach to ESD assessment in the planning process.

**CARRIED**

**REPORT****INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

The Cities of Banyule, Moreland, Port Phillip, Whitehorse and Yarra wrote to the Chief Executive on 25 February 2013 seeking Council's support for their concurrent Planning Scheme Amendments presently on exhibition concerning Environmentally Efficient Design (EED) Local Planning Policies. In sum, the amendment seeks to bolster their approach to environmentally sustainable design (ESD) by introducing a new local policy that recognises the importance of considering ESD at the time of planning approval for new development, in order to maximise sustainable design outcomes and minimise costs associated with retrofitting and poor design. The policy contains objectives and application requirements for residential, mixed use and non-residential development, enabling consistency in the approach to ESD in planning permits.

There are many decisions made in the planning permit phase that have a significant impact on the sustainability of a development. These include maximising solar access and north facing windows, cross ventilation, providing adequate space for water tanks, bike parking and recycling and sufficient roof area for PV's or solar hot water. Supporting policies that enforce applicants to consider ESD at planning is vital for ESD to be successful. It is not just something to be considered at the building permit phase when the design is already locked in and passive heating and cooling opportunities have been missed.

The Sustainable Design Assessment in the Planning Process (SDAPP) program at Darebin has contributed to many successful ESD strategies being employed by planning applicants. For example large water tanks connected to toilets in multi-residential developments, the installation of double glazing for all windows above BCA requirements, external shading to north and west windows, the installation of windows and skylights in previously dark rooms and the installation of a secondary window to living areas for cross ventilation, just to name a few. As more ESD items are requested the development community is responding positively as in many cases they have found the public wants sustainable buildings are willing to pay extra if necessary.

Pursuing ESD in planning is becoming ever more important in ensuring resilience of the built environment to extreme weather conditions and climate change, resource cost increases and policy changes. Awareness of Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) in the built form has increased in recent years. Feedback from the community received through various consultations – including the Housing Strategy consultation conducted in mid-2012 - highlighted that the design and development of housing to lower ongoing utility and resource costs and to minimise environmental impacts is of particular concern to the community.

## ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

In response to environmental concerns, several changes in recent years have been made at a broader level to the State Planning Policy Framework. Whilst the revised State Planning Policy Framework recognises the importance of ESD, the importance of this issue is diluted by the absence of specific guidance on its implementation. Considering the significance for ESD in residential development and the minimal direction through the State Planning Policy Framework, Councils are left with the option to negotiate with developers on each and every permit application. This highlights the significance of Council working with the development industry to encourage and promote innovation and leadership in design and development that positively influence the sustainability of buildings.

Darebin is one of the 12 Councils currently participating in the Sustainable Design Assessment in the Planning Process (SDAPP) program. Darebin presently undertakes an assessment of the environmental performance of proposed developments at the post-application stage by using the STEPS and SDS web-based tools for residential and non-residential developments respectively. This approach is necessary as the State Planning Policy Framework (SPPF) provides limited direction on how Councils can achieve ESD outcomes in the planning process.

The approach proposed by the various Councils - to introduce a Local Policy on EED into their planning schemes - is a new direction for ESD in the planning process and it remains to be seen how receptive the State Government is to this approach. To date there has been State Government resistance to incorporating detailed policies such as those proposed by the five Councils due to building industry lobbying, a perception that it is the realm of the building regulations to deal with ESD and to avoid over proliferation of policies as the State government is a signatory to the COAG policy reforms.

As such, this represents a 'litmus' test, the outcomes of which will be watched closely by Council Officers and will guide Darebin's future policy approach on ESD. It is important that planning appropriate ESD considerations form part of an integrated decision making framework that enables the statutory planning to be part of a solution based approach. The content of the proposed policies is representative of the directions that Darebin pursues through SDAPP and in the work of its ESD officer. For these reasons, support should be provided to the five Councils undertaking their respective planning scheme amendments.

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

### Environmental Sustainability

Sustainability and environmental protection is one of the key strategic objectives in the 'Council Plan' for 2009-2013, including *“develop(ing) and implement(ing) land use and transport policies that achieve good environmental outcomes while responding to the*

*municipality's ongoing development.*" The approach proposed by these Councils is also broadly consistent with the objectives of the following Darebin policies:

- Darebin City Council Climate Change Action Plan (2007 – 2009); and
- Darebin Community Climate Change Action Plan.

The success or otherwise of the EED local policies being introduced to the planning schemes as proposed by the five Councils will demonstrate a path to greater certainty over ESD considerations in statutory planning processes. Upon the outcomes of the amendment process, we will further report to Council on what these are, their impact to Darebin's approach and how Darebin should respond.

Council will continue to pursue its ESD assessments in planning (as described above), working collaboratively with applicants to improve the environmental performance of developments requiring planning permission. This is a successful program that has incrementally increased the capacity of proponents to respond, and also in the development outcomes emerging across the municipality.

Current work being undertaken by the Strategic Planning Unit embeds and reinforces ESD integration into land use planning including the work being undertaken through the St Georges Road and Plenty Road corridors. Design guidelines currently being developed by the Strategic Planning Unit for these corridors also provide the opportunity to promote environmentally sustainable design (grey water systems, water sensitive urban design, etc) and encourage development to achieve passive design principles and energy efficiency. Similarly the strategies for each project can prescribe sustainability features to be achieved for public realm improvements in line with Council policies. This approach focusses on targeting the 'economies of scale' where higher or more intensive development can realise a greater positive ESD outcome.

The Darebin Housing Strategy (currently under development) canvasses ESD issues in relation to residential development. It is likely to propose a series of recommendations around reviewing Council's existing suite of Local Planning Policies to reinforce ESD and internal/external amenity considerations. As such, the outcomes of this particular Amendment proposed by the 5 Councils will be closely watched and will likely inform future strategic work in this area.

### **Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion**

All efforts to improve ESD outcomes in the built environment will help reduce our existing reliance on natural resources and help to ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment are maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations. As such, achieving greater environmental sustainability within the present generation will ensure that future generations will have having equal rights, access and benefits from the use of natural resources and from the enjoyment of a clean and healthy environment.

### **Other**

Nil.

### **FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Nil.

## CONCLUSION

Council should provide support for this policy approach by the five Councils in their proposed planning scheme amendments currently on exhibition.

The approach proposed by these Councils seeks to strengthen consideration of ESD in the planning process by bringing it forward in the approval process and ensure that Statutory Planning Officers would consider each application against the local policy requirements from the initial assessment stage introducing greater opportunities for seeking revisions and amendments to plans to improve the ESD elements.

The lack of State policy direction on ESD in the planning process highlights the importance of Councils working collaboratively to advocate to the State Government for greater tools and direction to achieve improved ESD outcomes. The proposed Amendment would represent a shift in the approach to ESD in the planning process. Darebin Council Officers will watch solely to gauge the State Government's response to this approach and whether a similar approach should be adopted by Darebin.

## FUTURE ACTIONS

1. Council send a letter of response to all 5 Councils in response to the correspondence of 25 February 2013 which provides in-principle support for the policy approach. Standard language has been provided for this response to all Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) members.
2. Following consideration of the amendment submissions and a panel (if one is appointed), the Strategic Planning Unit will report to Council on the outcomes and how Darebin can respond with its own approach to ESD assessment.

## DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

Nil.

*Cr. Walsh temporarily left the meeting during discussion of the above item – 7.48pm*

**8.4 SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS****MINUTE NO. 235****AUTHOR: Manager Family and Children****REVIEWED BY: Group Manager Community Services****SUMMARY:**

This report is in response to a 'General Business' Item raised at the Council meeting on 4 February 2013:

*That Council officers provide a report on the various Holiday school programs offered and the relevant qualifications of staff employed in these programs in dealing with the following matters:*

- a) *Emergency evacuation procedures.*
- b) *Understanding and dealing with Asthma and Anaphylaxis cases.*
- c) *Dealing with any other health related matter.*
- d) *What training and support is provided to these staff members.*

The operation of the Darebin Primary School Holiday Program (DPSHP) must comply with relevant law, regulations and Council policies and procedures. The Education and Care Services National Regulations outline the minimum requirements for staff educating and caring for children, including those in Primary School Holiday Programs.

To illustrate how Council ensures these requirements are met, this report provides an overview of:

- The minimum qualifications and training of Primary School Holiday Program staff and;
- The professional training and support provided to program staff

**CONSULTATION:**

Department of Family and Children staff.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION****MOVED: Cr. J. Williams****SECONDED: Cr. A. Villella****THAT** Council note this report on School Holiday Programs.**CARRIED**

**REPORT****INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

Darebin City Council operates a Primary School Holiday Program at three locations across the municipality;

- *Reservoir Views Primary School*  
110 St Vigeons Road, Reservoir
- *Thornbury Primary School*  
16-24 Hutton Street, Thornbury
- *Wales St Primary School*  
Wales Street, Thornbury

Primary School Holiday Program (called Vacation Care by the Commonwealth Government) is a recreation based care service available to assist families with care for their primary school aged children during school holiday periods. The DPSHP operates in the January school holiday period and in each of the Term 1, 2 and 3 school holiday periods. Venues are open from 8am to 6pm.

There are also three other Vacation Care Programs operating in the municipality;

- *Darebin Holiday Program* – Operated by YMCA  
Plenty Road, Reservoir
- *Kingsbury Primary School Vacation Care* – Operated by Kingsbury Primary School  
Maryborough Avenue, Kingsbury
- *Yappera* - Yappera Children's Service Co-operative  
2B Watt Street, Thornbury

In 2009, all Vacation Care Programs became licensed services under the Children's Services Regulations and Act. These licenses have since moved to the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) and services now operate within the Education and Care Services National Law Act (2010) and Regulations (2011). Both the Act and Regulations guide the operational requirements of the program. All of the six services mentioned above must comply with the Regulations.

Under the Education and Care Services National Law, the City of Darebin is the Approved Provider of its three Primary School Holiday Programs. As the Approved Provider there is a requirement to ensure staff employed in the programs hold minimum qualifications and training.

**ISSUES AND DISCUSSION**

The DPSHP is coordinated by a full time Program Officer. During the program each venue is overseen by a Supervisor and Assistant Supervisor, responsible for the day to day running of the program.

Program staff are employed on a casual basis, engaged from one program to the next. Approximately 30 staff work within each program, with a variation of regular or irregular availability.

### **Staff Qualifications**

Staff employed by Darebin for the DPSHP are recruited according to the Position Description Selection Criteria and City of Darebin employment guidelines. The Position Description reflects the qualifications and training required under the Regulations. Eligible qualifications are:

- Diploma of Children's Services
- Certificate III in Children's Services
- Bachelor of Teaching - Early Childhood Education
- Bachelor of Teaching - Primary
- Bachelor of Education - P-12
- Bachelor of Education - Primary
- Bachelor of Education - Early Childhood
- Bachelor of Early Childhood Studies
- Bachelor of Youth Studies
- Bachelor of Education – Secondary

or any qualification stipulated by the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority.

The following Training Certificates are required by all DPSHP staff:

- Asthma Management Training (within the last 3 years)
- Level 2 First Aid (within the last 3 years)
- CPR training (within the last year)
- Anaphylaxis Management (within the last 3 years)
- Certified Supervisor Certificate
- A current Working with Children Check or Victorian Institute of Teaching Card.

Staff are required to keep their training and certificates up to date, with course codes and certificates held on Staff Records and monitored by the Project Officer.

### **Professional training and support**

The Family and Children Department produce an annual professional development calendar for local early years staff, with sessions appropriate and attended by staff in the DPSHP. Training and workshops topics have covered Working with Children with Additional Needs, National Quality Frameworks and Behavior Management.

Throughout the program, a number of Family and Children staff work with children and program staff to support the delivery of a quality program to meet the education and care needs of the children. Planning and network meetings occur before and after each Program period, providing the opportunity to share ideas, knowledge and identify areas of support needed.

### **Emergency Evacuation Procedures**



Regulation 97 of the National Education and Care Services Regulations requires instructions for what must be done in the event of an emergency, risk assessments and an evacuation floor plan to be available on the premises at all times. The emergency evacuation procedures must be rehearsed every three months and dates of rehearsals to be documented.

Emergency evacuation procedures are rehearsed across each of the DPSHP sites, in each program period and documented on Daily Checklists.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

### **Environmental Sustainability**

Nil.

### **Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion**

The Darebin Early Years Strategy, Darebin Early Years Plan and Darebin Early Years Infrastructure Plan align with the Darebin Social Inclusion Agenda, Diversity Policy, Human Rights Check List and Council's broader commitment to respect community diversity and wellbeing. The research and consultation processes consolidate Council's understanding of the composition, strengths, opportunities, vulnerabilities and attitudes of the community in relation to families and children.

### **Other**

Darebin Early Years Strategy 2011-2021 which incorporates the Darebin Early Years Infrastructure Plan 2011-2031 and the Darebin Early Years Plan 2011-2021.

