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MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 22 June 2015

Released to the public on Friday 26 June 2015

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**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL HELD AT DAREBIN CIVIC CENTRE,
350 HIGH ST, PRESTON ON MONDAY 22 JUNE 2015**

THE MEETING OPENED AT 7.02 PM

1. PRESENT

Councillors

Cr. Steven Tsitas (Mayor) (Chairperson)
Cr. Vince Fontana
Cr. Gaetano Greco
Cr. Tim Laurence
Cr. Bo Li
Cr. Trent McCarthy
Cr. Angela Villella
Cr. Oliver Walsh (Deputy Mayor)
Cr. Julie Williams

Council Officers

Rasiah Dev – Chief Executive
Steve Hamilton – Director Assets and Business Services
Sally Jones – Acting Director Culture, Leisure and Works
Cheryl Hermence – Acting Director Community Development
Tiffany White – Acting Director Corporate and Planning Services
Allan Cochrane – Chief Financial Officer
Joann Hennessy – Management Accountant
Lauren Close – Acting Manager Corporate Governance and Performance
Dave Bell – Senior Media Advisor
Katia Croce – Coordinator Council Business
Jody Brodribb – Council Business and Governance Officer

2. APOLOGIES

Nil

3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

Cr. McCarthy requested that it be noted that a petition was provided to officers titled "Stop Darebin Council's Land Grab – Hands Off the McDonnell Park/NARC Site".

4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

Cr. Greco disclosed a conflict of interest in the line item relating to Yanada House classifying the conflict as an indirect conflict due to close association as his mother attends Yanada House.

4.1 2015/2016 BUDGET REFERRALS

MINUTE NO. 338

AUTHOR: Manager Corporate Governance and Performance

REVIEWED BY: Acting Director Corporate and Business Services

SUMMARY:

Funding is included in the 2015/2016 Budget for a diverse range of activities across the municipality. The need for Councillors to disclose a conflict or interest where one exists in relation to any of these projects requires that they be addressed separately as part of the Budget process.

Any items proposed for inclusion in the Budget in which a Councillor discloses a conflict of interest are to be dealt with by separate resolution under this 'Budget Referrals' process. Once all disclosures have been made and the items which are the subject of any disclosure are determined by the Council, all Councillors are able to vote on the 2015/2016 Budget.

This report provides an opportunity for Councillors to disclose any further conflicts in relation to the Budget.

CONSULTATION:

- Chief Executive
- Chief Financial Officer
- Maddocks Lawyers

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. T. Laurence
SECONDED: Cr. J. Williams

THAT:

- (1) The Mayor invite Councillors to disclose any conflict of interest in relation to adoption of the 2015/2016 Budget by classifying the type and describing the nature of the interest in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*.
- (2) Following each disclosure, Council approve the relevant project and the inclusion of associated funding in the 2015/2016 Budget.

CARRIED

Cr. Greco disclosed a conflict of interest in the line item relating to Yanada House classifying the conflict as an indirect conflict due to close association as his mother attends Yanada House.

Cr. Greco left the Chambers prior to discussion of the item relating to Yanada House – 7.12 pm

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT Council adopt into the 2015/2016 Budget the line item relating to Yanada House.

CARRIED

Cr. Greco returned to the meeting at the conclusion of the above item – 7.13 pm.

REPORT**INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

In developing the 2015/2016 Budget, an extensive range of activities have been considered for funding. Councillors who have a conflict of interest in any items to be considered are required to disclose the type and nature of the interest.

Due to the wide ranging nature of these activities, it is reasonably foreseeable that in any given year, more than half of the Councillors would disclose a conflict of some sort and be required to excuse themselves from the vote on the Budget. As this would make the adoption of an annual Budget unworkable in practice, the *Local Government Act 1989* provides a mechanism for Councillors to vote on a budget, without compromising their position by being in a position of clear conflict.

The *Local Government Act 1989* provides that if a Budget to be approved by a Council includes funding for a matter in which a Councillor has a conflict of interest, the Councillor is taken not to have a conflict of interest for the purposes of approving the Budget if the Council approved the matter and the proposed funding previously and the Councillor disclosed the nature of the conflict at the time the funding was approved by the Council.

In the event that a Councillor forms the view that despite this process, they are still unable to cast a vote on the passage of the annual Budget, a mechanism exists to declare a 'conflicting personal interest' under section 79B and apply to the Council to be exempted from voting.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

At the Special meeting, the Mayor will invite Councillors to disclose any items contained in the 2015/2016 Budget in which they have a conflict of interest.

Any items proposed for inclusion in the Budget in which a Councillor discloses a conflict of interest are to be dealt with by separate resolution under this 'Budget Referrals' process.

Once all disclosures have been made and the items which are the subject of any disclosure are determined by the Council, all Councillors are able to freely vote on the 2015/2016 Budget.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

There are no environmental sustainability policy implications arising from this report.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

There are no human rights, equity and inclusion policy implications arising from this report.

Economic Development

Nil

Other

This report has been prepared to address section 79C(2) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, in relation to approval of a Council Budget.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Council to consider the Budget 2015/2016

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

- *Local Government Act 1989*

4.2 ADOPTION OF 2015/2016 COUNCIL BUDGET AND DECLARATION OF RATES**MINUTE NO. 339****AUTHOR: Management Accountant****REVIEWED BY: Acting Director Corporate Services****SUMMARY**

The Proposed Budget for the 2015/2016 Financial Year was received at a Meeting of Council on 7 May 2015. At that meeting, Council resolved to give public notice in accordance with section 129 of the *Local Government Act 1989* of Council's intention to adopt the Proposed Budget.

In response to the public notice, forty-two written submissions have been received. Seven of the submitters were heard by the Hearing of Submissions Committee on 11 June 2015.

The 2015/2016 Proposed Budget presents a financially sound budget that maintains all services from the previous year and proposes a number of new services or significant expansion of existing services. This budget is balanced and community focused. It seeks to maximise meeting multi-pronged community expectations within a modest rate increase of 5%.

It is recommended that Council adjust the financial assistance grant income following the Victoria Grants Commission (VGC) completion of the preliminary recommendations for the allocation of general purpose and local roads grants for 2015/2016. The VGC advised that Council's estimated financial assistance allocation is \$4,788,864. The estimate in our proposed budget, based on previous allocations, is \$5,091,022. This leaves a shortfall of \$302,158. The impact of this shortfall will reduce the surplus by \$302,158 to \$7.0 million and an underlying surplus of \$0.25 million.

It is recommended that Council adopt the attached Budget 2015/2016, declare the rates for the 2015/2016 Financial Year and that public notice be given of the decision in accordance with the Act.

CONSULTATION

- Councillors
- Chief Executive Officer
- Directors
- Managers and Coordinators

RECOMMENDATION

THAT:**(1) Adoption of Budget**

- 1.1 The 'Darebin City Council Budget 2015/2016' attached as **Appendix A** to this report be adopted by Council with the following change;
 - 1.1.1 Decrease financial assistance grant income by \$302,158 to reflect the Victoria Grants Commission allocation of general purpose and local roads grants.
- 1.2 The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to give notice of this decision to adopt the Budget, in accordance with section 130(2) of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

(2) Amount Intended To Be Raised

The amount which Council intends to raise by general rates is declared to be \$111,723,975 and such further amount as is lawfully levied as a consequence of this Resolution.

(3) General Rates

- 3.1 A general rate be declared in respect of the 2015/2016 Financial Year.
- 3.2 It be further declared that the general rate be raised by the application of differential rates.
- 3.3 A differential rate be declared for rateable land having the characteristics specified below, and which form the criteria for each differential rate so declared:

3.3.1 Business Land

- 3.3.1.1 Business Land is any land which is not Vacant Business Land as described in subparagraph 3.3.3 or Vacant Retail Land, as described in subparagraph 3.3.6:
- 3.3.1.2 The primary use of which is carrying out the manufacture or production of, or trade in, goods or services; or
- 3.3.1.3 Is unoccupied and is zoned other than residential under the Darebin Planning Scheme

3.3.2 Residential Land

- 3.3.2.1 Residential Land is any land which is not Vacant Residential Land as described in subparagraph 3.3.4, and:
- 3.3.2.2 The primary use of which is residential; or
- 3.3.2.3 Is unoccupied and is zoned residential under the Darebin Planning Scheme.

3.3.3 Vacant Business Land

- 3.3.3.1 Vacant Business Land is any land which is zoned other than residential under the Darebin Planning Scheme, and:

- 3.3.3.2 On which no building designed or adapted for permanent occupation is constructed; and
- 3.3.3.3 In respect of which no building permit for the construction of a new building designed or adapted for permanent occupation has been issued under the *Building Act 1993* in the 12 months prior to the date of declaration of rates in the 2015/2016 financial year.

3.3.4 Vacant Residential Land

- 3.3.4.1 Vacant Residential Land is any land which is zoned residential under the of Darebin Planning Scheme and:
 - 3.3.4.2 On which there is no dwelling or other building designed or adapted for permanent occupation; and
 - 3.3.4.3 In respect of which a building permit for demolition was issued under the *Building Act 1993* in the 18 months prior to the date of declaration of rates for the 2015/2016 financial year; and
 - 3.3.4.4 In respect of which no building permit for the construction of a new dwelling or other building designed or adapted for permanent occupation has been issued under the *Building Act 1993* in the period since demolition, with the date of demolition taken to be the date on which the building permit for demolition was issued under the *Building Act 1993*;
or
 - 3.3.4.5 On which there is no dwelling or other building designed or adapted for permanent occupation; and
 - 3.3.4.6 In respect of which no building permit for demolition was issued under the *Building Act 1993* in the 18 months prior to the date of declaration of rates for the 2015/2016 financial year; and
 - 3.3.4.7 In respect of which no building permit for the construction of a new dwelling or other building designed or adapted for permanent occupation has been issued under the *Building Act 1993* in the 12 months prior to the date of declaration of rates for the 2015/2016 financial year.

3.3.5 Mixed Use Occupancy Land

- 3.3.5.1 Mixed Use Occupancy Land is any land:
 - 3.3.5.2 On which there is a building, at least part of which is used, designed or adapted for the carrying out of the manufacture or production of, or the trade in, goods and services and is occupied for that purpose; and
 - 3.3.5.3 On which there is a building, at least part of which is used, designed or adapted as a principal place of residence and is occupied as such; and

- 3.3.5.4 Both the part of the land which meets the requirements of subparagraph 3.3.5.2 and the part of the land which meets the requirements of subparagraph 3.3.5.3 is occupied by the ratepayer; or
- 3.3.5.5 Where there is more than one ratepayer, at least one of those ratepayers occupies both the part of the land which meets the requirements of subparagraph 3.3.5.2 and the part of the land which meets the requirements of subparagraph 3.3.5.3.

3.3.6 Vacant Retail Land

- 3.3.6.1 Vacant Retail Land is any land which on which a building designed or adapted for retail occupation is constructed; and
- 3.3.6.2 In respect of which:
- a) The building has not been open for trade for a period of 24 months prior to the date of declaration of rates for the 2015/2016 financial year; and
 - b) No building permit has been issued under the Building Act 1993 in the 12 months prior to the date of declaration of rates for the 2015/2016 financial year.

- 3.4 Each differential rate will be determined by multiplying the Capital Improved Value of each rateable land (categorised by the characteristics described in paragraph 3.3 of this Resolution) by the relevant percentages indicated in the following table:

Category	%
Business Land	0.453133 (or 0.453133 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value).
Vacant Residential Land	0.776799 (or 0.776799 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value).
Vacant Business Land	1.035732 (or 1.035732 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value).
Mixed Use Occupancy Land	0.362506 (or 0.362506 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value).
Vacant Retail Land	1.035732 (or 1.035732 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value).
Other Land (Including Residential Land)	0.258933 (or 0.258933 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value).