## **FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

## **CONCLUSION**

The DPSHP is licensed under the Children's Services Regulations and Act, and as such must comply with both the regulations and the Act as well as with Council policies and procedures. In complying with these regulations the operational requirements of the program are met including emergency evacuation procedures, dealing with Asthma and Anaphylaxis cases, and dealing with any other health related matter.

All staff employed in DPSHP are required to have minimum, acceptable qualifications as well as evidence of professional training. Ongoing training is provided by an annual professional development calendar for local early years staff, with sessions appropriate and attended by staff in the DPSHP. Planning and network meetings also occur before and after each Program period, providing the opportunity to share ideas, knowledge and identify areas of support needed.



**FUTURE ACTIONS**

Nil

**DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

The Local Government Act 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Darebin Early Years Strategy 2011-2021

Darebin Early Years Infrastructure Plan 2011-2031

Darebin Early Years Plan 2011-2021)

Education and Care Services National Law Act (2010)

Education and Care Services National Law Regulations (2011)

Council Minutes – 4 February 2013

*Cr. Walsh returned to the meeting during discussion of the above item – 7.53pm*

**8.5 FEASIBILITY OF DEVELOPING A BATMAN PARK  
NORTHCOTE MASTERPLAN****MINUTE NO. 236****AUTHOR: Manager Leisure and Public Realm****REVIEWED BY: Director City Design and Environment****SUMMARY:**

Batman Park (corner Separation Street and St Georges Road, Northcote) is one of Darebin's few heritage parks. As a major neighbourhood park, it caters to the adjacent community as well as attracting users from a wider area. The park contains several outbuildings including a public toilet block and kindergarten with a large modern play space upgraded in 2010/2011 and 2012/2013.

In recent years the garden beds and structural tree planting have declined. A Draft Management Plan (1998-1999) for the parkland exists but because of its age, it requires review and revision to bring it in line with current management practices.

There is strong community support for upgrading the park to reflect its prominence within the local community, high profile location and heritage value within the City of Darebin.

**CONSULTATION:**

Consultation has taken place with:

- Assembled residents at onsite meeting regarding play equipment
- Manager Leisure and Public Realm
- Manager Parks and Vegetation
- Coordinator Public Realm
- Landscape Architect.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION****MOVED: Cr. S. Tsitas****SECONDED: Cr. O. Walsh**

**THAT** Council create a master plan for Batman Park, Northcote in 2013/2014 in consultation with the community.

**CARRIED**

## REPORT

### INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Batman Park, Northcote has been the subject of recent controversy regarding play space upgrades (2010/2011) and Council's decision to remove a tornado slide (2013). There is a passionate and vocal community group advocating to Council for upgrades to this public open space.

Northcote's population is expanding through several high rise developments within 600 metres of the parkland increasing the appeal and use of Batman Park.

### ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

A 1999 Management Plan for Batman Park provides a detailed history of the park but does not offer a concrete vision for the future use of the space or a plan of action to achieve the vision. This 24 year old report is obsolete and requires review and revision to be relevant.

At present there is no unifying vision to guide the upgrade or development of Batman Park for the future. The existing facilities inclusive of public toilet block, Pioneer's Rest Community Hall, BBQ area, kindergarten building and internal path structure are aging and require upgrade to continue to serve the needs of the surrounding community. Further, the garden bed and tree plantings are nearing the end of their safe useful life expectancy.

A master plan document is required to set the vision and purpose of the space, create a design goal and a plan of action to achieve this goal. This master plan document would be developed with the involvement of the surrounding community.

#### Proposed Community Engagement

- Hold onsite meetings to understand the current situation
- Establish a Batman Park Master Plan Steering Committee to advise the development of the master plan document (at least 3, 1.5 hour meetings)
- Develop Draft master plan with input from Steering Committee and internal stakeholders
- Hold onsite meetings to discuss draft master plan
- Develop final draft with input from Steering committee
- Present to Council for adoption.

### POLICY IMPLICATIONS

#### Environmental Sustainability

Purchasing sustainable products, incorporating passive shelter (heating and cooling using shade trees or structures), mitigating the urban heat island effect, incorporating water wise planting and working with existing site conditions will be a high level priority of the master plan for Batman Park.

#### Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

Accessibility for all and social inclusion will be considered as part of the master plan for Batman Park.

**Other**

Nil.

**FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Council's Public Realm team consists of five landscape architects. Developing a master plan for Batman Park will be assigned to one of them to ensure a quality, cost effective product aligned with Council's internal documents, strategies and plans.

\$25,000 from operational budgets will be required for this project for consultation, geotechnical reports (if required), soil condition reports (if required), surveying, graphic design services and publishing costs.

**CONCLUSION**

Batman Park is in need of a current master plan to guide development and upgrade of the park. The development would involve the community and create a document with a clear vision and set of actions that would lead capital works projects over the next 4-5 years.

**FUTURE ACTIONS**

- Engage the community to determine their need
- Establish a Batman Park Master Plan Steering Committee
- Develop Draft master plan
- Engage the community
- Develop final draft with input from Steering committee
- Present to Council for adoption
- Develop capital bids to implement actions for the 2014/2015 financial year.

**DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Nil.

**8.6 FREE EXERCISE IN THE PARKS****MINUTE NO. 237****AUTHOR: Manager Leisure and Public Realm****REVIEWED BY: Director City Design and Environment****SUMMARY:**

At its meeting on 16 April 2012, it was resolved:

*That Council:*

- (1) *Adopt Free Exercise in the Parks in the form of ongoing exercise programs to be conducted in parks within the municipality.*
- (2) *Consider a further \$15,000 through the 2012/2013 budget process to conduct the Free Exercise in the Parks program.*
- (3) *Officers continue to seek opportunities for external funding and support for the program.*
- (4) *Officers provide Council with an annual report on the progress of the Free Exercise in the Parks program in February 2013.*

The Free Exercise in the Parks program was established to provide opportunities for Darebin's disadvantaged communities to participate in outdoors fitness sessions at no cost.

This report outlines the outcomes from the winter 2012 and spring 2012 programs and the future directions for the program.

**CONSULTATION:**

- Leisure Services Staff
- Community Planning, Partnerships and Performance – Healthy Moves Staff
- Reservoir Leisure Centre
- YMCA Area Manager
- Program participants

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** Council:

- (1) Consider funding \$15,000 through the 2013/2014 budget process to continue to deliver the Free Exercise in the Parks program.

- (2) Officers continue to seek opportunities for external funding and support for the program.
- (3) Officers provide Council with an annual report on the progress of the Free Exercise in the Parks program in April 2014.

**MOTION**

**MOVED:** Cr. A. Vilella

**SECONDED:**

**THAT** Council:

- (1) Consider funding \$15,000 through the 2013/2014 budget process to continue to deliver the Free Exercise in the Parks program.
- (2) Officers continue to seek opportunities for external funding and support for the program.
- (3) Officers provide Council with an annual report on the progress of the Free Exercise in the Parks program in April 2014.

*Cr. Li proposed to the mover of the proposed Motion, Cr. Vilella that the Motion be amended by adding an item (4) to read as follows. This was accepted by Cr. Walsh and Cr. Li seconded the Motion.*

- (4) *Officers consult with the nearby residents where free exercises in the park are held to ensure overall community cooperation.*

THE AMENDED MOTION THEN READ AS FOLLOWS:

**AMENDED MOTION**

**MOVED:** Cr. A. Vilella

**SECONDED:** Cr. B. Li

**THAT** Council:

- (1) Consider funding \$15,000 through the 2013/2014 budget process to continue to deliver the Free Exercise in the Parks program.
- (2) Officers continue to seek opportunities for external funding and support for the program.
- (3) Officers provide Council with an annual report on the progress of the Free Exercise in the Parks program in April 2014.
- (4) Officers consult with the nearby residents where free exercises in the park are held to ensure overall community cooperation.

THE AMENDED MOTION WAS PUT AND CARRIED AND BECAME THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED:** Cr. A. Villella  
**SECONDED:** Cr. B. Li

**THAT** Council:

- (1) Consider funding \$15,000 through the 2013/2014 budget process to continue to deliver the Free Exercise in the Parks program.
- (2) Officers continue to seek opportunities for external funding and support for the program.
- (3) Officers provide Council with an annual report on the progress of the Free Exercise in the Parks program in April 2014.
- (4) Officers consult with the nearby residents where free exercises in the park are held to ensure overall community cooperation.

**CARRIED**

**REPORT****INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

In response to a Council resolution on 5 September 2011, originating from a 'General Business' item, an eight week Free Exercise in the Parks program was trialled. Due to the high participation rates and positive feedback received, the program was funded by Council to continue in 2012/2013.

At its meeting on 16 April 2012, it was resolved:

*That Council:*

1. *Adopt Free Exercise in the Parks in the form of ongoing exercise programs to be conducted in parks within the municipality.*
2. *Consider a further \$15,000 through the 2013/2014 budget process to conduct the Free Exercise in the Parks program.*
3. *Officers continue to seek opportunities for external funding and support for the program*
4. *Officers provide Council with an annual report on the progress of the Free Exercise in the Parks program in February 2013*

In the 12 months since the last report, three blocks of Exercise in the Parks have been conducted. Leisure Services, Reservoir Leisure Centre and Northcote Aquatic and Recreation (NARC) Centre all maintained their involvement in this program. There was also a new partner, Council's Community Wellbeing Unit, who was able to contribute staff time and some funds via a grant from the Department of Health and Ageing's Healthy Moves Program.

The Free Exercise in the Parks sessions were targeted at socio economically disadvantaged communities that may not otherwise be able to afford to attend such fitness classes already available at fitness centres.

### **Winter 2012**

During winter 2012 there were three sites across Reservoir and Fairfield where free indoor exercise classes were provided. Each venue hosted one session per week. The sessions delivered included:

- Winter Wellness (mixture of yoga, pilates and stretching)
- Winter Workout (resistance training and circuit based gentle exercise).

The program operated from 4 June 2012 to 16 August 2012 excluding the school holiday period.

Venues were as follows:

- Oakhill Community Centre, Reservoir (Winter Workout)
- Darebin Community Sports Stadium, Reservoir (Winter Workout)
- Fairfield Community Centre, Fairfield (Winter Wellness).

### **Spring 2012**

Over Spring 2012 there were 12 sites that delivered exercise sessions as follows:

- Penders Park, Thornbury (Outdoor Fitness)
- All Nations Park, Northcote (Outdoor Fitness)
- Edwardes Lake Park, Reservoir (Pilates and Yoga)
- Bundoora Park, Bundoora (Outdoor Fitness)
- Zwar Reserve, Preston (Yoga)
- Oldis Gardens, Northcote (Pilates and Yoga)
- Wales Street Primary School, Thornbury (Outdoor Fitness)
- Preston Primary School, Preston (Outdoor Fitness)
- Reservoir East Primary School, Reservoir (Outdoor Fitness)
- Reservoir Primary School, Reservoir (Outdoor Fitness)
- St. Gabriel Primary School, Reservoir (Outdoor Fitness)
- St. Stephens Primary School, Reservoir (Outdoor Fitness).



Over 350 individuals participated in the program with females representing 93.7% of all program participants.

### Program Summary

Promotion of the programs across winter and spring 2012 included flyers, real estate boards, website presence and a direct mail out to previous participants. Learning from the pilot program ensured greater lead in time and more specific engagement critical to maximising participation numbers.

Attendance across both programs (winter and spring 2012) saw growth at most existing venues. The spring 2012 program included 6 schools as first time venues across Reservoir and Preston. Attendance at the school sessions have varied largely due to the weather, level of parent engagement and local interest.

One of the key learnings has been to review the delivery length and timing of future programs as participation numbers dropped away in the final weeks of the program leading up to Christmas and also around the school holiday periods.

## ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

### Participation Levels

The Free Exercise in the Parks program has had more than 2,500 attendances over the winter and spring 2012 programs. Participation has increased in each program since the initial trial in Spring 2011.

#### Winter 2012 Schedule

Venue	Activity	Day	Average Participation
Oakhill Community Centre	Winter Workout	Monday	15
Darebin Community Sports Centre	Winter Wellness	Wednesday	15
Fairfield Community Centre	Winter Workout	Friday	14

Spring 2012 Schedule

Venue	Activity	Day	Average Participation
Penders Park, Thornbury	Outdoor Fitness	Monday	18
All Nations Park, Northcote	Outdoor Fitness	Tuesday	21
All Nations Park, Northcote	Outdoor Fitness	Thursday	20
Edwardes Lake Park, Reservoir	Pilates	Tuesday	15
Edwardes Lake Park, Reservoir	Yoga	Thursday	16
Bundoora Park, Bundoora	Outdoor Fitness	Tuesday	22
Bundoora Park, Bundoora	Outdoor Fitness	Thursday	20
Zwar Reserve, Preston	Yoga	Wednesday	15
Oldis Gardens, Northcote	Pilates	Wednesday	14
Oldis Gardens, Northcote	Yoga	Friday	14
Wales Street Primary School,	Outdoor Fitness	Wednesday	10
Preston Primary School,	Outdoor Fitness	Thursday	13
Reservoir East Primary	Outdoor Fitness	Wednesday	6
Reservoir Primary School,	Outdoor Fitness	Tuesday	11
St. Gabriel Primary School,	Outdoor Fitness	Monday	14
St. Stephens Primary School	Outdoor Fitness	Monday	8

**Program Evaluation**Breakdown by Age

Age bracket	% participants in age bracket
74 - 83 years	1.8%
64 - 73 years	3.8%
54 - 63 years	13.8%
44 - 53 years	33.7%
34 - 43 years	31.3%
24 - 33 years	11.4%
14 - 23 years	4.2%

Fitness Levels

Random interviews found that the biggest change participants reported was around increased fitness levels.