- 3.5 It be recorded that Council considers that each differential rate will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of Council functions, and that:
- 3.5.1 The respective objectives of each differential rate be those specified in the Schedule to this Resolution; and

- 3.5.2 The respective types or classes of land which are subject to each differential rate be those defined in the Schedule to this Resolution; and
- 3.5.3 The respective uses and levels of each differential rate in relation to those respective types or classes of land be those described in the Schedule to this Resolution; and
- 3.5.4 The relevant
- 3.5.4.1 Uses of; and
- 3.5.4.2 Geographical locations of; and
- 3.5.4.3 Planning scheme zonings of; and
- 3.5.4.4 Types of buildings on
- the respective types or classes of land be those identified in the Schedule to this Resolution.
- 3.6 It be confirmed that no amount is fixed as the minimum amount payable by way of general rate in respect of each rateable land within the municipal district.
- 3.7 In accordance with section 4 (4) of the Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963, the amount of rates payable in respect of each of the rateable land to which that Act applies be determined by multiplying the Capital Improved Value of that rateable land by 0.226566 per cent (or 0.226566 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value).

(4) Rebates

It be recorded that Council grants a rebate in relation to rates in accordance with section 169 of the *Local Government Act 1989* to assist the proper development of the municipal district. The rebate is in the amount of \$150 to each owner of rateable land who is an 'eligible recipient' within the meaning of the *State Concessions Act 2004*, and is being granted because Council considers that it provides a benefit to the Darebin community in that it provides some relief on rates to elderly and other eligible residents in addition to the State Government rates concession and is consistent with principles of fairness and equity.

(5) Incentives

No incentives be declared as the incentives to be given by Council for the payment of general rates before the dates fixed or specified for their payment under section 168 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

(6) Other Charges

- 6.1 An annual service charge for the optional collection and disposal of green waste ("the green waste service charge") be declared in respect of the 2015/2016 Financial Year.
- 6.1.1 The Green Waste Service Charge is declared and will be levied on the basis of the following criteria:
- | | | |
|---------|---------------------------|---------|
| 6.1.1.1 | 120 litre bin | \$48.00 |
| 6.1.1.2 | 120 litre bin (pensioner) | \$28.20 |
| 6.1.1.3 | 240 litre bin | \$92.00 |
| 6.1.1.4 | 240 litre (pensioner) | \$60.00 |

6.1.2 The annual service charge is to be paid by four instalments in accordance with clause 7 of this recommendation. There are no incentives for early payment of the Green Waste Service Charge.

6.2 It be recorded that no other service rate or annual service charge be declared in respect of the 2015/2016 Financial Year.

6.3 It be recorded that no municipal charge be declared in respect of the 2015/2016 Financial Year.

(7) Payment Options

The general rates must be paid by four instalments made on or before the following dates:

Instalment 1 - 30 September 2015

Instalment 2 - 30 November 2015

Instalment 3 - 29 February 2016

Instalment 4 - 31 May 2016.

(8) Consequential

8.1 Council confirms that it will, subject to sections 171, 171A and 172 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, require a person to pay interest on any general rates or service charges which:

8.1.1 That person is liable to pay; and

8.1.2 Have not been paid by the date specified for payment.

8.2 The Director Corporate Services be authorised to levy and recover the general rates and service charges charged in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*.

(9) Submissions

9.1 Council advise the forty-two submitters to the Budget,

- Jeanne Cooper, Preston
- Alberta Gunner, Preston
- Julia Chiera, Preston
- Alex Reynolds, Preston
- Maria Caruso, Preston
- Jasmine Hirst, Preston
- Martin Boyle, Preston
- Louise Potter, Preston
- Emily Campbell, Preston
- Darcy Vescio, Preston
- Danielle Moore, Preston
- Sophie Boyden, Preston
- Lauren Datson, Preston

- Rebecca Mayo, Preston
- Jade Stevens, Preston
- David Nolan, Preston
- Sarah Dowling, Thornbury
- Harriet Radermacher, Preston
- Leesa Mereos, Preston
- AFL Victoria, Carlton North
- Darebin Women's Sports Club, Preston
- Women's Health in the North, Thornbury
- Darebin Greens
- Meredith Isakson, Northcote
- Margarita Munoz, Alphington
- Kate Picker, Preston
- Tony Martello, Northcote
- Meg Montague, Merri Action Group, Northcote
- Jordan Andrews, Preston
- Larissa Nicholls, Preston
- Narelle Phelan
- Louisa Mercuri, Northcote
- Mike Flattley, Merri Community Group, Northcote
- Tanya Wolkenberg, Northcote
- James Thyer, Northcote
- Janna Hilbrink, Merri Stationeers Committee, Northcote
- Christos Symeonides, Merri Community Group, Northcote
- Darebin Community Legal Centre, Thornbury
- Carla Moss
- Darebin Environmental Reference Group
- Cameron Taylor
- Chris Erlandsen

of Council's decision to adopt the attached 2015/2016 Budget and the reasons for the decision as follows:

- The 2015/2016 Budget is financially responsible, supports the goals and strategies included in the 2013-2017 Council Plan, and fits within a longer term framework of financial sustainability.
- The 2015/2016 Budget raises general rates by increase of 5.0%.

The Council-funded rate rebate to residential pensioner ratepayers will increase to \$150. The level of rates raised allows Council to maintain service levels, introduce a number of new initiatives and deliver a significant capital works program.

- The capital works projects included and considered in the 2015/2016 Budget have been determined through a rigorous process of consultation, review and prioritisation.

9.2 Council also advise the forty-two submitters in accordance with the comments specific to each submission outlined in this report.

SCHEDULE

BUSINESS LAND

Objectives:

The objectives of this differential rate, having regard to principles of equity including the capacity to pay of those levied the rate, is to ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council, including (but not limited to) the:

- Construction and maintenance of infrastructure assets;
- Development and provision of health and community services; and
- Provision of general support services.

Types and Classes:

Rateable land having the relevant characteristics described in the Resolution.

Use and Level of Differential Rate:

The money raised by the differential rate will be applied to the items of expenditure described in the Budget by Council. The level of the rate for land in this category is considered to provide for an appropriate contribution to Council's budgeted expenditure, having regard to the characteristics of the land.

Geographic Location:

The geographic location of the land within this differential rate is land wherever located within the municipal district, without reference to ward boundaries.

Use of Land:

The use of the land within this differential rate is, in the case of improved land, any use of land creating the relevant characteristics set out above in paragraph 3.3.1.

Planning Scheme Zoning:

The business rate affected by this rate is that which is in any zone where business development is permitted by the Darebin Planning Scheme and which displays the characteristics described in paragraph 3.3.1.

Types of Buildings:

The types of buildings on the land within this differential rate are all buildings which are now constructed on the land or which are constructed prior to the expiry of the 2015/2016 Financial Year.

RESIDENTIAL LAND**Objectives:**

The objective of this differential rate is to ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council, including (but not limited to) the:

- Construction and maintenance of infrastructure assets;
- Development and provision of health and community services; and
- Provision of general support services.

Types and Classes:

Rateable land having the relevant characteristics described in the Resolution.

Use and Level of Differential Rate:

The money raised by the differential rate will be applied to the items of expenditure described in the Budget by Council. The level of the rate for land in this category is considered to provide for an appropriate contribution to Council's budgeted expenditure, having regard to the characteristics of the land.

Geographic Location:

The geographic location of the land within this differential rate is land wherever located within the municipal district, without reference to ward boundaries.

Use of Land:

The use of the land within this differential rate is, in the case of improved land, any use of land creating the relevant characteristics set out above in paragraph 3.3.2.

Planning Scheme Zoning:

The residential land affected by this rate is that which is located in any zone where residential development is permitted by the Darebin Planning Scheme and which displays the characteristics described in paragraph 3.3.2.

Types of Buildings:

The types of buildings on the land within this differential rate are all buildings which are now constructed on the land or which are constructed prior to the expiry of the 2015/2016 Financial Year.

VACANT RESIDENTIAL LAND**Objectives:**

The objectives of this differential rate are to:

1. Promote responsible land management through appropriate maintenance and development of the land; and
2. Encourage prompt development of vacant residential land and attract new residents to Darebin and
3. Ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council, including (but not limited) to the:
 - Construction and maintenance of infrastructure assets;
 - Development and provision of health and community services; and
 - Provision of economic development and general support services.

Types and Classes:

Rateable land having the relevant characteristics described in the Resolution.

Use and Level of Differential Rate:

The money raised by the differential rate will be applied to the items of expenditure described in the Budget by Council. The level of the rate for land in this category is considered to provide for an appropriate contribution to Council's budgeted expenditure, having regard to the characteristics of the land.

Geographic Location:

The geographic location of the land within this differential rate is land wherever located within the municipal district, without reference to ward boundaries.

Planning Scheme Zoning:

The residential land affected by this rate is that which is located in any zone where residential development is permitted by the Darebin Planning Scheme and which displays the characteristics described in paragraph 3.3.4.

VACANT BUSINESS LAND**Objectives:**

The objectives of this differential rate, having regard to principles of equity including the capacity to pay of those owning land having the relevant characteristics described above, are to:

1. Promote responsible land management through appropriate maintenance and development of the land;
2. Ensure foregone community and economic development resulting from under utilisation of land is minimised; and
3. Encourage the use and occupancy of business land, leading to reinvigoration of trade and commerce within Darebin; and

4. Ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council, including (but not limited) to the:
 - Construction and maintenance of infrastructure assets;
 - Development and provision of health and community services; and
 - Provision of economic development and general support services.

Types and Classes:

Rateable land having the relevant characteristics described in the Resolution.

Use and Level of Differential Rate:

The money raised by the differential rate will be applied to the items of expenditure described in the Budget by Council. The level of the rate for land in this category is considered to provide for an appropriate contribution to Council's budgeted expenditure, having regard to the characteristics of the land.

Geographic Location:

The geographic location of the land within this differential rate is land wherever located within the municipal district, without reference to ward boundaries.

Planning Scheme Zoning:

Then vacant land affected by this rate is that which is zoned other than residential under the Darebin Planning Scheme and which displays the characteristics described under paragraph 3.3.3.

MIXED USE OCCUPANCY LAND**Objectives:**

The objectives of this differential rate, having regard to principles of equity including the capacity to pay of those owning land having the relevant characteristics described above, are to:

- Ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council, including (but not limited to) the:
 - a) Construction and maintenance of public infrastructure assets;
 - b) Development and provision of health, environmental and community services; and
 - c) Provision of general support services; and
- Address an apparent inequity for those ratepayers who reside in, and operate a business from, the same building and have previously been required to pay rates in respect of two separate assessments.

Use and Level of Differential Rate:

The money raised by the differential rate will be applied to the items of expenditure described in the Budget by Council. The level of the rate for land in this category is considered to provide for an appropriate contribution to Council's budgeted expenditure, having regard to the characteristics of the land.

Types and Classes:

The types and classes of rateable land within this differential rate are those having the relevant characteristics described in subparagraph 3.3.5 above.

Use of Land:

The use of the land within this differential rate is, in the case of improved land, any use of land creating the relevant characteristics described in subparagraph 3.3.5 above.

Geographic Location:

The geographic location of the land within this differential rate is land wherever located within the municipal district, without reference to ward boundaries.

Planning Scheme Zoning:

The land affected by this rate is that which is in any zone where mixed use development is permitted by the Darebin Planning Scheme and which displays the characteristics described in paragraph 3.3.5 above.

Types of Buildings:

The types of buildings on the land within this differential rate are all buildings which are now constructed on the land or which are constructed prior to the expiry of the 2015/2016 Financial Year.

VACANT RETAIL LAND**Objectives:**

The objectives of this differential rate, having regard to principles of equity including the capacity to pay of those owning land having the relevant characteristics described above, are to:

- Promote responsible land management through appropriate maintenance, development and use of the land;
- Ensure that foregone community and economic development resulting from underutilisation of the land is minimised;
- Encourage the use and occupancy of retail land, leading to reinvigoration of trade and commerce within the Darebin; and
- Ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council, including (but not limited) to the:
 - a) Construction and maintenance of public infrastructure assets;
 - b) Development and provision of health, environmental and community services; and
 - c) Provision of economic development and general support services.

Use and Level of Differential Rate:

The money raised by the differential rate will be applied to the items of expenditure described in the Budget by Council. The level of the rate for land in this category is considered to provide for an appropriate contribution to Council's budgeted expenditure, having regard to the characteristics of the land.

Types and Classes:

The types and classes of rateable land within this differential rate are those having the relevant characteristics described in subparagraph 3.3.6 above.