Women returning to fitness post pregnancy

Many women reported that Free Exercise in the Parks was their first engagement in physical activity post pregnancy. Many women listed the aspect of 'no cost' as a motivation to return to physical activity.

Social Inclusion

Older people, women, CALD communities, people with a disability and people from low socio economic communities were all represented in attendance figures. In addition, many people reported a feeling of social connection in the community after being involved in the Free Exercise in the Parks program. Some exercise groups have been meeting post workout to socialise.

Flexibility of participant attendance in program

Many people reported the 'no booking required' element of the program allowed them to participate when they could. Many reported a hesitation at attending other programs where an 8-10 week commitment is required. The flexibility of the Free Exercise in the Parks program encouraged participants to attend when they could.

**Summer 2013 Program**

The summer 2013 program commenced on 11 February 2013 and continued until 28 March 2013. Based on the evidence and feedback collected through participant surveys, staff observations, instructor feedback and anecdotal evidence the program had less school sites in summer 2013 while all other existing sessions delivered in spring 2012 remained the same.

The Free Exercise in the Parks summer 2013 program was delivered in six local parks or reserves offering ten sessions per week over a seven week period. In addition three local primary schools participated in the program offering one session per week at each school. A total of 13 free sessions per week were delivered across the local community. This program has not yet been evaluated but attendance figures and feedback will be collated to inform future programs and continue to tailor the program to the communities needs.

**2012/2013 Budget**

Nearly all of the costs associated with the Free Exercise in the Parks program are for providing instructors. The remaining cost is attributed to advertising and promotion. The total costs of running the program are as follows:

<b>Program costs</b>	
Winter 2012/2013	\$4,800
Spring 2012/2013	\$14,250
Summer 2012/2013	\$9,300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$28,350</b>

The contributions towards the program budget are outlined below:

- Leisure Services \$15,000
- Healthy Moves funding \$9,000
- YMCA \$4,350

**2013/2014**

Subject to funding, it is likely that the program will be similar to that of 2012/2013 with sessions during spring 2013, summer 2013/2014 and winter 2014. New venues such as the Aborigines Advancement League in Thornbury, CH Sullivan Reserve in Reservoir and Lancaster Gate in Bundoora will be considered in order to reach more disadvantaged groups currently under represented in the program. The session types will also be reviewed to ensure that a broad cross section of the community is attracted to Free Exercise in the Parks.

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

### Environmental Sustainability

There are no significant environmental issues. The program encourages local participation and for residents to walk and cycle to all program venues.

### Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

Participation in recreation activities and physical activity adds value to individuals and community life while also contributes to a person's quality of life. Research shows that increased physical activity can prevent many chronic illnesses, particularly when combined with a balanced diet and healthy lifestyle.

Free Exercise in the Parks is targeted at disadvantaged individuals and marginalised communities within Darebin, many whom do not regularly participate in physical activity. The needs of these communities have been considered directly through the planning, promotion and implementation phases of the program.

Evidence of this can be illustrated through the internal and external conversations with staff and community stakeholders who work with and represent these targeted communities. The nature of the program has taken into account key considerations regarding barriers to participation to ensure the program remains inclusive and accessible to disadvantaged individuals and marginal communities. Some of the considerations include cost, transport, location and access to information. As a result the sites identified for the program are central, have adequate access via public transport, while communication is targeted through key community organisations and health services that specifically engage and connect with disadvantaged individuals.

### Other

The Free Exercise in the Parks program is closely aligned with the Darebin Leisure Strategy 2010 – 2020 stated objective to increase physical activity participation within the municipality and also is closely aligned to the Darebin Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009 – 2013 objective to build the capacity of the community to engage in physical activity.

## FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The total costs and contributions of conducting the winter 2012 and spring 2012 program are outlined below;

Program costs	
Winter 2012/2013	\$4,800
Spring 2012/2013	\$14,250
Summer 2012/2013	\$9,300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$28,350</b>

The contributions towards the program budget are outlined below:

- Leisure Services \$15,000
- Healthy Moves funding \$9,000
- YMCA \$4,350

The budget requested for 2013/2014 is \$15,000.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Exercise in the Parks program has been very well received by the community and has enhanced Council's reputation of being committed to improving the health of Darebin residents. Three Free Exercise in The Parks programs will be planned across 2013/2014 subject to a request for funding \$15,000 in the 2013/2014 budget. The program will continue to allow a flexible number of classes to be held during the following months;

- October 2013 – December 2013
- February 2014 – April 2014
- May 2014 – June 2014

The continued delivery of the Free Exercise in the Parks program will improve community wellbeing, continue goodwill, enhance community connections and provide free fitness options for disadvantaged community members.

## **FUTURE ACTIONS**

- Continue to seek external funding opportunities.
- Implement three Free Exercise in the Parks program blocks subject to funding in 2013/2014.
- Continue to review and improve program through participant feedback and program evaluation.
- Report annually to Council on the Free Exercise in the Parks programs.

## **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Darebin Leisure Strategy 2010 – 2020
- Council Minutes – 16 April 2012

**8.7 COMMUNITY FOOD GARDEN MAP****MINUTE NO. 238****AUTHOR: Manager Environment and Natural Resources****REVIEWED BY: Director City Design and Environment****SUMMARY:**

This report has been prepared in response to Council's resolution of 26 November 2012 that officers liaise with Transition Darebin regarding their proposal to develop a map of possible community food gardens and other food production sites in Darebin.

Officers have liaised with Transition Darebin and the Sustainable Food Leaders' Forum and developed some potential sites and a list of considerations. This exercise had identified the need for policy/strategy including a formal assessment and consultation process for considering community garden locations.

**CONSULTATION:**

Transition Darebin, Coordinator Public Realm, Darebin Sustainable Food Leaders' Forum, Manager Facilities Management, Community Wellbeing Team Leader

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED: Cr. S. Tsitias**  
**SECONDED: Cr. B. Li**

**THAT** Council develop an Urban Food Production Strategy which would include an assessment and consultation process for considering community food garden locations.

**CARRIED****REPORT****INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

This report has been prepared in response to Council's resolution of 26 November 2012 that officers liaise with Transition Darebin regarding their proposal to develop a map of possible community food gardens and other food production sites in Darebin, with a report to come back to Council in early 2013.

Community food gardens can operate as fenced sites, restricting public access, and sites open to all. They can incorporate some or all of: raised beds, orchards, herb gardens and food forests. Generally they are operated and harvested by community members, although park and public plantings can incorporate food plants. There are currently 14 identified community food gardens in Darebin. These are shown on the attached map in **Appendix A** and vary in size, management models and access. There are many more school food

gardens and shared gardens in housing developments. The gardens identified on the map are more broadly accessible.

To progress this report officers met with Transition Darebin representatives and carried out consultation with the Darebin Sustainable Food Leaders' forum on 20 March 2013, with the latter summarised in **Appendix B**.

Urban food production has a number of community benefits and is supported in a number of Council environmental and health strategies. The draft GreenStreets strategy has informed this report. This draft strategy has proposed policy around smaller nature strip plantings and directions to progress urban food production.

## ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

There is currently no formal process or strategic vision for identifying potential community garden sites. To date requests generally are received from community members and organisations, or sites may be identified by officers as part of a planning process.

Transition Darebin suggested Council develop a map of potential sites where community food gardens would be considered, seeking to identify vacant or underutilised Council land which had:

- Water infrastructure;
- Were not overshadowed by large buildings or dense tree canopy; and ideally
- Were close to residential areas which lack growing spaces or access to fresh food; and
- Close to food businesses which could supply food waste for compost.

They envisaged these sites as not necessarily being as large as existing community gardens or as small as naturestrips (naturestrip planting is currently being looked at under the draft GreenStreets Streetscape Strategy review) but other available Council land.

Officers discussed with Transition Darebin that the following additional issues were important from Council's viewpoint:

- Community need and commitment
- Neighbours and consultation
- Accessibility and suitability of site (including physical factors above, as well as security, transport, fencing, other potential uses, etc)
- Land use/planning priorities and issues (conservation, master plans etc.)
- Health and safety
- Funding / cost (both up-front and ongoing).

### Potential sites

For discussion purposes the food garden map in **Appendix A** was collated from internal consultation, discussion with Transition Darebin and the Sustainable Food Leaders forum. It shows current and proposed sites discussed in the following categories.

**Open Space** - Darebin's Open Space Strategy states that Council will work towards identifying various management models, community interest and appropriate sites best suited to meeting

any demonstrated need for community gardens and their relationship to open space. The primary constraint on using open space for community gardens is trying to maximise the benefits of the space for the entire community and managing conflicting access and expectations in relation to this.

Natural Conservation areas, such as creek banks and native grasslands would not be considered appropriate sites. Sports ovals and playspaces would also not be appropriate, but adjacent underutilised areas within a sports ground or near a playspace may be appropriate. This leaves a large amount of open space within Darebin which could be considered as potential community food garden sites. The key issue is not physical suitability and is one of community priority. Rather than highlighting all open space (with the exception of conservation areas, sportsfields and playspaces) which had potential for the development of a community food garden we have identified those that are being currently considered or have been raised during consultation for this report.

**Council buildings** sometimes have garden space on their property or adjacent. This can create good opportunities for community gardens. An example is the Northcote Library Food Garden. Officers consulted internally regarding potential land associated with Council buildings and have identified these on the attached map. Land within kindergartens and child care centres may be appropriate for food gardens for the community using that centre, but are not considered appropriate for general community gardens. Security and access are key considerations. The potential sites highlighted on the map were developed through internal consultation.

**Other public land** - as can be seen in the comments from the consultation with the Sustainable Food Leaders included in **Appendix B**, there are many other public sites the community would like to consider and may be appropriate for community gardens including:

- Victrack land and particularly land adjacent train stations,
- Schools,
- Melbourne water land, and
- Public housing estates.

Strong preference was identified for areas with high visibility and high accessibility.

### **Development of potential community food gardens**

This consultation has identified some potential sites for community food gardens as shown on the attached map in **Appendix A**. As with all public land, a process to establish need, priorities, conflicting uses, effects on amenity and resourcing would generally need to be undertaken before Council could commit to any of these areas being used as a new community food garden. This is best achieved on a case-by-case basis, when the need or interest for developing that land is identified by the community, or when Council planning processes identify a community garden as a good potential use for a piece of land. There is currently no formal process to assess community gardens and the development of a process would ensure that the issues are dealt with comprehensively and equitably.



## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

### **Environmental Sustainability**

Urban food production is supported by the Community Climate Change Action Plan, the Adaptation Strategy, and the Waste Management Strategy. The environmental impacts of conventional food growing are significant. Environmental, social and economic impacts including more severe weather conditions and events due to climate change, peak oil and increasing fuel costs, increasing scarcity and cost of fertilizer, increasing global population, and growing competition and demand for arable land affect the availability and cost of global food supplies - these impacts are projected to increase. Locally grown produce has a broad range of environmental, social and economic benefits.

As indicated above, there are conflicting demands for open space and there are environmental considerations in relation to the protection of conservation land and wildlife corridors. The draft Urban Forest Strategy is also a consideration as increased tree canopy coverage may compete with available space for community food gardens, though both uses can complement each other with good planning.

### **Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion**

As part of Darebin's Community Health and Wellbeing Plan and Food security policy, growing food locally is encouraged and supported. The benefits of community food gardens include: healthy food, exercise, social interaction and connectivity, mentoring and skill building. Many of our diverse community have great skills to share with the wider Darebin community in terms of sustainable food production and preparation.

Access to open space is increasing in importance with higher density living. Policy to assess community food garden proposals needs to ensure robust consultation and need assessment.

### **Other**

This is consistent with the Council Plan. Risk management issues are a consideration in the siting and management of community gardens.

## **FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Community food gardens vary in size and resources required. Both initial set up costs and maintenance costs need to be considered. Council open space and tree maintenance budgets are not currently resourced to maintain food bearing trees and food gardens in public spaces and ongoing community support would be required to maintain these. Where the community is committed to the upkeep of a piece of land formerly maintained by Council, potential maintenance cost savings may be made.