Use of Land:

The use of the land within this differential rate is, in the case of improved land, any use of land creating the relevant characteristics described in subparagraph 3.3.6 above.

Geographic Location:

The geographic location of the land within this differential rate is land wherever located within the municipal district, without reference to ward boundaries.

Planning Scheme Zoning:

The land affected by this rate is that which is in any zone where retail development is permitted by the Darebin Planning Scheme and which displays the characteristics described in subparagraph 3.3.6 above.

Types of Buildings:

The types of buildings on the land within this differential rate are all buildings which are now constructed on the land or which are constructed prior to the expiry of the 2015/2016 Financial Year.

THE CHAIRPERSON, CR. TSITAS ADVISED COUNCILLORS THAT DUE TO THE NUMBER OF FORESHADOWED AMENDMENTS, EACH AMENDMENT WOULD BE CONSIDERED SEPARATELY AND IF ADOPTED, BE INCORPORATED INTO THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION.

CR. LI PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE POINT 1.1.2 AS FOLLOWS:

AMENDMENT

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

THAT:

(1) Adoption of Budget

- 1.1 The 'Darebin City Council Budget 2015/2016' attached as **Appendix A** to this report be adopted by Council with the following changes;
- 1.1.1 Decrease financial assistance grant income by \$302,158 to reflect the Victoria Grants Commission allocation of general purpose and local roads grants.
- 1.1.2 **That Council defers capital works for Preston Town Hall and Shire Hall (saving \$260,000), and combines this with the \$60,000 savings from the CT Barling reserve lighting upgrade to fund the Capp and Robinson reserve lighting upgrade. The remaining shortfall to be achieved through operational savings.**

1.2 - (9) As per Officers Recommendation.

THE AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND LOST.

Cr. Li called for a Division:

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>
Cr. Greco	Cr. Tsitas
Cr. Villella	Cr. Laurence
Cr. Li	Cr. Walsh
Cr. McCarthy	Cr. Williams
	Cr. Fontana

The Chairperson, Cr. Tsitas, declared the amendment to be lost.

CR. MCCARTHY PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE POINT 1.1.2 AS FOLLOWS:

AMENDMENT

MOVED: Cr. T. McCarthy
SECONDED: Cr. G. Greco

THAT:

(1) Adoption of Budget

- 1.1 The 'Darebin City Council Budget 2015/2016' attached as **Appendix A** to this report be adopted by Council with the following changes;
 - 1.1.1 Decrease financial assistance grant income by \$302,158 to reflect the Victoria Grants Commission allocation of general purpose and local roads grants.
 - 1.1.2 **Council borrows \$2M in order to increase the Solar \$aver program from \$1M to \$3M, enabling installation of solar panels on approximately 900-1,200 low income and pensioner homes with a payback period over the next decade.**
- 1.2 – (9) As per Officers Recommendation.

THE AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND LOST.

Cr. McCarthy called for a Division:

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>
Cr. Greco	Cr. Tsitas
Cr. Villella	Cr. Laurence
Cr. Li	Cr. Walsh
Cr. McCarthy	Cr. Williams
	Cr. Fontana

The Chairperson, Cr. Tsitas, declared the amendment to be lost.

CR. VILLELLA PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE POINT 1.1.2. AND POINT 1.1.3 AS FOLLOWS:

AMENDMENT

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

THAT:

(1) Adoption of Budget

- 1.1 The 'Darebin City Council Budget 2015/2016' attached as **Appendix A** to this report be adopted by Council with the following changes;

- 1.1.1 Decrease financial assistance grant income by \$302,158 to reflect the Victoria Grants Commission allocation of general purpose and local roads grants.
- 1.1.2 **Accept the submission put forward by the Darebin Community Legal Centre to fund the Family Violence - Community Safety Initiative costed at \$ 37,020. The funding is to come from the proposed budget surplus.**
- 1.1.3 **That \$100,000 from the \$200,000 allocated for dog signage go toward increasing concession holder participation and accessibility at both council leisure centres - Reservoir Leisure Centre and Northcote Aquatic Centre and adjust the fees and charges in the budget accordingly.**

1.2 – (9) As per Officers Recommendation.

THE AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND BECAME POINT 1.1.2 AND 1.1.3 OF THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION.

CR. GRECO PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE POINT 1.1.4 AND POINT 1.1.5 AS FOLLOWS:

AMENDMENT

MOVED: Cr. G. Greco
SECONDED: Cr. T. Laurence

THAT:

(1) Adoption of Budget

- 1.1 The 'Darebin City Council Budget 2015/2016' attached as **Appendix A** to this report be adopted by Council with the following changes;
 - 1.1.1 Decrease financial assistance grant income by \$302,158 to reflect the Victoria Grants Commission allocation of general purpose and local roads grants.
 - 1.1.2 Accept the submission put forward by the Darebin Community Legal Centre to fund the Family Violence - Community Safety Initiative costed at \$ 37,020. The funding is to come from the proposed budget surplus.
 - 1.1.3 That \$100,000 from the \$200,000 allocated for dog signage go toward increasing concession holder participation and accessibility at both council leisure centres - Reservoir Leisure Centre and Northcote Aquatic Centre and adjust the fees and charges in the budget accordingly.
 - 1.1.4 **Reduce by half all the Goods on Footpath annual fee for Darebin traders.**
 - 1.1.5 **As a condition of the \$2M beautification of Darebin Projects, Council receive a comprehensive report in July on an appropriate consultation process for the spending of this money.**

1.2 – (9) As per Officers Recommendation.

THE AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND BECAME POINT 1.1.4 AND POINT 1.1.5 OF THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION.

CR. LAURENCE PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT.

AMENDMENT

MOVED: Cr. T. Laurence

SECONDED: Cr. J. Williams

THAT:

(1) Adoption of Budget

- 1.1 The 'Darebin City Council Budget 2015/2016' attached as **Appendix A** to this report be adopted by Council with the following changes;
 - 1.1.1 Decrease financial assistance grant income by \$302,158 to reflect the Victoria Grants Commission allocation of general purpose and local roads grants.
 - 1.1.2 Accept the submission put forward by the Darebin Community Legal Centre to fund the Family Violence - Community Safety Initiative costed at \$ 37,020. The funding is to come from the proposed budget surplus.
 - 1.1.3 That \$100,000 from the \$200,000 allocated for dog signage go toward increasing concession holder participation and accessibility at both council leisure centres - Reservoir Leisure Centre and Northcote Aquatic Centre and adjust the fees and charges in the budget accordingly.
 - 1.1.4 Reduce by half all the Goods on Footpath annual fee for Darebin traders.
 - 1.1.5 As a condition of the \$2m beautification of Darebin Projects, Council receive a comprehensive report in July on an appropriate consultation process for the spending of this money.
 - 1.1.6 **Defer:**
 - 1.1.6.1 **Open space: Hayes Park drainage \$240,000.**
 - 1.1.6.2 **Great western shimmy \$40,000.**
 - 1.1.7 **Remove:**
 - 1.1.7.1 **Cultural Tourism \$50,000.**
 - 1.1.7.2 **Green Business Expo \$15,000.**
 - 1.1.7.3 **Fruit Squad \$20,000.**
 - 1.1.7.4 **Staff Culture Survey \$130,000.**
 - 1.1.8 **Reduce:**
 - 1.1.8.1 **Buildings: Northcote Townhall reduced from \$437,000 to \$155,000 as per option 1 in officer's report.**
 - 1.1.8.2 **Chief executive Officer Unit budget reduced by \$30,000 to \$859,592.**

The savings from this approximate reduction of \$800,000 in 2015/2016 to be allocated to fund the following:

- 1.1.9 \$329,000 to be allocated for the AH CAPP lighting project.
- 1.1.10 Digital Economy Jobs and Community Learning Strategy \$55,000.
- 1.1.11 Extra \$500,000 for Reservoir Structure Plan implementation from \$1.25 million from various actions to \$1.75 million to allow more of the Structure Plan to commence.
- 1.1.12 An additional reduction to Council debt by \$36,000 to reduce council debt to zero debt.

Council also notes:

- Decrease in cash \$60,000 (Break even when 2014/2015 \$60,000 savings from CT Barling Reserve are taken into account)
- 1.2 – (9) As per Officers Recommendation.

WITH LEAVE OF THE CHAIRPERSON, CR. TSITAS PROPOSED THAT THE AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY CR. LAURENCE BE SPLIT AND CONSIDERED SEPARATELY.

CR. LAURENCE PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE POINT 1.1.6 AS FOLLOWS:

AMENDMENT

MOVED: Cr. T. Laurence
SECONDED: Cr. J. Williams

THAT:

(1) Adoption of Budget

- 1.1 The 'Darebin City Council Budget 2015/2016' attached as **Appendix A** to this report be adopted by Council with the following changes;
 - 1.1.1 Decrease financial assistance grant income by \$302,158 to reflect the Victoria Grants Commission allocation of general purpose and local roads grants.
 - 1.1.2 Accept the submission put forward by the Darebin Community Legal Centre to fund the Family Violence - Community Safety Initiative costed at \$ 37,020. The funding is to come from the proposed budget surplus.
 - 1.1.3 That \$100,000 from the \$200,000 allocated for dog signage go toward increasing concession holder participation and accessibility at both council leisure centres - Reservoir Leisure Centre and Northcote Aquatic Centre and adjust the fees and charges in the budget accordingly.
 - 1.1.4 Reduce by half all the Goods on Footpath annual fee for Darebin traders.
 - 1.1.5 As a condition of the \$2m beautification of Darebin Projects, Council receive a comprehensive report in July on an appropriate consultation process for the spending of this money.

1.1.6 \$329,000 to be allocated for the AH CAPP lighting project.

1.2 – (9) As per Officers Recommendation.

THE AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND BECAME POINT 1.1.6 OF THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION.

CR. LAURENCE PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE POINT 1.1.7 AS FOLLOWS:

AMENDMENT

MOVED: Cr. T. Laurence

SECONDED: Cr. O. Walsh

THAT:

(1) Adoption of Budget

1.1 The 'Darebin City Council Budget 2015/2016' attached as **Appendix A** to this report be adopted by Council with the following changes;

1.1.1 Decrease financial assistance grant income by \$302,158 to reflect the Victoria Grants Commission allocation of general purpose and local roads grants.

1.1.2 Accept the submission put forward by the Darebin Community Legal Centre to fund the Family Violence - Community Safety Initiative costed at \$ 37,020. The funding is to come from the proposed budget surplus.

1.1.3 That \$100,000 from the \$200,000 allocated for dog signage go toward increasing concession holder participation and accessibility at both council leisure centres - Reservoir Leisure Centre and Northcote Aquatic Centre and adjust the fees and charges in the budget accordingly.

1.1.4 Reduce by half all the Goods on Footpath annual fee for Darebin traders.

1.1.5 As a condition of the \$2m beautification of Darebin Projects, Council receive a comprehensive report in July on an appropriate consultation process for the spending of this money.

1.1.6 \$329,000 to be allocated for the AH CAPP lighting project.

1.1.7 Digital Economy Jobs and Community Learning Strategy \$55,000.

1.2 – (9) As per Officers Recommendation.

THE AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND CARRIED.

Cr. Laurence called for a Division:

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>
Cr. Laurence	Cr. Greco
Cr. Walsh	Cr. Villella
Cr. Williams	Cr. Li
Cr. Tsitas	Cr. McCarthy
Cr. Fontana	

THE CHAIRPERSON, CR. TSITAS, DECLARED THE AMENDMENT TO BE CARRIED AND BECAME POINT 1.1.7 OF THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION.