The proposed development of an Urban Food Production Strategy would be developed in-house. Additional funding has been proposed in the 2013/2014 budget discussions to support resourcing in this area with the appointment of a part time Sustainable Food officer who would develop the strategy in collaboration with Public Realm and Community Wellbeing departments.

## CONCLUSION

Council is supportive of community food gardens in many of its key health and environmental strategies as they have the potential to provide healthy food, exercise, social interaction and connectivity, mentoring and skill building as well as lower resource use and waste.

This exercise had identified the need for policy/strategy including a formal assessment and consultation process for considering community garden locations. Further work is also needed to identify the desired network or relative area devoted to community food gardens throughout the municipality and/or the factors that determine this. The draft GreenStreets Streetscape Strategy proposes the development of an Urban Food Production Strategy to provide direction in these areas.

## FUTURE ACTIONS

- Develop an Urban Food Production Strategy in 2013/2014
- Consider further report on draft GreenStreets Streetscape Strategy

## DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

**Appendix A** – draft map for discussion

**Appendix B** – Sustainable Food Leaders' Forum consultation

Draft GreenStreets Streetscape Strategy

Darebin Community Climate Change Action Plan

Darebin Climate Change and Peak Oil Adaptation Plan

Council Minutes – 26 November 2012

**8.8 FEASIBILITY OF OPENING THE MEN'S SHED ON SATURDAYS AT THE BLAKE STREET, RESERVOIR SITE.****MINUTE NO. 239****AUTHOR: Manager Community Planning, Partnerships and Performance****REVIEWED BY: Group Manager People and Performance****SUMMARY:**

On 18 March 2013, under 'General Business', it was resolved:

*That Council Officers prepare a report by 29 April 2013 on the feasibility of opening the Men's Shed on Saturdays at the Blake St, Reservoir site.*

This report outlines the feasibility of opening a Men's Shed on Saturdays at the Blake Street, Reservoir site.

**CONSULTATION:**

Darebin Community Health  
Men's Shed Working Group  
Health and Active Ageing Community Advisory Board  
Health Promotion Officer  
Healthy Communities Officer  
Community Wellbeing Team leader  
Community Planning, Partnerships and Performance

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION****MOVED: Cr. J. Williams****SECONDED: Cr. O. Walsh****THAT**

- (1) Council supports the funding of the Darebin Community Health Men's Shed on Thursdays and Fridays post April 2014 and until the end of June 2015.
- (2) Council officers prepare a report to Council in December 2014 with further recommendation for funding including the necessity for extended hours on Saturdays.

**CARRIED**

**REPORT****INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND****Men's Shed and Health Promotion**

Australian men suffer poorer health outcomes on most measures of health status when compared with women. This disparity increases with remoteness and is particularly evident in Indigenous men. Older, retired or unemployed men, men with limited education, with lower levels of health literacy and from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds are most at risk. In 2001, mental disorders were responsible for the greatest disability burden to Victorian males. In Victoria, depression causes the greatest burden of disease (to men) of all mental disorders, with the greatest impacts experienced by men aged 25 – 54. Men have a greater likelihood of committing suicide, of being homeless, and having alcohol and other drug dependency.

The Men's Shed model is used as a vehicle for health promotion activities that aim to improve the health and wellbeing of men by influencing the social determinants that impact on their health. The Australian Men's Shed Association recognizes a Men's Shed as any community-based, non-profit, non-commercial organisation that is accessible and inclusive to all men and whose primary activity is the provision of a safe, friendly and healing environment where men are able to work on meaningful projects at their own pace in the company of other men.

Benefits of involvement in sheds include regaining a sense of purpose in life, enhanced self-esteem, decreased social isolation, and friendship. Sheds offer an environment conducive to men's learning, and also offer positive effects for partners, families and communities. Men happily share health experiences in sheds. Indigenous men speak of the need for a men's space that offers a culturally safe space to re-establish connection with Aboriginal tradition and culture and restore individual and community self-esteem and respect, and to access health services.

Research indicates that sheds are best governed by a policy framework that brings government and non-government organisations together, empowers men to take ownership in the program model and supports health professionals to leverage their programs through the shed at the target community.

**Men's Shed in Darebin**

Darebin Community Health's Men's Shed in East Reservoir was formed in 2002 as part of the Planned Activity Group (PAG) program targeting men who were socially disadvantaged. The Shed engages men in cooking programs, woodwork, gardening, bicycle repair, computer use, physical activity and social activities. It also aims to improve access to health services for the participants and to raise awareness of men's health issues.

Darebin Community Health's Men's Shed is highly regarded by the local community, including many residents from the East Reservoir Neighbourhood Renewal community as a safe, supportive and welcoming program.

**Current Staff Funding as of April 2013**

The Men's Shed is currently funded for 2 days a week through the Darebin Community Health Planned Activity Group program and for 1 day per week through Home and Community Care and Victorian Aboriginal Health Service. The City of Darebin currently contributes \$47,000 as

part of the federal Healthy Communities initiative – Healthy Moves. This funding is used to employ a Group Leader for an additional two (2) days per week (EFT 0.4) for 18 months from October 2012 – April 2014 to conduct Men’s Shed programs on Thursdays and Fridays. The partnership is governed under a Memorandum of Understanding between Council, Darebin Community Health, YMCA Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre and NEAMI (mental health service).

Day of Operation	# of clients	Target group	Activity focus	Funding Body	Funding Period	Staff funded	Staff Cost p/a
Mon	20	50+	Socialisation	DCH (PAG)	Ongoing	2 Staff	\$23,124
Tue	20	50+	Socialisation	DCH (PAG)	Ongoing	2 Staff	\$23,124
Wed	10 - 15	Aboriginal	Various	HACC & VAHS	Ongoing	2 Staff	\$23,124
Thur	20	< 50 years	Health	Healthy Moves DoHA	Oct 12 – Apr 14	1 Staff	\$15,667
Fri	20	< 50 years	Health	Healthy Moves DoHA	Oct 12 – April 14	1 Staff	\$15,667

The total cost to currently staff Darebin Community Health’s Men’s Shed is \$107,706 per annum. This does not take into account costs of venue and utilities.

From April 2014 the men’s shed will return to a sub-standard funding model, operating with a 0.6 EFT coordinator, delivering programs 3 days each week. This will significantly reduce the capacity for the program to deliver adequate services to meet the demand in the Darebin community.

Prior to the commencement of the Healthy Communities initiative – Healthy Moves, there were 40 members in the Men’s Shed program and a waiting list of 80 to join the program. The funding only enabled men with mental illness to attend the program. The funding provided by Council through the Healthy Communities initiative – Healthy Moves has enabled the men on the waiting list to join the program and men under 50 years to join the sessions on Thursday and Friday. New members have also been recruited through additional channels such as referrals and social marketing.

As part of the Healthy Moves project, there is an emphasis on providing skills and knowledge in the management and prevention of different chronic conditions and diseases such as overweight and obesity, diabetes, hypertension and heart disease. There is also a focus on expanding the bicycle repair program so that more bikes can be provided to the target group promoting active travel. The Men’s shed is also a sight for Lift for Life & BEAT IT programs.

It would be beneficial for Council to plan for Darebin Community Health’s Men’s Shed financial sustainability post April 2014 when funding through Healthy Communities Initiative – Healthy Moves ends.

## ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

### Estimated cost of opening the Men's Shed on Saturdays at Blake Street, Reservoir

The following table outlines the cost associated with opening the Men's Shed at Blake Street, Reservoir (Darebin Community Health) on Saturdays.

SATURDAY MEN'S SHED COSTING	
Item	Annual Operating
Staff Wages (time and half)	\$23,500
Staff Oncosts	\$2,350
Promotions and marketing	\$1,000
Materials and consumables	\$4,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$30,850</b>

Consultation with the Men's Shed Working Group and Darebin Community Health over the past weeks has identified that opening the shed on a Saturday has not been identified by either the working group or Darebin Community Health as a priority. When compared to sourcing funding for Thursday and Friday post April 2014, opening on a Saturday is not a priority at this stage, or cost effective as the annual cost to operate on a Saturday is almost the same to operate on a Thursday and Friday.

### Additional Options

#### Cost of continuing the Darebin Community Health Men's Shed to operate at 1 EFT (All weekdays) post April 2014 Healthy Communities funding

The following table outlines the funding required for the Darebin Community Health Men's shed to operate at 1 EFT post Healthy Communities funding which ceases in April 2014. *Currently the Men's Shed funding for Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday is ongoing. The Thursday & Friday funding is through Healthy Moves which ceases April 2014.*

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY MEN'S SHED COSTING	
Item	Annual Operating Cost
Staff Wages 0.4EFT	\$31,334
Staff Oncosts	\$3,133
Other costs (in-kind) from partner organisations	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$34,467</b>

### Cost of opening the Men's Shed on Saturdays, Thursday and Fridays & funding the Men's Shed post April 2014

The following table outlines the itemised costing of opening the Men's Shed on Saturday, Thursday & Friday

MEN'S SHED COSTING		
Day	Item	Annual Operating
Saturday	Staff Wages (time & half) - \$23,500	\$30,850
	Staff Oncosts - \$2,350	
	Promo & marketing - \$1,000	
	Materials and consumables - \$4,000	
Thursday	Staff Wages - \$15,667	\$17,233
	Staff Oncosts - \$1,566	
Friday	Staff Wages - \$15,667	\$17,233
	Staff Oncosts - \$1,566	
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$65,316</b>

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

### Environmental Sustainability

The men's shed model supports Council's Sustainable Transport, Safe Travel and Cycling Strategy through activities such as repairing bikes and donating them to local communities, increases residents capacity to use sustainable transport options.

### Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The use of Men's Shed as a model to promote social isolation and mental health is supported by Council's current Community Health and Wellbeing Plan under Objective One "*Promote mental health and social wellbeing through encouraging a socially and culturally inclusive community that supports positive and harmonious relationships between families, friends and neighbours*".

In addition, the men's shed model is supported by Council's Equity and Inclusion Policy as it aims to engage several groups at risk of exclusion including men with mental health issues, older men, single men and men from low socio-economic backgrounds. The Men's Shed model does not breach any human rights. In fact it enhances the rights of disadvantaged men to access much needed service.

### Other

Nil

## FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The costs associated with opening the Men's Shed at Blake Street, Reservoir on a Saturday would be \$30,850 per annum

**CONCLUSION**

Men's Sheds provide a successful vehicle to deliver health promotion activities and improve the health and wellbeing of socially and economically disadvantaged men. Men's Shed programs are an excellent model for Council to support as a partner to enhance the program and the health services capacity to deliver health and wellbeing initiatives to some of our most disadvantaged and isolated residents.

While the Darebin Community Health Men's Shed is currently open Monday to Friday, Thursday and Friday is funded only until April 2014. The priority for the Men's Shed and Darebin Community Health is to secure funding for Thursday and Friday post April 2014 to ensure it can at least meet the current demand of clients engaged in activities. The option of extending the service to Saturday would be reviewed in December 2014 pending demonstrated and expressed need.

**FUTURE ACTIONS**

Report to Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Board

**DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Active and Health Ageing Community Advisory Board Minutes 13 December 2012 (A1490707)
- MOU - Men's Shed - Signed (A1386355)
- Council Minutes – 17 September 2012, 4 February 2013 and 18 March 2013.

*Cr. Tsitas temporarily left the meeting during discussion of the above item - 8.13pm*



**8.9 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE CHARTER****MINUTE NO. 240****AUTHOR: Manager Community Planning, Partnerships and Performance****REVIEWED BY: Group Manager People and Performance****SUMMARY:**

At its meeting on 26 November 2012, Council resolved the following:

*That the Council resolves to establish a working party of Councillors and Council Officers to consider the development of a Governance and Accountability Memorandum of Understanding to serve as a contract with the Darebin Community, guiding Council's progress, reporting and behaviour of Councillors and Council Officers in the making of decisions, delivery of services and the transaction of business in Darebin over the Council term.*

At its meeting on 20 December 2012 Council further resolved to:

1. *Note the draft Darebin Community Charter (formally referred to as Memorandum of Understanding) between Darebin City Council and the Darebin Community attached as Appendix A to this report.*
2. *Note that any comments from the Councillors are required by 10 January 2013 to the Chief Executive.*
3. *Release a revised draft, including principles, achievements and actions to Council staff and Council Advisory Committee members on 17 January 2013. The release of the draft should be accompanied by key questions to which stakeholders should respond.*
4. *Officers present a draft of the Darebin Community Charter at the Council Meeting of 4 February 2013 prior to release for community consultation.*

On 4 February 2013 Council endorsed a draft Community Governance Charter and released it for public consultation until 25 March 2013.

**CONSULTATION:**

- Copies of the draft Charter were sent to all Council's Advisory Committees
- Copy was posted on the Council website under Have Your Say section

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED:** Cr. O. Walsh  
**SECONDED:** Cr. B. Li

**THAT** Council endorse the final draft of the Community Governance Charter attached as **Appendix A** to this report.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**REPORT****INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

Following the Victorian Local Government elections in October 2012, the newly elected Darebin Council developed a draft public document that would formally affirm its commitment to good governance over the 4 year term of their tenure. The initial instrument of intent was a Memorandum of Understanding that set out the mutual rights and responsibilities between Councillors, the administration, community, stakeholders, partners and developers.

A working party of Councillors and Council Officers further refined the instrument of intent into two parts to better express the higher order ideals, values and principles that will guide the relationship between Council and its diverse stakeholders and a separate action plan that would outline the detailed strategies for implementation.

The higher order document created was a draft 'Darebin City Council Community Governance Charter'.

The draft Charter and action plan were sent to members of Darebin's Advisory Committees and to staff members within Council's leadership group, seeking initial feedback on the Charter. Feedback was received, considered and incorporated in an updated version of the Charter presented to Council at its meeting on 4 February 2013. Council deferred the action plan to be incorporated into the Council Plan 2013-2017 and the proposed revamped Councillors Code of Conduct.

Three submissions were received following the release of the Charter for public consultation. The feedback received related mainly to how the Charter would be implemented and utilised to inform, shape and affect Council's decisions. The provided feedback was referred for consideration in the Council Plan development.

**ISSUES AND DISCUSSION**

The draft Community Governance Charter is bespoke to the City of Darebin and attempts to express Council's primary commitment to Darebin's diverse communities.

The charter captures the need to acknowledge and balance the many values, views and aspirations of existing and emerging communities for the benefit of all. The document is a reaffirmation of the idea of a social contract in its broadest sense – the relationship between the city and civil society for their mutual benefit.

The principles that underpin the charter will directly inform how decisions will be made and the behaviours of Councillors and Council staff and the specific strategies that will be infused throughout Council's policy architecture.

The information in the Charter is also derived from research work conducted on good governance by the Municipal Association of Victoria, LGPro, the former Department of Victorian Communities and the Victorian Local Governance Association.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

### **Environmental Sustainability**

Nil

### **Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion**

The charter is consistent with the values and principles that inform Council's overarching Equity and Inclusion policy, Human Rights Charter and the suite of legislation that informs Council's practice, programs and services.

### **Other**

Nil.

## **FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Nil.

## **CONCLUSION**

It is appropriate for the newly elected Council to acknowledge the responsibility entrusted to it through its citizens by creating a public document that expresses its commitment to good governance for its term of office.

## **FUTURE ACTIONS**

- Charter to be incorporated into the Darebin Council Plan 2013-2017
- Reporting against the Charter to be included in the Council's Annual Report
- Review of the Charter to be conducted in June 2017.

## **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

Final Draft Community Governance Charter

Council Minutes – 26 November 2012, 20 December 2012 and 4 February 2013

*Cr. Tsitas returned to the meeting during discussion of the above item - 8.21pm*

**8.10 SUBMISSION TO THE AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS ON SEX AND GENDER STANDARDS****MINUTE NO. 241****AUTHOR: Manager Community Planning, Partnerships and Performance****REVIEWED BY: Group Manager People and Performance****SUMMARY:**

This report gives a brief overview of the review of the Sex Standard currently undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and its implications for people who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex (GLBTI). The report seeks Council's approval of a draft submission to the ABS recommending changes for the 2016 ABS census data.

**CONSULTATION:**

Darebin Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Advisory Committee  
Diversity Policy Officer  
Manager Corporate Governance  
Research and Projects Officer

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED: Cr. A. Villella**  
**SECONDED: Cr. B. Li**

**THAT** Council approve the submission to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) on the review of Sex and Gender Standards prepared in consultation with the Darebin Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Advisory Committee, for consideration by the ABS for the 2016 Census.

**CARRIED****REPORT****INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is undertaking a review of its Sex Standard.

The Sex Standard is used in all ABS household surveys. Sex (at this stage, male or female) is a fundamental demographic characteristic used in social and population analysis. It is a core cross-tabulation for practically all social statistical topics such as employment, education, and health. Sex, along with age, is also essential to the production of population estimates and projections.

The Sex Standard provides:

- A conceptual basis for recognising the distinction between males and females based on biological differences in sexual characteristics. In some situations, an additional category - 'Intersex or Indeterminate' - may be used to categorise people, who because of a genetic condition, were born with reproductive organs or sex chromosomes that are not exclusively male or female, however, this is not systematic;
- A framework for the collection of sex information in statistical surveys; and
- Standard output categories for statistical collections.

The Sex Standard provides a basis for the ABS to collect statistics relating to people but also provides a standard for other organisations to collect data about sex in surveys and administrative collections.

The review of the Sex Standard focuses on three areas:

- (i) The capacity and need to distinguish the concept of sex from the concept of gender for different types of statistical collections and output, and whether there are grounds to develop a new gender standard to complement the revised sex standard. Although the terms sex and gender are often used interchangeably, they are separate concepts and may be important for different types of statistics. Sex refers to a person's biological sex and associated physical characteristics. Gender refers to the way a person self-identifies and presents to the community, such as their name, outward appearance, mannerisms, and dress. A person's sex is not necessarily consistent with their gender.
- (ii) Within a statistical environment, the capacity and need to collect information on gender/sex for those that do not identify themselves as either male or female, and who do not fall within the definition of the 'Intersex or Indeterminate' category of the current Sex Standard (ie. genetic condition resulting in both male or female characteristics).
- (iii) The practicality of what can be collected and output in different types of statistical collections.

The ABS is looking for input and comments from interested parties to help determine the need (or not) for change and the directions this should take. It should be noted that submissions received by the ABS are reviewed and taken into consideration, but are in no way binding on the Bureau. They simply assist the Bureau with gauging research needs, societal expectations and the best way forward on statistical issues.

## ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

In early 2012, Council established the Same-Sex Attracted and Gender Diverse Advisory Committee (now renamed Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Advisory Committee) to assist Council in working with and becoming more inclusive of Darebin residents who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or intersex (GLBTI).

The terms of reference state that the purpose of the Advisory committee is to:

1. "Advise Council on issues and barriers to equality affecting [GLBTI] people in the City of Darebin",
2. "Promote and advocate for equality and social inclusion of the [GLBTI] community within the wider context of the Darebin community", and
3. "Raise awareness about sexual orientation and gender diversity as facets of social diversity."

At its meeting on 26 February 2013, the Darebin Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Advisory Committee proposed that Council make a submission to the ABS review of the Sex Standard.

This is in recognition of the impact that the gathering of data on sex and gender has, to varying degrees and for various reasons, on people who identify as intersex, but also as transgender. Although separate, the issue of recognition of diverse sexualities (including heterosexual, homosexual or same-sex attracted - whether gay or lesbian, bisexual...) is also entwined with the issue of sex and gender.

The attached submission is provided (**Appendix A**) for consideration by the ABS in response to all three questions raised by the review of the Sex Standard (see above – ‘Introduction and Background’). As mentioned above, it should be noted that submissions received by the ABS are reviewed and taken into consideration, but are in no way binding on the Bureau.

Based on a thorough review of evidence and best practice, the submission recommends that:

- The Sex Standard in the Australian Census and all other statistical collections be broadened to: Female, Male, Intersex Variations;
- Sexual orientation be included, as a category, in the Australian Census and all other statistical collections and include: Heterosexual, Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual through the proposed format ‘I am exclusively heterosexual’, ‘I am mainly heterosexual’, ‘I am bisexual’, ‘I am mainly lesbian/gay’, ‘I am exclusively lesbian/gay’;
- A question on gender identity be included in the Australian Census and all other statistical collections and include: ‘Transgender Male-to-Female’ and ‘Transgender Female-to-Male’

In addition, the submission recommends that:

- An Advisory Committee be appointed to advise the Australian Government on how to incorporate the complexity of sexuality/sex/gender diversity into national data collection, and to monitor progress in data collection and reporting, notably through the publication of an annual report;
- The Australian Government include GLBTI people in research teams conducting research on GLBTI issues; and
- Sexuality/sex/gender diversity-disaggregated, and cross-tabulated, reporting and output be provided, free of charge to Australian citizens.

The submission is in line with Council’s Equity and Inclusion Policy 2012-2015 and with the need for further research and data-gathering identified as an area for action in the Darebin Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Action Plan 2012-2015.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

### **Environmental Sustainability**

This does not have direct environmental implications.

### **Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion**

Input into the review of the ABS Sex Standard for greater recognition of:

- The existing variations between sexes beyond the dual categories of male and female,

- The difference between sex and gender and the fact that sex and gender identities are not necessarily aligned, and
- More broadly, the diverse sexualities that exist and form part of our community's diversity

would help respond to the needs, and further foster inclusion, of same-sex attracted and sex and gender diverse residents, identified in the Equity and Inclusion Policy 2012-2015 as at risk of exclusion.

The submission would also align with action area 1.2. Research and data-gathering of the *Darebin Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Action Plan 2012-2015*, which cascades from Equity & Inclusion Policy.

### **Other**

The submission to the ABS is aligned with the explicit support for diversity expressed in Darebin City Council Plan 2009-2013.

## **FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

This submission does not have financial implications.

## **CONCLUSION**

Taking the opportunity to provide input into the ABS review of the Sex Standard would be a further way for Council to demonstrate its commitment to Darebin's GLBTI residents.

## **FUTURE ACTIONS**

- Submission to be sent to the ABS .

## **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

**Appendix A:** Draft Proposed Council's Submission to the Australian Bureau of Statistics' review of the Sex Standard and potential new Gender Standard



**8.11 INSTRUMENT OF APPOINTMENT AND AUTHORISATION TO APPOINT AUTHORISED OFFICERS TO ENFORCE THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987**

**MINUTE NO. 242**

**AUTHOR:** Manager Corporate Governance

**REVIEWED BY:** Chief Executive Officer

**SUMMARY:**

The Local Government Act 1989 provides for the appointment of Authorised Officers for the purposes of the administration and enforcement of any Act, regulations or local laws which relate to the functions and powers of the Council.

The Chief Executive Officer, by authority conferred by instrument of delegation from Council dated 14 September 2010, makes these appointments. Maddocks Lawyers' model *Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation* developed for Victorian councils is used for this purpose.

Maddocks Lawyers have a separate *Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation* specifically for authorised officers appointed under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. This *Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation* provides for councils (rather than CEOs by delegation) to appoint officers by a resolution.

This report therefore presents for Council approval the *Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation* to appoint authorised officers for the purposes of enforcing the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

**CONSULTATION:**

Coordinator Health and Urban Protection

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED:** Cr. V. Fontana

**SECONDED:** Cr. B. Li

**THAT** in the exercise of the powers conferred by section 147 (4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and section 232 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Darebin City Council resolves that:

- a) The members of Council staff referred to in the Instrument attached as **Appendix A** be appointed and authorised as set out in the instrument.
- b) The instrument comes into force immediately the common seal of Council is affixed to the instrument, and remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it.
- c) The instrument be sealed.

**CARRIED**

## REPORT

### INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Section 224 of the Local Government Act 1989 provides for the appointment of Authorised Officers for the purposes of the administration and enforcement of any Act, regulations or local laws which relate to the functions and powers of the Council.

The Chief Executive Officer, by authority conferred by instrument of delegation from Council dated 14 September 2010, makes these appointments. Maddocks Lawyers' model *Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation* developed for Victorian councils is used for this purpose.

Maddocks Lawyers have a separate *Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation* specifically for authorised officers appointed under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. This *Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation* provides for councils (rather than CEOs by delegation) to appoint officers by a resolution.

### ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

#### Appointment of Authorised Officers to enforce the Planning and Environment Act 1987

This *Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation*, specifically for authorised officers appointed under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, provides for councils (rather than CEOs by delegation) to appoint officers by a resolution, pursuant to section 147 of the *Planning and Environment Act*. The Instrument also includes the general appointment provision in section 232 of the *Local Government Act 1989* to commence proceedings in a council's name.

Section 188 (2) of the *Planning and Environment Act* provides that councils cannot delegate the power to authorise officers for the purposes of enforcing the *Planning and Environment Act*.

As the authorised officers involved enforce several other Acts and regulations other than the *Planning and Environment Act*, Maddocks Lawyers' other general *Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation* covering these Acts and regulations will continue to operate in tandem with the separate *Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (Planning and Environment Act 1987 only)* where authorised officers are appointed by Council resolution.

### POLICY IMPLICATIONS

#### Environmental Sustainability

Nil.

#### Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

Nil.

## Other

The appointment and authorisation of officers for the purposes of enforcing the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* enables day to day statutory and operational decisions to be made in relation to this Act. The proposed *Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (Planning and Environment Act 1987)* is based on the model developed by Maddocks Lawyers

## FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

## CONCLUSION

It is recommended that the subject *Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (Planning and Environment Act 1987)* specifically for authorised officers appointed under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* be signed and sealed by the Council.