CR. LAURENCE PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE POINT 1.1.8 AS FOLLOWS:

AMENDMENT

MOVED: Cr. T. Laurence
SECONDED: Cr. A. Villella

THAT:

(1) Adoption of Budget

- 1.1 The 'Darebin City Council Budget 2015/2016' attached as **Appendix A** to this report be adopted by Council with the following changes;
 - 1.1.1 Decrease financial assistance grant income by \$302,158 to reflect the Victoria Grants Commission allocation of general purpose and local roads grants.
 - 1.1.2 Accept the submission put forward by the Darebin Community Legal Centre to fund the Family Violence - Community Safety Initiative costed at \$ 37,020. The funding is to come from the proposed budget surplus.
 - 1.1.3 That \$100,000 from the \$200,000 allocated for dog signage go toward increasing concession holder participation and accessibility at both council leisure centres - Reservoir Leisure Centre and Northcote Aquatic Centre and adjust the fees and charges in the budget accordingly.
 - 1.1.4 Reduce by half all the Goods on Footpath annual fee for Darebin traders.
 - 1.1.5 As a condition of the \$2m beautification of Darebin Projects, Council receive a comprehensive report in July on an appropriate consultation process for the spending of this money.
 - 1.1.6 \$329,000 to be allocated for the AH CAPP lighting project.
 - 1.1.7 Digital Economy Jobs and Community Learning Strategy \$55,000.
 - 1.1.8 **Extra \$500,000 for Reservoir Structure Plan implementation from \$1.25 million from various actions to \$1.75 million to allow more of the Structure Plan to commence.**

- 1.2 – (9) As per Officers Recommendation.

THE AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND CARRIED.

Cr. Walsh called for a Division:

For

Cr. Laurence
Cr. Greco
Cr. Villella
Cr. Li
Cr. Williams
Cr. Fontana
Cr. Tsitas

Against

Cr. Walsh
Cr. McCarthy

THE CHAIRPERSON, CR. TSITAS, DECLARED THE AMENDMENT TO BE CARRIED AND BECAME POINT 1.1.8 OF THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION.

CR. LAURENCE PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE POINT 1.1.9 AS FOLLOWS:

AMENDMENT

MOVED: Cr. T. Laurence
SECONDED: Cr. O. Walsh

THAT:

(1) Adoption of Budget

- 1.1 The 'Darebin City Council Budget 2015/2016' attached as **Appendix A** to this report be adopted by Council with the following changes;
 - 1.1.1 Decrease financial assistance grant income by \$302,158 to reflect the Victoria Grants Commission allocation of general purpose and local roads grants.
 - 1.1.2 Accept the submission put forward by the Darebin Community Legal Centre to fund the Family Violence - Community Safety Initiative costed at \$ 37,020. The funding is to come from the proposed budget surplus.
 - 1.1.3 That \$100,000 from the \$200,000 allocated for dog signage go toward increasing concession holder participation and accessibility at both council leisure centres - Reservoir Leisure Centre and Northcote Aquatic Centre and adjust the fees and charges in the budget accordingly.
 - 1.1.4 Reduce by half all the Goods on Footpath annual fee for Darebin traders.
 - 1.1.5 As a condition of the \$2m beautification of Darebin Projects, Council receive a comprehensive report in July on an appropriate consultation process for the spending of this money.
 - 1.1.6 \$329,000 to be allocated for the AH CAPP lighting project.
 - 1.1.7 Digital Economy Jobs and Community Learning Strategy \$55,000.

1.1.8 Extra \$500,000 for Reservoir Structure Plan implementation from \$1.25 million from various actions to \$1.75 million to allow more of the Structure Plan to commence.

1.1.9 An additional reduction to Council debt by \$36,000 to reduce council debt to zero debt.

1.2 – (9) As per Officers Recommendation.

THE AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND CARRIED.

Cr. McCarthy called for a Division:

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>
Cr. Laurence	Cr. Greco
Cr. Walsh	Cr. Villella
Cr. Williams	Cr. Li
Cr. Tsitas	Cr. McCarthy
Cr. Fontana	

THE CHAIRPERSON, CR. TSITAS, DECLARED THE AMENDMENT TO BE CARRIED AND BECAME POINT 1.1.9 OF THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION.

ADJOURNMENT – 9.03 PM

The Chairperson, Cr. Tsitas adjourned the meeting for a 10 minute break.

The meeting resumed at 9.15 pm.

CR. LI PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE POINT 1.1.10 AND POINT 1.1.11 AS FOLLOWS:

AMENDMENT

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

THAT:

(1) Adoption of Budget

- 1.1 The 'Darebin City Council Budget 2015/2016' attached as **Appendix A** to this report be adopted by Council with the following changes;
 - 1.1.1 Decrease financial assistance grant income by \$302,158 to reflect the Victoria Grants Commission allocation of general purpose and local roads grants.
 - 1.1.2 Accept the submission put forward by the Darebin Community Legal Centre to fund the Family Violence - Community Safety Initiative costed at \$ 37,020. The funding is to come from the proposed budget surplus.
 - 1.1.3 That \$100,000 from the \$200,000 allocated for dog signage go toward increasing concession holder participation and accessibility at both council leisure centres - Reservoir Leisure Centre and

Northcote Aquatic Centre and adjust the fees and charges in the budget accordingly.

- 1.1.4 Reduce by half all the Goods on Footpath annual fee for Darebin traders.
- 1.1.5 As a condition of the \$2m beautification of Darebin Projects, Council receive a comprehensive report in July on an appropriate consultation process for the spending of this money.
- 1.1.6 \$329,000 to be allocated for the AH CAPP lighting project.
- 1.1.7 Digital Economy Jobs and Community Learning Strategy \$55,000
- 1.1.8 Extra \$500,000 for Reservoir Structure Plan implementation from \$1.25 million from various actions to \$1.75 million to allow more of the Structure Plan to commence.
- 1.1.9 An additional reduction to Council debt by \$36,000 to reduce council debt to zero debt.
- 1.1.10 Fund Northcote Town Hall upgrade, Hayes Park Drainage and Flinders Street Capital works via borrowings of \$797,000.**
- 1.1.11 Remove Cultural Tourism \$50,000.**
- 1.1.12 Include the \$130,000 in the budget for the Staff Culture Survey.**

1.2 – (9) As per Officers Recommendation.

THE AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND CARRIED.

Cr. Li called for a Division:

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>
Cr. Li	Cr. Williams
Cr. McCarthy	Cr. Fontana
Cr. Villella	Cr. Walsh
Cr. Greco	Cr. Tsitas
	Cr. Laurence

THE CHAIRPERSON, CR. TSITAS, DECLARED THE AMENDMENT TO BE LOST.

CR. MCCARTHY PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE POINT 1.1.10 AS FOLLOWS:

AMENDMENT

MOVED: Cr. T. McCarthy
SECONDED: Cr. G. Greco

THAT:

(1) Adoption of Budget

- 1.1 The 'Darebin City Council Budget 2015/2016' attached as **Appendix A** to this report be adopted by Council with the following changes;
 - 1.1.1 Decrease financial assistance grant income by \$302,158 to reflect the Victoria Grants Commission allocation of general purpose and local roads grants.

- 1.1.2 Accept the submission put forward by the Darebin Community Legal Centre to fund the Family Violence - Community Safety Initiative costed at \$ 37,020. The funding is to come from the proposed budget surplus.
- 1.1.3 That \$100,000 from the \$200,000 allocated for dog signage go toward increasing concession holder participation and accessibility at both council leisure centres - Reservoir Leisure Centre and Northcote Aquatic Centre and adjust the fees and charges in the budget accordingly.
- 1.1.4 Reduce by half all the Goods on Footpath annual fee for Darebin traders.
- 1.1.5 As a condition of the \$2m beautification of Darebin Projects, Council receive a comprehensive report in July on an appropriate consultation process for the spending of this money.
- 1.1.6 \$329,000 to be allocated for the AH CAPP lighting project.
- 1.1.7 Digital Economy Jobs and Community Learning Strategy \$55,000
- 1.1.8 Extra \$500,000 for Reservoir Structure Plan implementation from \$1.25 million from various actions to \$1.75 million to allow more of the Structure Plan to commence.
- 1.1.9 An additional reduction to Council debt by \$36,000 to reduce council debt to zero debt.
- 1.1.10 That Council borrow \$1m to fund Solar \$aver in order to include Hayes Park Drainage and Flinders Street Resurfacing.**

1.2 – (9) As per Officers Recommendation.

THE MOTION WAS PUT AND LOST.

The Chairperson, Cr. Tsitas declared the amendment to be lost.

CR. MCCARTHY PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE POINT 1.1.10 AND POINT 1.1.11 AS FOLLOWS:

AMENDMENT

MOVED: Cr. T. McCarthy

SECONDED: Cr. A. Villella

THAT:

(1) Adoption of Budget

- 1.1 The 'Darebin City Council Budget 2015/2016' attached as **Appendix A** to this report be adopted by Council with the following changes;
 - 1.1.1 Decrease financial assistance grant income by \$302,158 to reflect the Victoria Grants Commission allocation of general purpose and local roads grants.
 - 1.1.2 Accept the submission put forward by the Darebin Community Legal Centre to fund the Family Violence - Community Safety Initiative costed at \$ 37,020. The funding is to come from the proposed budget surplus.

- 1.1.3 That \$100,000 from the \$200,000 allocated for dog signage go toward increasing concession holder participation and accessibility at both council leisure centres - Reservoir Leisure Centre and Northcote Aquatic Centre and adjust the fees and charges in the budget accordingly.
- 1.1.4 Reduce by half all the Goods on Footpath annual fee for Darebin traders.
- 1.1.5 As a condition of the \$2m beautification of Darebin Projects, Council receive a comprehensive report in July on an appropriate consultation process for the spending of this money.
- 1.1.6 \$329,000 to be allocated for the AH CAPP lighting project.
- 1.1.7 Digital Economy Jobs and Community Learning Strategy \$55,000
- 1.1.8 Extra \$500,000 for Reservoir Structure Plan implementation from \$1.25 million from various actions to \$1.75 million to allow more of the Structure Plan to commence.
- 1.1.9 An additional reduction to Council debt by \$36,000 to reduce council debt to zero debt.
- 1.1.10 That Council borrow \$1m to fund multi-sports stadium.**
- 1.1.11 Continue to include Hayes Park Drainage, Flinders Street Resurfacing and Northcote Town Hall at \$437,000.**

1.2 – (9) As per Officers Recommendation.

THE AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND CARRIED.

Cr. McCarthy called for a Division:

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>
Cr. Li	Cr. Williams
Cr. McCarthy	Cr. Fontana
Cr. Villella	Cr. Tsitas
Cr. Greco	Cr. Laurence
Cr. Walsh	

THE CHAIRPERSON, CR. TSITAS, DECLARED THE AMENDMENT TO BE CARRIED AND BECAME POINT 1.1.10 AND 1.1.11 OF THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION

EXTENSION OF TIME – 9.58 PM

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. T. McCarthy
SECONDED: Cr. G. Greco

THAT the Council meeting continue after 10.00 pm for 30 minutes.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT – 10 PM

The Chairperson, Cr. Tsitas adjourned the meeting for a 5 minute break.

The meeting resumed at 10.05 pm.

CR. WALSH PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE POINT 1.1.12 AND POINT 1.1.13 AS FOLLOWS:

AMENDMENT

MOVED: Cr. T. McCarthy

SECONDED: Cr. T. Laurence

THAT:

(1) Adoption of Budget

- 1.1 The 'Darebin City Council Budget 2015/2016' attached as **Appendix A** to this report be adopted by Council with the following changes;
 - 1.1.1 Decrease financial assistance grant income by \$302,158 to reflect the Victoria Grants Commission allocation of general purpose and local roads grants.
 - 1.1.2 Accept the submission put forward by the Darebin Community Legal Centre to fund the Family Violence - Community Safety Initiative costed at \$ 37,020. The funding is to come from the proposed budget surplus.
 - 1.1.3 That \$100,000 from the \$200,000 allocated for dog signage go toward increasing concession holder participation and accessibility at both council leisure centres - Reservoir Leisure Centre and Northcote Aquatic Centre and adjust the fees and charges in the budget accordingly.
 - 1.1.4 Reduce by half all the Goods on Footpath annual fee for Darebin traders.
 - 1.1.5 As a condition of the \$2m beautification of Darebin Projects, Council receive a comprehensive report in July on an appropriate consultation process for the spending of this money.
 - 1.1.6 \$329,000 to be allocated for the AH CAPP lighting project.
 - 1.1.7 Digital Economy Jobs and Community Learning Strategy \$55,000
 - 1.1.8 Extra \$500,000 for Reservoir Structure Plan implementation from \$1.25 million from various actions to \$1.75 million to allow more of the Structure Plan to commence.
 - 1.1.9 An additional reduction to Council debt by \$36,000 to reduce council debt to zero debt.
 - 1.1.10 That Council borrow \$1m to fund multi-sports stadium.
 - 1.1.11 Continue to include Hayes Park Drainage, Flinders Street Resurfacing and Northcote Town Hall at \$437,000.
 - 1.1.12 Remove Climate Change Action \$20,000.**

1.1.13 Reduce Equity and Diversity \$30,000.

1.2 – (9) As per Officers Recommendation.