## FUTURE ACTIONS

- *Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (Planning and Environment Act 1987)* to be signed and sealed by Council.
- New authorised officer appointments for the purposes of enforcing the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to be made by Council resolution.

## DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Proposed *Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (Planning and Environment Act 1987)* – **Appendix A**
- Delegations and Authorisations Service – Maddocks, Lawyers
- Council Minutes – 5 March 2012, 4 June 2012, 17 September 2012, 10 December 2012 and 18 February 2013

**8.12 DELEGATION OF POWERS, DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER****MINUTE NO. 243****AUTHOR: Manager Corporate Governance****REVIEWED BY: Chief Executive****SUMMARY:**

The Local Government Act 1989 requires that all delegations made by the Council to Special Committees and to members of Council staff are required to be reviewed within 12 months of each general election.

This report provides an overview of the delegations framework at Darebin, the scope and progress of the statutory review of delegations and presents for Council approval a revised *Instrument of Delegation* to delegate Council powers, duties and functions to the Chief Executive Officer.

The *Instrument of Delegation* has been revised in accordance with section 98(6) of the Local Government Act 1989.

**CONSULTATION:**

Maddocks, Lawyers

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION****MOVED: Cr. V. Fontana****SECONDED: Cr. B. Li**

**THAT** in the exercise of the powers conferred by section 98(1) of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act) and the other legislation referred to in the attached *Instrument of Delegation*, Darebin City Council (Council) resolves that:

- (1) There be delegated to the person holding the position, acting in or performing the duties of Chief Executive Officer the powers, duties and functions set out in the *Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer* attached as **Appendix A** to this report, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument.
- (2) The Instrument comes into force immediately the common seal of Council is affixed to the Instrument.
- (3) On the coming into force of the Instrument the previous delegation to the Chief Executive Officer, dated 14 September 2010, is revoked.
- (4) The duties and functions set out in the Instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the Instrument must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.

- (5) It is noted that the Instrument includes a power of delegation to members of Council staff, in accordance with section 98(3) of the Act.

**CARRIED**

## REPORT

### INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Under sections 86(6) and 98(6) of the Local Government Act 1989, all delegations made by the Council to Special Committees and to members of Council staff are required to be reviewed within 12 months of each general election.

In the Darebin framework of delegations, the review needs to include:

- Delegations to Special Committees
- Delegations to the Chief Executive Officer
- Delegations direct to other members of Council staff under the provisions of certain Acts and Regulations which do not expressly authorise sub-delegation.

A Council is a legal entity which “consists of its Councillors who are democratically elected in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989”. Because it is not a ‘natural person’ the Council can only act (make decisions) in two ways – by resolution at a Council meeting or through others acting on its behalf (by delegation).

There are basically two forms of delegation:

- Delegation to a Special Committee
- Delegation to a member of the Council staff.

Councils have a raft of powers, duties and functions under the Local Government Act, Planning and Environment Act, Subdivision Act, Building Act, Road Management Act, Food Act, Domestic Animals Act, Emergency Management Act and many (approximately 70) more. Most powers, duties and functions are therefore performed by members of Council staff with formal powers delegated by the Council.

### ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

#### Delegation framework at Darebin

Darebin Council has established a framework of formal *Instruments of Delegation* to facilitate delegation of powers, duties and functions to the appropriate level of the Organisation. A ‘delegate’ must act in accordance with Council policies and any conditions, limitations and guidelines fixed including reporting requirements.

The framework of delegations at Darebin City Council is:

1. Delegations from Council to its Special Committees.
2. Delegations from Council to members of Council staff.
  - a. A broad delegation of powers from the Council to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) including the power to sub-delegate to members of Council staff.

- b. Delegation of (statutory) powers from the Council direct to other members of Council staff (where sub-delegation is not specifically authorised).
3. Delegation of powers from the Chief Executive Officer to members of Council staff.
    - a. Delegation of powers, duties and functions of the office of Chief Executive Officer to members of Council staff.
    - b. Sub-delegation of Council powers to members of Council staff.

The framework and format of the *Instruments of Delegation* at Darebin is based on a model developed for Victorian councils by Maddocks, Lawyers.

A register of all these *Instruments of Delegation* is maintained by the Council and is available for inspection by the public.

### **Scope and progress of statutory review of delegations**

The review of delegations required under the Local Government Act 1989 has three components:

- Review of delegations from Council to Special Committees
- Review of delegations from Council to the Chief Executive Officer
- Review of 'statutory' delegations from Council direct to members of Council staff.

The review status of these and other delegations is outlined in the following paragraphs.

#### Delegation to Special Committees (see 1. above)

Delegations from Council to Special Committees are formally reviewed by the Council when the Committees are appointed or re-appointed each year.

Delegations to the Planning Committee, Hearing of Submissions Committee and Bundoora Homestead Board of Management have all been reviewed and approved by the Council since the 2012 general election – the Planning Committee and Hearing of Submissions Committee on 26 November 2012 and the Bundoora Homestead Board of Management on 4 February 2013.

#### Council delegation to CEO (see 2a. above)

The delegation from the Council to the Chief Executive Officer is the focus of this report. The scope of the proposed delegation and the conditions/limitations which apply are detailed below.

#### Council delegation to Council staff (see 2b. above)

A review and update of delegations from Council direct to other members of Council staff has occurred since the 2012 general election (4 February 2013).

#### CEO delegation to Council staff (see 3. above)

Delegations from the Chief Executive Officer to members of Council staff have been reviewed and updated (February 2013).

***Instrument of Delegation to Chief Executive Officer***

The current *Instrument of Delegation* to the Chief Executive Officer was approved by Council resolution on 6 September 2010. A copy is attached as **Appendix B** to this report.

The *Instrument of Delegation* has been revised in accordance with section 98(6) of the Local Government Act 1989. The format and substance of the *Instrument* is based on the Maddocks model delegations used by the majority of Victorian Councils.

The proposed new *Instrument of Delegation* to the Chief Executive Officer is attached as **Appendix A** to this report.

The *Instrument* authorises the Chief Executive Officer to determine issues, take action and do acts or things arising out of, or connected with, any duty imposed, or function or power conferred on Council by or under any Act.

There are a number of restrictions and conditions specified in the *Instrument*:

- The Chief Executive Officer is not authorised to take action on the matters (borrowings, rates and charges, expenditure outside approved budget etc.) specifically exempted under the Local Government Act 1989.
- The Chief Executive Officer is not authorised to take action on key strategic and governance issues (local laws, budgets and Council plan, appointment of Council representatives etc.) specified in the *Instrument of Delegation*.
- The Chief Executive Officer is not authorised to award a contract exceeding the value of \$500,000.
- The Chief Executive Officer is not to determine any issue or take an action which:
  - Council has previously designated as an issue, action, act or thing which must be the subject of a resolution of Council.
  - Would be likely to be inconsistent with a policy or strategy adopted by the Council.
- The Chief Executive Officer is not to determine any issue, action or thing which involves major policy or strategic matters which will have an impact on the operation of Council.

The proposed *Instrument of Delegation* reflects the current practice at Darebin.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS****Environmental Sustainability**

Nil.

**Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion**

Nil.

## Other

The delegation of Council powers to the Chief Executive Officer and other members of Council staff is a long established practice facilitated and regulated by the Local Government Act to enable day to day operational decisions to be made. Delegated authority is part of the good governance framework outlined in the *Governing Darebin 2008* policy statement. The proposed *Instrument of Delegation* is based on the model developed by Maddocks, Lawyers and used by a majority of Victorian councils.

## FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

## CONCLUSION

It is recommended that the *Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer* attached as **Appendix A** to this report be adopted.

## FUTURE ACTIONS

- The signed copy of the *Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer* to be included in the Register of Delegations available for inspection by the public.
- Other *Instruments of Delegation* will be presented to Council for consideration later in 2009 as outlined in this report.

## DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Proposed *Instrument of Delegation* to the Chief Executive Officer April 2013 – **Appendix A.**
- Current *Instrument of Delegation* to the Chief Executive Officer September 2010 – **Appendix B.**
- Delegations and Authorisations Service – Maddocks, Lawyers.
- Council Minutes – 6 September 2010, 12 November 2012, 26 November 2012 and 4 February 2013.



**8.13 DAREBIN INTERCULTURAL CENTRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE****MINUTE NO. 244****AUTHOR: Manager, Community Planning, Partnerships and Performance****REVIEWED BY: Group Manager People and Performance****SUMMARY:**

This report responds to Council's 'General Business' item endorsed on 18 February 2013 which stated:

*That Council officers develop a feasibility report on the establishment of a Darebin Intercultural Centre Advisory Committee by the end of March 2013. The scope should include terms of reference, composition of committee and frequency of meetings.*

This report contends that it is feasible to establish a Darebin Intercultural Centre Advisory Committee as it will strengthen the Centre's support base and provide valuable community input into the development of programs and activities.

**CONSULTATION:**

Darebin Ethnic Communities Council  
Darebin Intercultural Centre Staff

**RECOMMENDATION****THAT** Council:

- (1) Approve the establishment of a Darebin Intercultural Centre Advisory Committee and Terms of Reference attached as **Appendix A** to this report.
- (2) Appoint Cr. .... as its representative on the Committee.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED:** Cr. B. Li  
**SECONDED:** Cr. A. Villella

**THAT** Council:

- (1) Approve the establishment of a Darebin Intercultural Centre Advisory Committee and Terms of Reference attached as **Appendix A** to this report.
- (2) Appoint Cr. Li and Cr. Villella as its representatives and co-chairs on the Committee.

**CARRIED**

**REPORT****INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

The Darebin Intercultural Centre was first established in 2006 in the old Preston Court House following a signed lease between Council and the Department of Justice for twenty one years. The building handed over to Council required modifications and refurbishment to make the Centre suitable for community activities. In July 2011, the Centre was relaunched following the completion of the modifications of its interior. A Centre manager and staff were appointed to fulfil the original objectives of the Centre which were to create a space where people from diverse cultures could gather and engage in activities that would build intercultural relations. Furthermore the Centre also offered alternative venue and activities to gaming.

**ISSUES AND DISCUSSION**

Since July 2011, the Centre has recorded 38,488 visits, 12,043 hours of booking and 160 Events. A review of the Centre and its activities has been conducted and a business plan developed. Currently the Centre draws on feedback from participants in activities many of whom have registered to become Friends of the Darebin Intercultural Centre and receive regular invitations to events.

The idea of establishing an Advisory Committee would be feasible and of great value to the Centre's operations. In 2012, Council received quarterly reports on the Centre performance. Such reporting could be provided to an Advisory committee instead and such committee could enrich the Centre's operations by being a source of new ideas and innovation on the type of activities to be held and new ways of operating.

Should Council decide to approve an Advisory Committee its role would be to:

- Promote the Centre's vision, mission and objectives to the wider Darebin community and beyond
- Provide advice and ideas on activities and programs
- Receive quarterly reports on the Centre's performance, achievements and challenges
- Advocate for a sustainable Darebin Intercultural Centre.

The suggested Advisory Committee members could include the following:

- Councillor representative
- Centre Coordinator
- Manager Community Planning, Partnerships and Performance
- One representative from Darebin Ethnic Communities Council
- Four representatives from the Friends of the Darebin Intercultural Centre
- Two representatives from user groups of the Centre

Frequency of meetings:

The Committee would meet four times a year

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

### **Environmental Sustainability**

Nil

### **Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion**

The Darebin Intercultural Centre has provided a space for residents from diverse backgrounds to get together, and through involvement in various activities learn about each other's cultures, traditions and practices. The Centre has made a great contribution to fostering intercultural and interfaith dialogue and engagement.

Consultations relating to the Racism Inquiry and the development of the Human Rights Action Plan were held at the Centre which continues to be a focal point for a wide range of Darebin residents.

## **FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

The cost of establishing and serving this Committee would be absorbed within existing budget.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Darebin Intercultural Centre Advisory Committee is a feasible proposition and it would be of great benefit to the Centre in providing fresh ideas, promoting the Centre's objectives and supporting its sustainability.

## **FUTURE ACTIONS**

- Announce the new committee
- Seek nominations from representative groups
- Induct the new Committee members
- Launch the new Committee.

## **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Darebin Intercultural Centre Booking Guidelines

Council Minutes – 18 February 2013

**8.14 DAREBIN ABORIGINAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE -  
APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBERS****MINUTE NO. 245****AUTHOR: Manager, Community Planning, Partnerships and  
Performance****REVIEWED BY: Group Manager People and Performance****SUMMARY:**

In response to vacancies on the Darebin's Aboriginal Advisory Committee, an expression of interest process was undertaken in March 2013.

Three expressions of interest have been received.

The report recommends that Council approve the appointment of new members to the Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee.