THE MOTION WAS PUT AND LOST.

Cr. Walsh called for a Division:

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>
Cr. Walsh	Cr. Tsitas
Cr. Williams	Cr. Laurence
	Cr. Greco
	Cr. Villella
	Cr. McCarthy
	Cr. Fontana
	Cr. Li

THE CHAIRPERSON, CR. TSITAS, DECLARED THE AMENDMENT TO BE LOST.

THE MOTION BEFORE THE CHAIR IS AS FOLLOWS:

MOTION

MOVED: Cr. T. Laurence

SECONDED: Cr. A. Villella

THAT:

(1) Adoption of Budget

- 1.1 The 'Darebin City Council Budget 2015/2016' attached as **Appendix A** to this report be adopted by Council with the following changes;
 - 1.1.1 Decrease financial assistance grant income by \$302,158 to reflect the Victoria Grants Commission allocation of general purpose and local roads grants.
 - 1.1.2 Accept the submission put forward by the Darebin Community Legal Centre to fund the Family Violence - Community Safety Initiative costed at \$ 37,020. The funding is to come from the proposed budget surplus.
 - 1.1.3 That \$100,000 from the \$200,000 allocated for dog signage go toward increasing concession holder participation and accessibility at both council leisure centres - Reservoir Leisure Centre and Northcote Aquatic Centre and adjust the fees and charges in the budget accordingly.
 - 1.1.4 Reduce by half all the Goods on Footpath annual fee for Darebin traders.
 - 1.1.5 As a condition of the \$2m beautification of Darebin Projects, Council receive a comprehensive report in July on an appropriate consultation process for the spending of this money.
 - 1.1.6 \$329,000 to be allocated for the AH CAPP lighting project.
 - 1.1.7 Digital Economy Jobs and Community Learning Strategy \$55,000

- 1.1.8 Extra \$500,000 for Reservoir Structure Plan implementation from \$1.25 million from various actions to \$1.75 million to allow more of the Structure Plan to commence.
 - 1.1.9 An additional reduction to Council debt by \$36,000 to reduce council debt to zero debt.
 - 1.1.10 Borrow \$1m to fund multi-sports stadium.
 - 1.1.11 Continue to include Hayes Park Drainage, Flinders Street Resurfacing and Northcote Town Hall at \$437,000.
- 1.2 – (9) As per Officers Recommendation.

EXTENSION OF TIME – 10.29 PM

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. T. McCarthy
SECONDED: Cr. V. Fontana

THAT the Council meeting continue after 10.30 pm for 30 minutes.

CARRIED

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

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. T. Laurence
SECONDED: Cr. A. Villella

THAT:

(1) Adoption of Budget

- 1.1 The 'Darebin City Council Budget 2015/2016' attached as **Appendix A** to this report be adopted by Council with the following changes;
 - 1.1.1 Decrease financial assistance grant income by \$302,158 to reflect the Victoria Grants Commission allocation of general purpose and local roads grants.
 - 1.1.2 Accept the submission put forward by the Darebin Community Legal Centre to fund the Family Violence - Community Safety Initiative costed at \$ 37,020. The funding is to come from the proposed budget surplus.
 - 1.1.3 That \$100,000 from the \$200,000 allocated for dog signage go toward increasing concession holder participation and accessibility at both council leisure centres- Reservoir Leisure Centre and Northcote Aquatic Centre and adjust the fees and charges in the budget accordingly.
 - 1.1.4 Reduce by half all the Goods on Footpath annual fee for Darebin traders.

- 1.1.5 As a condition of the \$2m beautification of Darebin Projects, Council receive a comprehensive report in July on an appropriate consultation process for the spending of this money.
- 1.1.6 \$329,000 to be allocated for the AH CAPP lighting project.
- 1.1.7 Digital Economy Jobs and Community Learning Strategy \$55,000.
- 1.1.8 Extra \$500,000 for Reservoir Structure Plan implementation from \$1.25 million from various actions to \$1.75 million to allow more of the Structure Plan to commence.
- 1.1.9 An additional reduction to Council debt by \$36,000 to reduce council debt to zero debt.
- 1.1.10 Borrow \$1m to fund multi-sports stadium.
- 1.1.11 Continue to include Hayes Park Drainage, Flinders Street Resurfacing and Northcote Town Hall at \$437,000.
- 1.2 The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to give notice of this decision to adopt the Budget, in accordance with section 130(2) of *the Local Government Act 1989*.

(2) Amount Intended To Be Raised

The amount which Council intends to raise by general rates is declared to be \$111,723,975 and such further amount as is lawfully levied as a consequence of this Resolution.

(3) General Rates

- 3.1 A general rate be declared in respect of the 2015/2016 Financial Year.
- 3.2 It be further declared that the general rate be raised by the application of differential rates.
- 3.3 A differential rate be declared for rateable land having the characteristics specified below, and which form the criteria for each differential rate so declared:

3.3.1 Business Land

- 3.3.1.1 Business Land is any land which is not Vacant Business Land as described in subparagraph 3.3.3 or Vacant Retail Land, as described in subparagraph 3.3.6:
- 3.3.1.2 The primary use of which is carrying out the manufacture or production of, or trade in, goods or services; or
- 3.3.1.3 Is unoccupied and is zoned other than residential under the Darebin Planning Scheme

3.3.2 Residential Land

- 3.3.2.1 Residential Land is any land which is not Vacant Residential Land as described in subparagraph 3.3.4, and:
- 3.3.2.2 The primary use of which is residential; or
- 3.3.2.3 Is unoccupied and is zoned residential under the Darebin Planning Scheme.

3.3.3 Vacant Business Land

- 3.3.3.1 Vacant Business Land is any land which is zoned other than residential under the Darebin Planning Scheme, and:
- 3.3.3.2 On which no building designed or adapted for permanent occupation is constructed; and
- 3.3.3.3 In respect of which no building permit for the construction of a new building designed or adapted for permanent occupation has been issued under the *Building Act 1993* in the 12 months prior to the date of declaration of rates in the 2015/2016 financial year.

3.3.4 Vacant Residential Land

- 3.3.4.1 Vacant Residential Land is any land which is zoned residential under the of Darebin Planning Scheme and:
- 3.3.4.2 On which there is no dwelling or other building designed or adapted for permanent occupation; and
- 3.3.4.3 In respect of which a building permit for demolition was issued under the *Building Act 1993* in the 18 months prior to the date of declaration of rates for the 2015/2016 financial year; and
- 3.3.4.4 In respect of which no building permit for the construction of a new dwelling or other building designed or adapted for permanent occupation has been issued under the *Building Act 1993* in the period since demolition, with the date of demolition taken to be the date on which the building permit for demolition was issued under the *Building Act 1993*;
or
- 3.3.4.5 On which there is no dwelling or other building designed or adapted for permanent occupation; and
- 3.3.4.6 In respect of which no building permit for demolition was issued under the *Building Act 1993* in the 18 months prior to the date of declaration of rates for the 2015/2016 financial year; and
- 3.3.4.7 In respect of which no building permit for the construction of a new dwelling or other building designed or adapted for permanent occupation has been issued under the *Building Act 1993* in the 12 months prior to the date of declaration of rates for the 2015/2016 financial year.

3.3.5 Mixed Use Occupancy Land

- 3.3.5.1 Mixed Use Occupancy Land is any land:

- 3.3.5.2 On which there is a building, at least part of which is used, designed or adapted for the carrying out of the manufacture or production of, or the trade in, goods and services and is occupied for that purpose; and
- 3.3.5.3 On which there is a building, at least part of which is used, designed or adapted as a principal place of residence and is occupied as such; and
- 3.3.5.4 Both the part of the land which meets the requirements of subparagraph 3.3.5.2 and the part of the land which meets the requirements of subparagraph 3.3.5.3 is occupied by the ratepayer; or
- 3.3.5.5 Where there is more than one ratepayer, at least one of those ratepayers occupies both the part of the land which meets the requirements of subparagraph 3.3.5.2 and the part of the land which meets the requirements of subparagraph 3.3.5.3.

3.3.6 Vacant Retail Land

- 3.3.6.1 Vacant Retail Land is any land which on which a building designed or adapted for retail occupation is constructed; and
- 3.3.6.2 In respect of which:
- The building has not been open for trade for a period of 24 months prior to the date of declaration of rates for the 2015/2016 financial year; and
 - No building permit has been issued under the Building Act 1993 in the 12 months prior to the date of declaration of rates for the 2015/2016 financial year.

- 3.4 Each differential rate will be determined by multiplying the Capital Improved Value of each rateable land (categorised by the characteristics described in paragraph 3.3 of this Resolution) by the relevant percentages indicated in the following table:

Category	%
Business Land	0.453133 (or 0.453133 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value).
Vacant Residential Land	0.776799 (or 0.776799 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value).
Vacant Business Land	1.035732 (or 1.035732 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value).
Mixed Use Occupancy Land	0.362506 (or 0.362506 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value).
Vacant Retail Land	1.035732 (or 1.035732 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value).

Category	%
Other Land (Including Residential Land)	0.258933 (or 0.258933 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value).

- 3.5 It be recorded that Council considers that each differential rate will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of Council functions, and that:
- 3.5.1 The respective objectives of each differential rate be those specified in the Schedule to this Resolution; and
 - 3.5.2 The respective types or classes of land which are subject to each differential rate be those defined in the Schedule to this Resolution; and
 - 3.5.3 The respective uses and levels of each differential rate in relation to those respective types or classes of land be those described in the Schedule to this Resolution; and
 - 3.5.4 The relevant
 - 3.5.4.1 Uses of; and
 - 3.5.4.2 Geographical locations of; and
 - 3.5.4.3 Planning scheme zonings of; and
 - 3.5.4.4 Types of buildings on
 the respective types or classes of land be those identified in the Schedule to this Resolution.
- 3.6 It be confirmed that no amount is fixed as the minimum amount payable by way of general rate in respect of each rateable land within the municipal district.
- 3.7 In accordance with section 4 (4) of the Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963, the amount of rates payable in respect of each of the rateable land to which that Act applies be determined by multiplying the Capital Improved Value of that rateable land by 0.226566 per cent (or 0.226566 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value).

4. Rebates

It be recorded that Council grants a rebate in relation to rates in accordance with section 169 of the *Local Government Act 1989* to assist the proper development of the municipal district. The rebate is in the amount of \$150 to each owner of rateable land who is an 'eligible recipient' within the meaning of the *State Concessions Act 2004*, and is being granted because Council considers that it provides a benefit to the Darebin community in that it provides some relief on rates to elderly and other eligible residents in addition to the State Government rates concession and is consistent with principles of fairness and equity.

5. Incentives

No incentives be declared as the incentives to be given by Council for the payment of general rates before the dates fixed or specified for their payment under section 168 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

6. Other Charges

6.1 An annual service charge for the optional collection and disposal of green waste ("the green waste service charge") be declared in respect of the 2015/2016 Financial Year.

6.1.1 The Green Waste Service Charge is declared and will be levied on the basis of the following criteria:

6.1.1.1	120 litre bin	\$48.00
6.1.1.2	120 litre bin (pensioner)	\$28.20
6.1.1.3	240 litre bin	\$92.00
6.1.1.4	240 litre (pensioner)	\$60.00

6.1.2 The annual service charge is to be paid by four instalments in accordance with clause 7 of this recommendation. There are no incentives for early payment of the Green Waste Service Charge.

6.2 It be recorded that no other service rate or annual service charge be declared in respect of the 2015/2016 Financial Year.

6.3 It be recorded that no municipal charge be declared in respect of the 2015/2016 Financial Year.

7. Payment Options

The general rates must be paid by four instalments made on or before the following dates:

Instalment 1	-	30 September 2015
Instalment 2	-	30 November 2015
Instalment 3	-	29 February 2016
Instalment 4	-	31 May 2016.

8. Consequential

8.1 Council confirms that it will, subject to sections 171, 171A and 172 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, require a person to pay interest on any general rates or service charges which:

8.1.1 That person is liable to pay; and

8.1.2 Have not been paid by the date specified for payment.

8.2 The Director Corporate Services be authorised to levy and recover the general rates and service charges charged in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*.

9. Submissions

9.1 Council advise the forty-two submitters to the Budget,

- Jeanne Cooper, Preston
- Alberta Gunner, Preston
- Julia Chiera, Preston
- Alex Reynolds, Preston

- Maria Caruso, Preston
- Jasmine Hirst, Preston
- Martin Boyle, Preston
- Louise Potter, Preston
- Emily Campbell, Preston
- Darcy Vescio, Preston
- Danielle Moore, Preston
- Sophie Boyden, Preston
- Lauren Datson, Preston
- Rebecca Mayo, Preston
- Jade Stevens, Preston
- David Nolan, Preston
- Sarah Dowling, Thornbury
- Harriet Radermacher, Preston
- Leesa Mereos, Preston
- AFL Victoria, Carlton North
- Darebin Women's Sports Club, Preston
- Women's Health in the North, Thornbury
- Darebin Greens
- Meredith Isakson, Northcote
- Margarita Munoz, Alphington
- Kate Picker, Preston
- Tony Martello, Northcote
- Meg Montague, Merri Action Group, Northcote
- Jordan Andrews, Preston
- Larissa Nicholls, Preston
- Narelle Phelan
- Louisa Mercuri, Northcote
- Mike Flattley, Merri Community Group, Northcote
- Tanya Wolkenberg, Northcote
- James Thyer, Northcote
- Janna Hilbrink, Merri Stationeers Committee, Northcote
- Christos Symeonides, Merri Community Group, Northcote
- Darebin Community Legal Centre, Thornbury
- Carla Moss
- Darebin Environmental Reference Group

- Cameron Taylor
- Chris Erlandsen

of Council's decision to adopt the attached 2015/2016 Budget and the reasons for the decision as follows:

- The 2015/2016 Budget is financially responsible, supports the goals and strategies included in the 2013-2017 Council Plan, and fits within a longer term framework of financial sustainability.
- The 2015/2016 Budget raises general rates by increase of 5.0%.

The Council-funded rate rebate to residential pensioner ratepayers will increase to \$150. The level of rates raised allows Council to maintain service levels, introduce a number of new initiatives and deliver a significant capital works program.

- The capital works projects included and considered in the 2015/2016 Budget have been determined through a rigorous process of consultation, review and prioritisation.

9.2 Council also advise the forty-two submitters in accordance with the comments specific to each submission outlined in this report.

SCHEDULE

BUSINESS LAND

Objectives:

The objectives of this differential rate, having regard to principles of equity including the capacity to pay of those levied the rate, is to ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council, including (but not limited to) the:

- Construction and maintenance of infrastructure assets;
- Development and provision of health and community services; and
- Provision of general support services.

Types and Classes:

Rateable land having the relevant characteristics described in the Resolution.

Use and Level of Differential Rate:

The money raised by the differential rate will be applied to the items of expenditure described in the Budget by Council. The level of the rate for land in this category is considered to provide for an appropriate contribution to Council's budgeted expenditure, having regard to the characteristics of the land.

Geographic Location:

The geographic location of the land within this differential rate is land wherever located within the municipal district, without reference to ward boundaries.

Use of Land:

The use of the land within this differential rate is, in the case of improved land, any use of land creating the relevant characteristics set out above in paragraph 3.3.1.

Planning Scheme Zoning:

The business rate affected by this rate is that which is in any zone where business development is permitted by the Darebin Planning Scheme and which displays the characteristics described in paragraph 3.3.1.

Types of Buildings:

The types of buildings on the land within this differential rate are all buildings which are now constructed on the land or which are constructed prior to the expiry of the 2015/2016 Financial Year.

RESIDENTIAL LAND**Objectives:**

The objective of this differential rate is to ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council, including (but not limited to) the:

- Construction and maintenance of infrastructure assets;
- Development and provision of health and community services; and
- Provision of general support services.

Types and Classes:

Rateable land having the relevant characteristics described in the Resolution.

Use and Level of Differential Rate:

The money raised by the differential rate will be applied to the items of expenditure described in the Budget by Council. The level of the rate for land in this category is considered to provide for an appropriate contribution to Council's budgeted expenditure, having regard to the characteristics of the land.

Geographic Location:

The geographic location of the land within this differential rate is land wherever located within the municipal district, without reference to ward boundaries.

Use of Land:

The use of the land within this differential rate is, in the case of improved land, any use of land creating the relevant characteristics set out above in paragraph 3.3.2.

Planning Scheme Zoning:

The residential land affected by this rate is that which is located in any zone where residential development is permitted by the Darebin Planning Scheme and which displays the characteristics described in paragraph 3.3.2.

Types of Buildings:

The types of buildings on the land within this differential rate are all buildings which are now constructed on the land or which are constructed prior to the expiry of the 2015/2016 Financial Year.

VACANT RESIDENTIAL LAND**Objectives:**

The objectives of this differential rate are to:

1. Promote responsible land management through appropriate maintenance and development of the land; and
2. Encourage prompt development of vacant residential land and attract new residents to Darebin and
3. Ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council, including (but not limited) to the:
 - Construction and maintenance of infrastructure assets;
 - Development and provision of health and community services; and
 - Provision of economic development and general support services.

Types and Classes:

Rateable land having the relevant characteristics described in the Resolution.

Use and Level of Differential Rate:

The money raised by the differential rate will be applied to the items of expenditure described in the Budget by Council. The level of the rate for land in this category is considered to provide for an appropriate contribution to Council's budgeted expenditure, having regard to the characteristics of the land.

Geographic Location:

The geographic location of the land within this differential rate is land wherever located within the municipal district, without reference to ward boundaries.

Planning Scheme Zoning:

The residential land affected by this rate is that which is located in any zone where residential development is permitted by the Darebin Planning Scheme and which displays the characteristics described in paragraph 3.3.4.

VACANT BUSINESS LAND**Objectives:**

The objectives of this differential rate, having regard to principles of equity including the capacity to pay of those owning land having the relevant characteristics described above, are to:

1. Promote responsible land management through appropriate maintenance and development of the land;
2. Ensure foregone community and economic development resulting from under utilisation of land is minimised; and
3. Encourage the use and occupancy of business land, leading to reinvigoration of trade and commerce within Darebin; and
4. Ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council, including (but not limited) to the:
 - Construction and maintenance of infrastructure assets;
 - Development and provision of health and community services; and
 - Provision of economic development and general support services.

Types and Classes:

Rateable land having the relevant characteristics described in the Resolution.

Use and Level of Differential Rate:

The money raised by the differential rate will be applied to the items of expenditure described in the Budget by Council. The level of the rate for land in this category is considered to provide for an appropriate contribution to Council's budgeted expenditure, having regard to the characteristics of the land.

Geographic Location:

The geographic location of the land within this differential rate is land wherever located within the municipal district, without reference to ward boundaries.

Planning Scheme Zoning:

Then vacant land affected by this rate is that which is zoned other than residential under the Darebin Planning Scheme and which displays the characteristics described under paragraph 3.3.3.

MIXED USE OCCUPANCY LAND**Objectives:**

The objectives of this differential rate, having regard to principles of equity including the capacity to pay of those owning land having the relevant characteristics described above, are to:

- Ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council, including (but not limited to) the:
 - a) Construction and maintenance of public infrastructure assets;
 - b) Development and provision of health, environmental and community services; and
 - c) Provision of general support services; and
- Address an apparent inequity for those ratepayers who reside in, and operate a business from, the same building and have previously been required to pay rates in respect of two separate assessments.

Use and Level of Differential Rate:

The money raised by the differential rate will be applied to the items of expenditure described in the Budget by Council. The level of the rate for land in this category is considered to provide for an appropriate contribution to Council's budgeted expenditure, having regard to the characteristics of the land.

Types and Classes:

The types and classes of rateable land within this differential rate are those having the relevant characteristics described in subparagraph 3.3.5 above.

Use of Land:

The use of the land within this differential rate is, in the case of improved land, any use of land creating the relevant characteristics described in subparagraph 3.3.5 above.

Geographic Location:

The geographic location of the land within this differential rate is land wherever located within the municipal district, without reference to ward boundaries.

Planning Scheme Zoning:

The land affected by this rate is that which is in any zone where mixed use development is permitted by the Darebin Planning Scheme and which displays the characteristics described in paragraph 3.3.5 above.

Types of Buildings:

The types of buildings on the land within this differential rate are all buildings which are now constructed on the land or which are constructed prior to the expiry of the 2015/2016 Financial Year.

VACANT RETAIL LAND**Objectives:**

The objectives of this differential rate, having regard to principles of equity including the capacity to pay of those owning land having the relevant characteristics described above, are to:

- Promote responsible land management through appropriate maintenance, development and use of the land;
- Ensure that foregone community and economic development resulting from underutilisation of the land is minimised;
- Encourage the use and occupancy of retail land, leading to reinvigoration of trade and commerce within the Darebin; and
- Ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council, including (but not limited) to the:
 - a) Construction and maintenance of public infrastructure assets;
 - b) Development and provision of health, environmental and community services; and
 - c) Provision of economic development and general support services.

Use and Level of Differential Rate:

The money raised by the differential rate will be applied to the items of expenditure described in the Budget by Council. The level of the rate for land in this category is considered to provide for an appropriate contribution to Council's budgeted expenditure, having regard to the characteristics of the land.

Types and Classes:

The types and classes of rateable land within this differential rate are those having the relevant characteristics described in subparagraph 3.3.6 above.

Use of Land:

The use of the land within this differential rate is, in the case of improved land, any use of land creating the relevant characteristics described in subparagraph 3.3.6 above.

Geographic Location:

The geographic location of the land within this differential rate is land wherever located within the municipal district, without reference to ward boundaries.

Planning Scheme Zoning:

The land affected by this rate is that which is in any zone where retail development is permitted by the Darebin Planning Scheme and which displays the characteristics described in subparagraph 3.3.6 above.

Types of Buildings:

The types of buildings on the land within this differential rate are all buildings which are now constructed on the land or which are constructed prior to the expiry of the 2015/2016 Financial Year.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORT**INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

The Darebin City Council Proposed Budget for the 2015/2016 year was received at a Meeting of Council on Thursday, 7 May 2015.

Subsequent to that meeting, public notice of the proposed adoption of the Budget, in accordance with section 129 of the Act, was given in the 'The Age' newspaper on 11 May 2015 with copies in 'Preston Leader' and the 'Northcote Leader' on 13 May 2015.

The Proposed Budget was made available for inspection at all Council's Customer Service Centres and web site and written submissions were invited. Submissions closed on Tuesday 9 June 2015.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION**Rate increase**

The Proposed Budget for 2015/2016 includes a rate increase of 5.0%.

Proposed 2015/2016 Budget Highlights

The 2015/2016 Budget presents a financially sound budget that maintains all services from the previous year and proposes a number of new services or significant expansion of existing services. This budget is balanced and community focused. It seeks to maximise meeting multi-pronged community expectations within a modest rate increase of 5.0%.

The Proposed Budget provides \$33.88 million for the continued maintenance, upgrade and improvements to the City's infrastructure. The significant projects planned for 2015/2016 include:

- Darebin's regional Women's Sports / High Ball Facility. This is a \$12.4 million project commencing in 2015/2016 with \$1.5 million allocated to 2015/2016. State and Federal government support is being sought for this landmark project and it helps the City realise its visions for community wellbeing, sports participation (all ages) and active communities.
- Beautification of Darebin Projects: \$2.0 million allocated in 2015/2016 for multiple locations across the City, including Preston, Reservoir, Northland precinct and Northcote.
- Traffic, Transport and Road Safety. Strategic approach to traffic and transport solutions, education and community support initiatives across the City. \$3.32 million total allocation including \$1.5 million allocated to traffic management physical works.