**CONSULTATION:**

Equity and Diversity Coordinator  
Manager, Corporate Governance  
Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee  
Community agencies

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED: Cr. B. Li**  
**SECONDED: Cr. S. Tsitas**

**THAT** Council endorses the appointment of the following new members onto the Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee:

- Jessie Lloyd, Songlines Aboriginal Music, 48 Mary Street, Preston.
- Margaret Triffitt, Aboriginal Health Coordinator, Darebin Community Health, 125 Blake Street, East Reservoir.
- Clinton Nain, Victorian Wongai Torres Strait Islander Corporation, 321 St Georges Road, Thornbury.

**CARRIED**

## REPORT

### INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Darebin City Council has a long standing commitment and relationship with the Darebin Aboriginal community.

The Daren Aboriginal Advisory Committee's purpose is to provide advice to Council and advocate on issues affecting Aboriginal communities to inform and improve Council's decision making in relation to policy, program, and service delivery.

The Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee will continue to strengthen connections between Council, Aboriginal communities and the broader communities in Darebin, and help guide deliverables as set out in the Darebin Aboriginal Action Plan.

Established in 2011, the committee replaced the former Darebin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Council with the aim of reinvigorating membership and governance structure in order to build upon and strengthen the significant work that had been achieved with the previous Council.

### ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

The Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee, under provisions set out in the Terms of Reference, allows for membership of up to 12 community members. There are currently seven community members and opportunity to increase numbers and diversity of membership on the Committee.

Calls for expression of interest was listed in the Leader newspapers, Koorie Mail, Koori Radio station 3KND as well as email to networks and agencies, via existing Committee Members and direct leafleting and display of notices within services and community agencies. Three applications were received and reviewed by Manager, Community Planning, Partnerships and Performance.

The next Darebin Disability Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday 24 April 2013. Pending Council's resolution the eligible candidates will be invited to attend the meeting as observers. Formal induction will occur following a Council resolution.

### POLICY IMPLICATIONS

#### Environmental Sustainability

Nil.

#### Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee plays a significant role in advising Council policy around closing the gap and reconciliation initiatives, self-determination for Aboriginal peoples and improving equity and access for Aboriginal communities in Darebin.

The function of the Committee aligns to key human rights commitments that Council has made through the Darebin Aboriginal Action Plan, the Darebin Human Rights Action Plan and

Council Statement of Commitment in recognising the First Peoples of Australia. This recognition includes acknowledgement of the historical dispossession of Aboriginal people of their land, culture and identify, which has led to their entrenched exclusion and disadvantage.

The new applicants will increase diversity and strategic representation on the Committee with the intention of seeing stronger social inclusion, equity and inclusion outcomes for Aboriginal people in Darebin.

## **FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

There are no additional financial implications.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee received three new Expressions of Interest from members of the Aboriginal Committee. The Committee allows for twelve members and currently has seven. This report seeks Council's approval to include the three new applicants onto the Committee

## **FUTURE ACTIONS**

Notify the new Committee members.

Induct new members on matters related to the committee and Council's work.

Convene the April 2013 meeting with new members on board.

## **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee Terms of Reference 2011
- Darebin Aboriginal Action Plan 2012-2015
- Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee completed Expressions of Interest Application Forms 2013 – Jessie Lloyd, Margaret Triffitt and Clinton Nain – see **Appendix A**

**8.15 FILLING VACANCIES - DAREBIN SEXUALITY, SEX AND GENDER DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE****MINUTE NO. 246****AUTHOR: Manager Community Planning, Partnerships and Performance****REVIEWED BY: Group Manager People and Performance****SUMMARY:**

At its meeting on 18 February 2013, Council resolved:

*That:*

- 1. Council appoint Bryan Andy, from OutBlack, as a member of the Darebin Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Advisory Committee, to serve for the remainder of the Committee's three-year term.*
- 2. Council receive a report with proposed amendments to the terms of reference for the Darebin Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Advisory Committee to enable the Committee to fill vacancies in its membership without a formal Council resolution.*

This report addresses part two 2. of the above Council resolution.

**CONSULTATION:**

Team Leader Transport Strategy  
Coordinator Equity and Diversity  
Manager Corporate Governance  
Manager Community Planning, Partnerships and Performance

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED: Cr. A. Villella**  
**SECONDED: Cr. V. Fontana**

**THAT** Council endorse the revised Terms of Reference, including the name change of the committee, for the Darebin Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Advisory Committee attached as **Appendix A** to this report.

**CARRIED**



**REPORT****INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

The Darebin Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Advisory Committee was established as a community advisory committee to Council on 5 March 2012, with 12 members representing gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (GLBTIQ) organisations and the Darebin community.

As the committee evolved, members have had to resign due to unforeseen increase in workloads or changes in personal circumstances.

As a result, and in accordance with the committee's terms of reference, vacancies arose that were filled at Council's discretion, through a process including endorsement of new member(s) by a formal Council resolution.

**ISSUES AND DISCUSSION**

The Terms of Reference of the Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Advisory Committee (initially called Same-sex attracted and gender diverse advisory committee) were endorsed by Council on 21 November 2011. The only reference they contain (section 4.1) to filling of vacancies, should they arise is as follows:

*If a vacancy occurs, it will be filled at the discretion of Council.*

In the absence of any specific process being detailed, the standard procedure for endorsement of committee members applies, including the need for Council to endorse new members through a formal Council resolution.

While this gives weight to the nomination of the new member, it does not necessarily allow for flexibility and reactivity. In light of Council's request and as an interim measure pending further clarification on these matters, notably through the adoption of Darebin Council's Advisory Committees guidelines, it is proposed to revise the Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Advisory Committee (SSGDAC) terms of reference to allow for vacancies arising to be filled without a formal Council resolution.

Given this would be a minimal modification, not resulting from the three-year review of the terms of reference mentioned in section 6 of the SSGDAC terms of reference, consultation of the Committee on this proposed revision is not mandatory. Overview of the terms of reference of various Council committees, notably the Darebin Bicycle Advisory Committee, leads to a proposed amendment to section 4.1 of the SSGDAC terms of reference as follows:

*If a vacancy occurs, it will be filled at the discretion of Council and made effective through a letter signed by Council's Chief Executive. Members nominated to fill a vacancy are appointed for the remainder of the three-year term of current members only.*

Such modification would provide for the necessary flexibility, pending further guidance on governance issues.

It is proposed to take advantage of this minimal revision to also update the terms of reference to reflect the change in name of the committee and acknowledge the endorsement of the Equity and Inclusion Policy 2012-2015 (in writing at the time of endorsement of the SSGDAC terms of reference).

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

### **Environmental Sustainability**

This does not have direct environmental implications.

### **Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion**

While the Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity advisory Committee provides Council with a channel for engagement with its GLBTIQ residents, identified as at risk of exclusion in the Equity and Inclusion Policy 2012-2015, the proposed change would have no direct impact in this domain.

### **Other**

Nil.

## **FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

This submission does not have financial implications.

## **CONCLUSION**

Pending further clarification to be provided in the guidelines on governance for Council advisory committees, it is recommended that Council adopt the revised terms of reference for the Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Advisory Committee.

## **FUTURE ACTIONS**

Council to endorse revised terms of reference for the Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Advisory Committee – 15 April 2013

## **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

**Appendix A** – revised Terms of reference for the Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Advisory Committee

Council meeting minutes – 21 November 2011

Council meeting minutes – 5 March 2012

Council meeting minutes – 18 February 2013

**8.16 PRESTON BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEMBERSHIP 2013-2014****MINUTE NO. 247****AUTHOR: Manager Economic Development and Civic Compliance****REVIEWED BY: Acting Director Corporate and Business Services****SUMMARY:**

The Preston Business Advisory Committee ("PBAC") is an advisory committee of Council responsible for:

- Providing advice to Council the management, marketing and promotion of Preston Central Shopping Centre; and
- Effective management of the Special Rate levy fund.

Membership of the PBAC comprises of 10 business and community representatives appointed by Council each year, one Councillor and two council officers.

On 12 February 2013, an expression of interest seeking nominations for business and community representatives to join the PBAC was advertised in the Preston Leader. Council received:

- Five nominations from business representatives liable for the special rate,
- Two nominations from associate businesses,
- Two nominations representing community interests, and
- A representative from the Preston Market.

Most nominations received were from current members of the PBAC with the exception of one. The nominations represent a mix of business and community interests in Preston.

**CONSULTATION:**

- Preston Business Community
- Current members of the Preston Business Advisory Committee
- Council Business Unit

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED:** Cr. V. Fontana  
**SECONDED:** Cr. B. Li

**THAT** in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the Preston Business Advisory Committee dated 1 July 2008, Council appoint the following members to the Preston Business Advisory Committee for the next 12 month period:

1. Five (5) nominations representing businesses liable to pay the special rate:
  - Elizabeth Candida Browne (Candi), Snap Preston, 348 High Street Preston
  - George Skiotis, Delphi Bank, 473A High Street, Preston
  - Tony De Felice, Preston Eye Care, 354 High Street Preston
  - Kon Alexiou, Bendigo Bank, 380 High Street Preston
  - John Lacorcica, Old Fire Station Café Gallery, 378 High Street Preston
2. One (1) nomination representing the Preston Market:
  - Anne Munday, Preston Market, 2/30A The Centreway, Preston
3. Two (2) nomination representing associate businesses:
  - Fred Crews, Preston Market, 3 The Strand, Preston
  - Jane Knight, Rydges Bell City, 215 Bell Street, Preston
4. Two (2) nominations representing community interests:
  - Sanjay Gund, Transport Ticketing Authority, 55 Collins Street, Melbourne
  - Morten Webb, Northern Blues Football Club, 13 Cramer Street, Preston

**CARRIED**

**REPORT****INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

At its meeting on 7 July 2008, Council resolved to adopt the Terms of Reference for the Preston Business Advisory Committee ("PBAC"), an advisory committee of Council responsible for providing advice to Council on:

- The management, marketing and promotion of Preston Central Shopping Centre; and
- Effective management of the special rate levy fund.

The PBAC Terms of Reference requires appointments to the PBAC to be made and approved by Council each year after expressions of interest for membership have been sought. The PBAC has a membership of 13, and in accordance with the PBAC Terms of Reference, comprises:

- One Councillor

- Five business representatives liable for the special rate, made up of a representative mix of business types and locations within the centre
- One representative from the Preston Market
- Two community representatives (associate members)
- Two associate business representatives (associate members)
- Two Council officers being the Coordinator Business Development (for the Manager Economic Development & Civic Compliance) and the Activity Centre Coordinator

## **ISSUES AND DISCUSSION**

### **Advertising**

An Expression of Interest seeking nominations for business and community representatives to join the PBAC was publicly advertised in the Preston Leader on Tuesday 12 February 2013. Current members of the PBAC also received a copy of the Expression of Interest. The closing date for nominations was Monday 25 February 2013.

### **Nominations**

During the Expression of Interest period, Council issued 13 Expression of Interest documents to interested parties (including those issued to current members of the PBAC), which was provided together with a copy of the PBAC Terms of Reference.

Council has received nominations from business and community representatives and one nomination from the Preston Market as follows:

1. Five (5) nominations representing businesses liable to pay the special rate:
  - Elizabeth Candida Browne (Candi), Snap Preston, 348 High Street Preston
  - George Skiotis, Delphi Bank, 473A High Street, Preston (received after closing date)
  - Tony De Felice, Preston Eye Care, 354 High Street Preston (received after closing date)
  - Kon Alexiou, Bendigo Bank, 380 High Street Preston (received after closing date)
  - John Lacorcia, Old Fire Station Café Gallery 378 High Street Preston (received after closing date)
2. One (1) nomination representing the Preston Market:
  - Anne Munday, Preston Market, 2/30A The Centreway, Preston
3. Two (2) nomination representing associate businesses:
  - Fred Crews, Preston Market, 3 The Strand, Preston
  - Jane Knight, Rydges Bell City, 215 Bell Street, Preston
4. Two (2) nominations representing community interests:
  - a. Sanjay Gund, Transport Ticketing Authority, 55 Collins Street, Melbourne
  - b. Morten Webb, Northern Blues Football Club, 13 Cramer Street, Preston

The number of nominations received was one more than the previous year and is the number of members required. All nominations received after the closing date have been considered and are listed above.

The nominations received are mostly from current members of the PBAC except for one nomination which was received from an associate business. The nominations received present a mix of businesses and community interests in Preston.

On 12 November 2012, Council appointed the three Cazaly Ward Councillors as Co-Chairs: Cr Bo Li, Cr Julie Williams and Cr Vince Fontana. This change in membership will be reflected in the amended Terms of Reference, which will be proposed to Council with the next PBAC membership renewal in 2014.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

### **Environmental Sustainability**

There are no impacts on environmental sustainability.

### **Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion**

There are no impacts on human rights, equity and inclusion.

### **Other**

There are no other policy implications.

## **FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial and resource implications for Council.

## **CONCLUSION**

An Expression of Interest for membership to the PBAC has been publicly advertised in accordance with the PBAC Terms of Reference. At the close of nominations on Monday 25 February 2013, Council had received 5 nominations from business and community representatives seeking membership to the PBAC and one nomination as representative of the Preston Market. A further four nominations were received after the closing date. The nominations received are a good representation of both business and community interests in the Preston locality.