- Energy efficient street lights program. Commenced in 2014/2015 and ongoing in 2015/2016 to upgrading to LED lights across the city. Total cost \$4.35 million with \$1.85 million Commonwealth funding received. \$1.132 million allocated to 2015/2016.
- Community safety initiatives. Broad range of programs and initiatives to ensure community safety across the City.
- \$800,000 for shopping strip infrastructure and business support. This project, started by Council as a major capital initiative two years ago, will provide for upgrade and economic development improvements works in shopping strips throughout the municipality to support local business. Works include renewal of damaged infrastructure, installation of new items like bill poster bollards, signage and branding as well as an intensive cleaning of footpaths and rubbish bins.

Other significant initiatives that we will be focussing on in 2015/2016 include:

- Grade separations across the Bell Street and Preston Central precincts, and at Reservoir. This State led project has significant input from Council. We are continuing advocacy and supporting works for these programs for this circa \$500 million project value.
- Ongoing focus on employment and jobs growth.
- Seeking resolution on city wide planning controls and zones from the State government, including the commencement of a pilot inclusionary zoning project in Darebin for social and affordable housing, and
- Extension to the very popular and beneficial Solar Saver program with an allocation of \$1.00 million to install solar panels to ratepayer homes.

The Budget meets the challenge for the City to have a balanced budget; with no borrowings, and to keep the City of Darebin in a position of long-term financial sustainability.

A key focus in the Budget is the liveability of the City. Again in responding to our community consultations and Darebin Community Satisfaction Survey outcomes, funding has been allocated to liveability by cleaning up graffiti, reducing dumped rubbish, upgrading streetscapes around retail centres, activating vacant shops, improving on-road cycling and the safety and connections of our footpaths, planting over 1,500 trees including avenue planting of trees along a number of main streets with an focus on the north of the municipality and improving safety by clearing trees around electricity lines. Planning issues continue to be a major concern for Council with funding allocated to the Northland Urban Renewal precinct, Junction Urban Master Plan, implementing the new residential zones and consideration of a new Developer Contribution Plan.

Council's call for submissions to our *Local Solutions to Local Issues* program received close to 50 community submissions which have informed the drafting of the budget. The Proposed Budget includes \$0.55 million allocated for 2015/2016 to address many of the issues raised. This budget focuses on achieving the Council's vision – *Darebin, the place to live* and the priorities set out in the draft Council Plan 2013-2017. The Council Plan has a strong focus on ensuring fairness, equity, transparency and accountability in the decisions we make which is particularly relevant to the way Council raises income and allocates expenditure. The principle of fairness has guided the way we have decided to fund the many services Council delivers and the community assets we maintain and upgrade.

Over \$90 million has been allocated to deliver a wide range of Council services. This includes home support for aged residents and those with a disability, programs for young people and families, waste and recycling collection, operating four libraries across the City, a

range of arts, cultural and leisure events and programs and many more services set out in this budget report.

Council is continually mindful of our ageing population. The Council-funded rate rebate of \$130 – on top of the existing State Government pensioner concession – this has increased to \$150. This will help ease the rate burden for over 12,000 pensioner property owners in Darebin.

Darebin is a leader in many areas of service delivery and this budget proposes a number of new initiatives and maintenance of existing high levels of service in the following, well received, areas as shown below:

- Environment in excess of \$4.1 million, including the installation of energy efficient street lighting;
- Economic development approximately \$1.3 million;
- Library services in excess of \$6.0 million; and
- Aged and disability services in excess of \$17.0 million.

The Proposed Budget also provides \$33.88 million for the continued upgrade and improvements to the City's property, plant and equipment and infrastructure assets. The budget of \$33.98 million includes \$7.16 million for major maintenance on capital assets, and \$3.01 million for projects carried forward from 2014/15. Infrastructure includes roads, bridges, footpaths and cycleways, drainage, recreation, leisure and community facilities, parks, open space and streetscapes, off street car parks and other structures.

The significant projects planned for 2015/2016 include

- \$5.01 million will be expended on roads projects. The more significant projects include local road reconstructions (\$0.38 million), federally funded Roads to Recovery projects (\$1.23 million), road resurfacing (\$2.37 million), Traffic signal maintenance and upgrades (\$0.23 million), and other road asset renewals and maintenance (\$0.84 million).
- \$3.32million will be expended on transport and road safety projects. The more significant projects include Traffic management (\$1.50 million), Safe crossing at Merri Parade (\$0.23 million), replacing inefficient 80W Mercury Vapour streetlights with energy efficient globes (\$1.14 million) and other transport and road safety projects (\$0.46 million).
- \$0.45 million will be expended on bridges. The more significant projects include replacement of the Scott Grove footbridge (\$0.37 million)
- \$2.25 million will be expended on footpaths and cycleway. The more significant projects include footpath renewals (\$0.80 million), shared paths in parks (\$0.50 million), St Georges Rd shared path improvements (\$0.21 million) and various other cycling and walking initiatives (\$0.74 million).
- \$1.11 million will be expended on drainage projects throughout the municipality.
- \$0.57 million will be expended on recreation, leisure and community facilities. The more significant projects include upgrade of sporting practice nets and fencing upgrades (\$0.31 million).
- \$7.45 million will be expended on parks, open space and streetscapes. The more significant projects include city wide beautification projects (\$2.00 million), play space upgrades and replacements (\$0.65 million), upgrades and renewal of infrastructure in shopping centres (\$0.80 million), Batman Park master plan (\$0.40 million), Donath & Dole Reserves master plan (\$0.35 million), pocket parks renewal (\$0.18 million), parks asset renewal (\$0.20 million), implementation of the Darebin urban forest strategy (\$0.20 million) and other open space projects including green streets tree planting

- (\$0.55 million), dog signage in parks (\$0.20 million), installation of warm season turf (\$0.22 million) and upgrade of sports field drainage (\$0.48 million).
- \$5.27 million will be expended on building and building improvement projects. The more significant projects include a Women's sport facility and high ball stadium (\$1.50 million), pavilion upgrades (\$0.38 million), East Preston neighbourhood house (\$0.77 million) and conservation works at Northcote Town Hall (\$0.59 million)
 - \$5.16 million will be expended on plant, equipment and other projects including the ongoing cyclical replacement of the plant and vehicle fleet (\$2.00 million), upgrade and replacement of information technology (\$1.59 million), library materials purchases (\$0.73 million) including the purchase of books, audio visual, magazines, newspapers and online/e-resources in languages other than English, replacement of mobile garbage bins (\$0.22 million) and various furniture, plant and equipment (\$0.62 million).

Submissions

Forty-two written submissions were received in response to the advertised Proposed 2015/2016 Budget.

These were as follows:

	Submitter	Issue
1	Jeanne Cooper	Lighting at AH Capp and WH Robinson Reserves
2	Alberta Gunner	
3	Julia Chiera	
4	Alex Reynolds	
5	Maria Caruso	
6	Jasmine Hirst	
7	Martin Boyle	
8	Louise Potter	
9	Emily Campbell	
10	Darcy Vescio	
11	Danielle Moore	
12	Sophie Boyden	
13	Lauren Datson	
14	Rebecca Mayo	
15	Jade Stevens	
16	David Nolan	
17	Sarah Dowling	
18	Harriet Radermacher	
19	Leesa Mereos	
20	AFL Victoria	
21	Darebin Women's Sports Club	
22	Women's Health in the North	
23	Darebin Greens	-Lighting at AH Capp and WH Robinson Reserves -Expansion of the Solar \$aver
24	Meredith Isakson	Off lead dog park – All Nations Park
25	Margarita Munoz	Stop light at Miller Street and Heidelberg Road
26	Kate Picker	Off lead dog park – Bundoora Park
27	Tony Martello	Proposed Local Law against trailers on roads for longer than 24 hours
28	Merri Action Group	-Support of cycling initiatives included in the proposed budget -Traffic calming initiatives and 40km/h speed limit
29	Jordan Andrews	East Preston Senior Citizens Centre upgrade
30	Larissa Nicholls	Support of cycling initiatives and energy efficient street lights
31	Narelle Phelan	Clean up the North
32	Louisa Mercuri	Speed hump – Elm Street Splitter island – Elm Street Kerb outstand or extension – Elm Street
33	Mike Flattley	-Safer crossing at Merri Parade to Green Memorial Reserve and Kunda Lat Bike Bridge -Prevention of large trucks entering Merri Parade -Bicycle and pedestrian overpass over Merri Parade
34	Tanya Wolkenberg	
35	James Thyer	
36	Janna Hilbrink	
37	Christos Symeonides	
38	Darebin Community Legal Centre (DCLC)	Family violence - community safety initiative

	Submitter	Issue
39	Carla Moss	Dog Park – Cheddar Road median strip
40	Darebin Environmental Reference Group (DERG)	Support of projects that provide excellent environmental outcomes
41	Cameron Taylor	Reservoir Streetscape Master Plan
42	Chris Erlandsen	Environmental and sustainability policies

Copies of the forty-two submissions were circulated separately to Councillors for consideration.

The following submitters appeared before a meeting of Council's Hearing of Submissions Committee on 11 June 2015 to be heard in support of their written submissions:

- (1) Julia Chiera on behalf of the Darebin Women's Sports Club
- (2) Nina Crawley on behalf of Darebin Greens
- (3) Narelle Phelan
- (4) Tanya Wolkenberg
- (5) James Thyer
- (6) Maria Georgiou on behalf of Darebin Community Legal Centre
- (7) Rebecca Burdon on behalf of the Merri Action Group

1 - 22: Lighting at AH Capp and WH Robinson Reserves

Synopsis of Submission

The submission received from Jeanne Cooper, Alberta Gunner, Julia, Chiera, Alex Reynolds, Maria Caruso, Jasmine Hirst, Martin Boyle, Louise Potter, Emily Campbell, Darcy Vescio, Danielle Moore, Sophie Boyden, Lauren Datson, Rebecca Mayo, Jade Stevens, David Nolan, Sarah Dowling, Harriet Radermacher, Leesa Mereos, AFL Victoria, Darebin Women's Sports Club and Women's Health in the North requests Council fund a lighting upgrade at AH Capp and WH Robinson Reserves, Preston.

Comments on Submission:

The benefits of this project include the flexibility to extend use and scheduling of the reserves, and during the winter months allowing approximately 30 additional hours of use per week. Council is required to fund 75% of the budget for the project, a significant level of funding from Council in order to secure less than 20% of state grant funding. No changes are recommended to the 2015/2016 budget arising from this submission.

23: Flemming Lebech, Darebin Greens

Synopsis of Submission:

The submission requests funding for a lighting upgrade at AH Capp and WH Robinson Reserves, Preston and the expansion of the 2015/2016 Solar Saver program.

Comments on Submission:

Council has allocated \$1,000,000 in the 2015/2016 budget for the Solar Saver program. See comments above regarding AH Capp lighting.

No changes are recommended to the 2015/2016 budget arising from this submission.

24: Mererdith Isakson

Synopsis of Submission

The submission is requesting an off lead dog park at All Nations Park.

Comments on Submission:

Council is implementing an off lead dog park this financial year. This facility will be the first of its kind in Darebin and will serve as a test case for future works. All Nations Park will be the subject of some upgrade works in 2015/2016 and these works need to be completed before considering additional features in the park.

No changes are recommended to the 2015/2016 budget arising from this submission.

25: Margarita Munoz

Synopsis of Submission:

The submission requests the installation of a stop light at the juncture of Miller Street and Heidelberg Road.

Comments on Submission:

Pedestrian operated signals are a major traffic control item and would require VicRoads approval and must be installed in accordance with VicRoads standards and warrants. An existing crossing exists less than 100m away and an additional crossing has been proposed as part of the upcoming AMCOR site development.

No changes are recommended to the 2015/2016 budget arising from this submission.

26: Kate Picker

Synopsis of Submission:

The submission is requesting an off lead dog park at Bundoora Park.

Comments on Submission:

An off lead dog park will be constructed and before the end of June. Community consultation will determine where it is located. Bundoora Park is one of three locations for consideration.