## **FUTURE ACTIONS**

- Council officers advise applicants of the outcome of their expression of interest for membership of the PBAC.
- The PBAC elect a Chairperson in accordance with the PBAC Terms of Reference.

**DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- PBAC Terms of Reference



**9. NOTICES OF MOTION****9.1 FORMER RUTHVEN PRIMARY SCHOOL SITE****MINUTE NO. 248****NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 73****CR. A. VILLELLA**

Take notice at the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 15 April 2013, it is my intention to move:

**THAT** Council erect one sign on the nature strip at each corner (four in total) at the former Ruthven Primary School site saying 'Hands Off Our "Ruthven Park"'.

(1) The sign is to have Campaign contact detail eg. Website and Council logo.

Size is to be large real estate size.

(2) The signs are to be erected as soon as possible

Council continue with the Community Campaign and the officers are to provide regular feedback to Council.

**Notice Received: 10 April 2013**

**Notice Given to Councillors: 11 April 2013**

**Date of Meeting: 15 April 2013**

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED: Cr. A. Villella**

**SECONDED: Cr. B. Li**

**THAT** Council erect one sign on the nature strip at each corner (four in total) at the former Ruthven Primary School site saying 'Hands Off Our "Ruthven Park"'.

(1) The sign to have Campaign contact detail eg. Website and Council logo.

Size is to be in compliance with the requirements of the planning scheme

(2) The signs are to be erected as soon as possible.

Council continue with the Community campaign and the officers are to provide regular feedback to Council.

**CARRIED**

*Cr. McCarthy entered the meeting during discussion of the above item - 8.46pm.*

**10. URGENT BUSINESS**

Nil.

**11. GENERAL BUSINESS****11.1 SOLAR PANELS****MINUTE NO. 249****COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED:** Cr. S. Tsitas  
**SECONDED:** Cr. T. McCarthy

**THAT** Council officers include in their upcoming report on scaled up solar a preliminary indication of the feasibility of establishing a pilot program, whereby Council acting as a broker, targets 1,000 low income households within Darebin over the next four years to purchase solar panels and solar hot water systems via a delayed no interest pay back scheme similar to the old Gas & Fuel Corporation or the way we charge residents when purchasing a section of a Right of Way (ROW). The report should also outline the opportunities which may exist to access funding to support such a program at both a State and Federal level

**CARRIED**

*Cr. Fontana temporarily left the meeting during discussion of the above item - 8.52pm*

*Cr. Fontana returned to meeting at the conclusion of the above item - 9.02pm*

**11.2 SUSPENDED COFFEE/TEA PROJECT****MINUTE NO. 250****COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED:** Cr. A. Villella  
**SECONDED:** Cr. T. McCarthy

**THAT** Officers prepare a report by the middle of May 2013 on the feasibility of implementing a Darebin City Council sponsored 'Suspended Coffee/Tea Project'. The report is to be developed in consultation with cafe owners who have already expressed an interest in the project.

The report is to consider the following:

- (1) How to ensure the offer is enjoyed by those most in need - that is the target residents. (a practical solution is to have only residents on health care cards eligible)

- (2) How to engage the most vulnerable in our community, those without a health care card eg. refugees . (Maybe a voucher system distributed to organisations such as Bapticare)
- (3) How to encourage cafe owners to commit to the project? A one off Council contribution of \$500 to each cafe would be both an incentive and demonstrate Council's goodwill and commitment towards the project
- (4) Capping the number of cafes eligible to receive Council contribution across Darebin to 10-12
- (5) A promotional strategy eg. stickers and posters
- (6) How Council will promote the community minded business that participate in the project or donate to the cafes that do.
- (7) Ideas on how the cafe keeps track of how many coffees/ tea are available
- (8) How to manage expression of interests from cafes if the project is implemented
- (9) Criteria for reviewing the project after 12 months.

**CARRIED**

### 11.3

### PLANNING DEVELOPMENT – PLENTY ROAD

#### MINUTE NO. 251

#### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

**MOVED:** Cr. A. Villella  
**SECONDED:** Cr. B. Li

#### THAT

- a) The Mayor write to the Minister for Planning requesting that the Minister exercise his call in powers to consider any planning applications in Plenty Road north of Bell Street including the interim decision by VCAT for the former Smorgy's site where 6 storeys or more are proposed and that these developments be called in and refused by the Minister until such time as the Darebin Planning Scheme is amended to incorporate built form controls along this corridor. The letter should highlight that the Minister has intervened in similar matters elsewhere and express Council's dismay about the recent interim decision by VCAT to allow an eight storey tower on the former Smorgy's site which will set an undesirable precedent for high rise towers along Plenty Road and destroy Bundoora Park.

Officers, in consultation with the Mayor, to contact and encourage all state and federal members of parliament whose constituents visit Bundoora Park to sign a letter as a mark of support for Council's opposition to high rise development along Plenty Road outside of its process to complete a proper guiding strategy for development.

- b) Council officers in consultation with the Mayor, obtain necessary planning approval for signs to be placed near the Smorgy's site promoting Council's position on the issue and asking for Ministerial intervention.

- c) Council authorise the Mayor to use his discretion, if deemed necessary, for the promotion of the issue on Council's website eg. set up of page, online petition.

**CARRIED**

**11.4 ACTIVE SPACES PROJECT**

**MINUTE NO. 252**

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED:** Cr. T. McCarthy  
**SECONDED:** Cr. B. Li

**THAT** Council receive a briefing and report on the Active Spaces Project, as well as recommendations to ensure its ongoing sustainability and expansion across Darebin.

**CARRIED**

**11.5 SINGLE PARENT BENEFIT**

**MINUTE NO. 253**

**MOTION**

**MOVED:** Cr. T. McCarthy  
**SECONDED:** Cr. A. Villella

**THAT** the Mayor writes to the Federal Members for Batman, Wills, Scullin, Jaga Jaga, Kooyong, Calwell and Melbourne, seeking their support for a reversal of the recent decision to move thousands of sole parents off the single parent pension and onto Newstart. The letter should also recommend that the Federal Government cut the \$14 billion in subsidies to the fossil fuel sector and instead use this money to improve support for sole parents, as well as investing in public schools and universities and contributing to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

WITH LEAVE OF THE MAYOR, CR. LAURENCE, THE MOTION WAS AMENDED BY THE MOVER (CR. MCCARTHY) AND SECONDER (CR. VILLELLA) TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

**AMENDED MOTION**

**MOVED:** Cr. T. McCarthy  
**SECONDED:** Cr. A. Villella

**THAT** the Mayor writes to the Federal Members for Batman, Wills, Scullin, Jaga Jaga, Kooyong, Calwell and Melbourne, seeking their support for a reversal of the recent decision to move thousands of sole parents off the single parent pension and onto Newstart.

THE AMENDED MOTION WAS PUT AND CARRIED AND BECAME THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED:** Cr. T. McCarthy  
**SECONDED:** Cr. A. Villella

**THAT** the Mayor writes to the Federal Members for Batman, Wills, Scullin, Jaga Jaga, Kooyong, Calwell and Melbourne, seeking their support for a reversal of the recent decision to move thousands of sole parents off the single parent pension and onto Newstart.

**CARRIED**

**11.6 INVITATION TO PARLIAMENTARIANS**

**MINUTE NO. 254**

**MOTION**

**MOVED:** Cr. T. McCarthy  
**SECONDED:** Cr. O. Walsh

**THAT** Council invites all local State and Federal Members to attend a briefing on upcoming Darebin Council projects and advocacy priorities.

*Cr. Walsh proposed to the mover of the proposed Motion, Cr. McCarthy that the Motion be amended to read as follows. This was accepted by Cr. McCarthy.*

*That Council invites all local State and Federal Members and Victorian Senators to attend a briefing on upcoming Darebin Council projects and advocacy priorities.*

THE AMENDED MOTION THEN READ AS FOLLOWS:

**AMENDED MOTION**

**MOVED:** Cr. T. McCarthy  
**SECONDED:** Cr. O. Walsh

**THAT** Council invites all local State and Federal Members and Victorian Senators to attend a briefing on upcoming Darebin Council projects and advocacy priorities.

*Cr. McCarthy, the mover, proposed to the seconder, Cr. Walsh that the Amended Motion be further amended to read as follows. This was accepted by Cr. Walsh.*

*That Council invites all local State and Federal Members and Victorian Senators and adjoining Federal Members to attend a briefing on upcoming Darebin Council projects and advocacy priorities.*

THE FURTHER AMENDED MOTION THEN READ AS FOLLOWS:

**FURTHER AMENDED MOTION**

**MOVED:** Cr. T. McCarthy  
**SECONDED:** Cr. O. Walsh

**THAT** Council invites all local State and Federal Members and Victorian Senators and adjoining Federal Members to attend a briefing on upcoming Darebin Council projects and advocacy priorities.

THE FURTHER AMENDED MOTION WAS PUT AND CARRIED AND BECAME THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED:** Cr. T. McCarthy  
**SECONDED:** Cr. O. Walsh

**THAT** Council invites all local State and Federal Members and Victorian Senators and adjoining Federal Members to attend a briefing on upcoming Darebin Council projects and advocacy priorities.

**CARRIED**

**11.7 INVITATION TO PRESTON MARKET OWNERS TO PLANNING DISCUSSION****MINUTE NO. 255****COUNCIL RESOLUTION****MOVED: Cr. J. Williams****SECONDED: Cr. B. Li**

**THAT** Council officers invite the owners of the Preston Market to participate in the St Georges Road and Plenty Road structure plans discussion.

**CARRIED**

*Cr. Tsitas left the meeting temporarily during discussion of the above item - 9.48pm*

**11.8 RESIDENT PARKING PERMITS – GREEN STREET NORTHCOTE****MINUTE NO. 256****COUNCIL RESOLUTION****MOVED: Cr. O. Walsh****SECONDED: Cr. T. McCarthy**

**THAT** Council receive a report on the proposal to introduce resident only parking in Green Street Northcote.

**CARRIED**

*Cr. Tsitas returned to the meeting at the conclusion of the above item - 9.51pm.*

*Meredith Tucker-Evans, Communications Officer left the meeting – 9.51pm.*

*Kerrie Jordan, Acting Director Corporate and Business Services, left the meeting – 9.51pm.*

**12. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL****CLOSE OF MEETING**

**MOVED:** Cr. B. Li  
**SECONDED:** Cr. T. McCarthy

**THAT** in accordance with section 89(2) of the Local Government Act 1989, Council resolves to close the meeting to members of the public to consider the following item which relates to a contractual matter:

- 12.1 Darebin Resource Recovery Centre Management Fee for 2013-2014 (Contract CT0545).

**CARRIED**

The meeting was closed to members of the public at 9.52pm.

*The Council considered and resolved on Report Item 12.1 (Darebin Resource Recovery Centre Management Fee for 2013-2014 - Contract CT0545) which had been circulated to Councillors on Thursday 11 April 2013 with the Council Agenda Paper.*

**RE-OPENING OF MEETING**

**MOVED:** Cr. B. Li  
**SECONDED:** Cr. S. Tsitas

**THAT** the meeting be re-opened to the members of the public.

**CARRIED**

The meeting was re-opened to members of the public at 9.54pm



**CONFIDENTIAL****12.1 DAREBIN RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRE MANAGEMENT  
FEE FOR 2013/2014 (CONTRACT CT0545)****MINUTE NO. 257****AUTHOR: Manager City Works****REVIEWED BY: Director City Works and Development****SUMMARY:**

The Darebin Resource Recovery Centre (DRRC) is considered as being a strategic facility as part of a network of waste disposal and resource recovery facilities located throughout metropolitan Melbourne. The site currently caters for residential and commercial needs within Darebin and surrounds.

Outlook Environmental (Outlook) is contracted to manage the DRRC for Darebin City Council (contract CT0545). The contract is for a period of 15 years which commenced in 2006. Under the contract there is a management fee payable to Outlook based on an open book analysis of the operations if the DRRC is not profitable. If a profit is projected by Outlook a profit share arrangement is put in place.

This report relates to payment of the management fee for 2013/2014.

**CONSULTATION:**

- Outlook Environmental
- Coordinator Operational Projects and Fleet

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Council Resolution be made available to the public but the report remain confidential.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED:** Cr. B. Li  
**SECONDED:** Cr. S. Tsitas

**THAT** the following Council Resolution:

*That:*

- (1) *A management fee of \$136,200 as described under contract CT0545, be paid to Outlook Environmental in 2013/2014.*
- (2) *The costs for the management fee are referred for consideration with the 2013/2014 budget.*
- (3) *The Director City Works and Development be authorised to negotiate and finalise a management fee for inclusion in the budget each year.*

be made available to the public but the report remain confidential.

**CARRIED**

**13. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.