No changes are recommended to the 2015/2016 budget arising from this submission.

27: Tony Martello

Synopsis of Submission

The submission requests Council remove the proposed Local Law against trailers on roads for longer than 24 hours.

Comments on Submission:

At the council meeting on 1 June 2015 the provision was removed from the proposed Local Law.

No changes are recommended to the 2015/2016 budget arising from this submission.

28: Meg Montague, Merri Action Group*Synopsis of Submission*

The submission supports cycling initiatives included in the proposed budget and requests traffic calming measures and 40km/h speed limits in the Merri residential pocket east of the South Morang railway line.

Comments on Submission:

Council thanks Ms Montague for her support of cycling initiatives. The traffic calming/speed limit proposal requires further review. An initial assessment suggests that 85th percentile speeds are already around 40km/h or below. This precinct could be eligible for speed changes with the construction of a splitter island at Barry St and installation of speed zone signage. Council is currently developing a Traffic Management Strategy to prioritise neighbourhood precincts for local area traffic management projects and this will be considered as part of that process.

No changes are recommended to the 2015/2016 budget arising from this submission

29: Jordan Andrews*Synopsis of Submission*

The submission requests Council to upgrade the East Preston Senior Citizens Centre.

Comments on Submission:

The building is dated and in need of a major refurbishment, with multi-year funding required. Funds were not available in the proposed 2015/2016 capital works budget, however a budget application will be made for 2016/2017 to fund these works. Council will continue to provide maintenance works to the building as required.

No changes are recommended to the 2015/2016 budget arising from this submission

30: Larissa Nicholls*Synopsis of Submission*

The submission supports cycling initiatives and energy efficient street lights.

Comments on Submission:

Funding is currently included in the 2015/2016 proposed budget and Council thanks Ms Nicholls for her support of these initiatives.

No changes are recommended to the 2015/2016 budget arising from this submission.

31: Narelle Phelan*Synopsis of Submission*

The submission requests Council to clean up the North from graffiti.

Comments on Submission:

Council has a funded Graffiti Management Strategy. Last year \$250,000 was allocated to undertake a city wide clean up that removed approximately 25% of graffiti. \$185,000 is included in the 2015/2016 proposed budget. Council is restricted by the Graffiti Management Act in relation to the removal of graffiti from private property, however Council has initiatives in place to support private property owners with rapid removal of graffiti. The Graffiti Management Strategy includes a range of actions such as support for private property owners, annual priority hotspot clean-ups and a subsidised street art program to prevent illegal tagging.

No changes are recommended to the 2015/2016 budget arising from this submission.

32: Louisa Mercuri*Synopsis of Submission*

The submission requests Council to install a speed hump, splitter island and kerb outstand on Elm Street, Northcote.

Comments on Submission:

Recent traffic data indicates that traffic volumes and speeds are within the acceptable range for a 'local road'. The speed of traffic was recorded at approximately 40.1km/h with an average speed of 33.4km/h. The suggested treatments are not suitable for heavy vehicle access such as rubbish trucks, emergency vehicles, etc. and it is noted that there is a factory in operation in Elm Street. Council is currently developing a Traffic Management Strategy that will provide a framework and assessment criteria to carry out extensive studies of the traffic conditions in particular areas and Elm Street will be considered when that area is studied.

No changes are recommended to the 2015/2016 budget arising from this submission

33 - 37: Safer crossing at Merri Parade*Synopsis of Submission*

The submission received from Mike Flattley, Tany Wolkenberg, James Thyer, Janna Hilbrink and Christos Symeonides request Safer crossing at Merri Parade to Green Memorial Reserve and Kunda Lat Bike Bridge, prevention of large trucks entering Merri Parade and constructing a bicycle and pedestrian overpass over Merri parade.

Comments on Submission:

\$230,000 has been included as an externally funded project in the proposed budget for the signalised crossing of Merri Parade but the project going ahead is dependent on grant funding. Signage could be installed to warn trucks not to enter Merri Parade/ Westgarth Street. Construction of an overpass is unlikely to be supported by VicTrack and Metro.

The structure would most likely need to be freestanding with the challenging aspect to create the grades required for a Disability Discrimination Act compliant structure on the north side of Merri Parade. Council will investigate relevant funding opportunities.

No changes are recommended to the 2015/2016 budget arising from this submission.

38: Maria Georgiou, Darebin Community Legal Centre (DCLC)

Synopsis of Submission

The submission seeks funding to implement a family violence prevention project that focuses on preventing family violence by supporting four groups of women from CALD communities.

Comments on Submission:

This initiative strongly aligns with Council's priorities in the Preventing Violence Against Women Action Plan, Health and Wellbeing Plan and Council Plan, which acknowledges that family violence in CALD communities is a significant issue. DCLC is a key member of the Darebin family violence service system and is well placed to advance work in this space. DCLC's proposed project is commended, however the \$138K in the 2015/2016 budget is already specifically allocated to preventing violence against women initiatives, including development of a resource for faith leaders which will assist in reaching CALD audiences.

No changes are recommended to the 2015/2016 budget arising from this submission.

39: Carla Moss

Synopsis of Submission

The submission is requesting a dog park at Cheddar Road median strip, Reservoir.

Comments on Submission:

Cheddar Road median strip is owned and managed by Melbourne Water. Council does not have authority to conduct works in this space. Council is implementing a fenced-in dog park in the north of Darebin in July 2015. Its location will be determined through community consultation.

No changes are recommended to the 2015/2016 budget arising from this submission

40: Darebin Environmental Reference Group (DERG)

Synopsis of Submission

The submission congratulates Council on the proposed 2015/2016 budget and the funding provided to support environmental outcomes.

Comments on Submission:

Council thanks DERG for their comments and looks forward to continuing working with DERG.

No changes are recommended to the 2015/2016 budget arising from this submission

41: Cameron Taylor*Synopsis of Submission*

The submission requests specific funding be allocated to implement the actions contained in the Reservoir Streetscape Master Plan (2014).

Comments on Submission:

\$1,250,000 has been included in the proposed budget for projects within the Reservoir Streetscape Master Plan area.

No changes are recommended to the 2015/2016 budget arising from this submission.

42: Chris Erlandsen*Synopsis of Submission*

The submission comments on Council's environmental and sustainable management policies in relation to planning.

Comments on Submission:

Council through Amendment C138 prepared a municipal wide strategy that addresses the issues raised in this submission. There was extensive consultation and Council's strategy has been reviewed by an independent planning panel and given support on how these various issues are addressed. The independent ruling on Council's municipal strategy confirms that the balance between facilitating development and delivering acceptable environmental outcomes will be achieved and that Council's position is fair and reasonable. There are no budget implications to this submission.

No changes are recommended to the 2015/2016 budget arising from this submission.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The 2015/2016 Proposed Budget has been prepared to give financial effect in the coming year to the objectives set out in the proposed Council Plan 2013-2017 and Strategic Resource Plan.

Environmental Sustainability

The 2015/2016 Proposed Budget continues Council's funding of environmental operations in a range of areas including waste collection and recycling services, street cleaning, litter collection, park and sporting field maintenance and improvements in the context of drought, water-saving and energy efficiency measures.

Funding has also been included to enhance Council's active work with the community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The Council Plan 2013-2017 contains a number of policy directions specifically designed to reflect Council's commitment to social inclusion and diversity, and the proposed Budget has been prepared in this context.

Social inclusion, fairness and equity have been key principles in Council determining how to raise income and allocate expenditure to fund the many services it delivers and infrastructure it maintains and upgrades.

Council has proposed to increase the rate rebate provided to over 12,000 eligible Darebin pensioners from \$130 to \$150 and free animal registration of one cat or dog for eligible pensioners.

Economic Development

The 2015/2016 Proposed Budget includes approximately \$1.8 million for Economic Development. Economic development activities proposed for 2015/2016 include emerging Latrobe National Employment Cluster Partnership and Framework planning and Business Development and Employment Plan, Preston Junction Urban renewal project, Green Business Expo and maintenance of Wifi in retail strips, activation of vacant shops, working with local trader and business associations to help them improve business performance, and with neighbouring municipalities to develop and implement regional economic growth.

Other

The proposed budget is prepared in the context of key principles in the Council's Strategic Resource Plan that underpin long term financial planning. These principles are:

- Maintenance of the scope and standard of ongoing services provided to the Darebin community and a flexibility to address changing community needs with innovative services and facilities.
- A focus on renewing community assets such as roads, footpaths, open space and buildings to ensure they are maintained at an appropriate standard to meet required service levels.
- Generation of sufficient ongoing income to fund Council services and capital works commitments over the longer term.
- Holding of sufficient cash and other assets in order to meet Council's payment obligations to suppliers and employees.

In addition the Proposed Budget's preparation reflects the principles of Council's Charter of Good Governance:

- Transparency.
- Accountability.
- Equity and Inclusion.
- Effectiveness and Efficiency.
- Community Engagement.
- Ethical Decision Making.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

All matters raised in this report which have a financial implication have been reflected in the 2015/2016 Budget.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council adopt the attached Budget 2015/2016, and declare the rates for the 2015/2016 Financial Year and that public notice be given of the decision in accordance with the Act.

This Budget was developed through a rigorous process of consultation and review and Council endorses the delivery of community outcomes while delivering a fiscally prudent, responsible and financially sustainable budget.

No changes are recommended to the 2015/2016 budget arising from the forty-two submissions received.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Following adoption of the final 2015/2016 Budget, the following actions are required:

- Advise the submitters of Council's decision in relation to the 2015/2016 Budget and the reasons for the decision.
- Give public notice of adoption of the 2015/2016 Budget
- Make a copy of the 2015/2016 Budget available for inspection by the public at Darebin Civic Centre, Customer Service Centres and Council's website.
- Submit a copy of the 2015/2016 Budget to the Minister for Local Government.
- Forward rate notices for 2015/2016.

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

- Council Minutes - 4 and 7 May 2015
- Hearing of Submission Minutes - 11 June 2015

Lauren Close, Acting Manager Corporate Governance and Performance temporarily left the meeting during discussion of the above item at 7.43 pm and returned at 7.45 pm

Cr. Williams temporarily left the meeting during discussion of the above item at 7.48 pm and returned at 7.50 pm.

Katia Croce, Coordinator Council Business temporarily left the meeting during discussion of the above item at 8.20 pm and returned at 8.23 pm.

Cr. Walsh temporarily left the meeting during discussion of the above item at 8.28 pm and returned at 8.29 pm.

Jody Brodribb, Council Business and Governance Officer temporarily left the meeting during discussion of the above item at 8.42 pm and returned at 8.44 pm.

Lauren Close, Acting Manager Corporate Governance and Performance temporarily left the meeting during discussion of the above item at 10.23 pm and returned at 10.26 pm.

Cr. Vilella temporarily left the meeting during discussion of the above item at 10.25 pm and returned at 10.28 pm.

Cr. Williams temporarily left the meeting during discussion of the above item at 10.29 pm and returned at 10.31 pm.

Cr. Walsh temporarily left the meeting during discussion of the above item at 10.30 pm and returned at 10.31 pm.

**4.3 STRATEGIC RESOURCE PLAN 2015 – 2019: REVISION
FOLLOWING ADOPTION OF PROPOSED BUDGET
2015/2016**

MINUTE NO. 340

AUTHOR: Interim Chief Financial Officer

REVIEWED BY: Acting Director Corporate and Planning Services

Reference:

SUMMARY:

On 4 May 2015, Council adopted its Strategic Resource Plan for the period 2015 to 2019, subsequently, on 7 May 2015 Council reviewed and resolved on its proposed Budget for the 2015/2016 Financial year.

As the budget for the 2015/2016 year is the first year of the Strategic Resource Plan the Council also, on 7 May 2015, directed that the previously adopted Strategic Resource Plan be revised to reflect the proposed Budget.

This report re-presents the Strategic Resource Plan 2015-2019 and recommends that Council adopt it as its Strategic Resource Plan 2015-2019 and that it forms part of its Council Plan 2013-2017.

The Strategic Resource Plan supports and is consistent with the Council strategic and policy objectives contained in the 2013 – 2017 Council Plan.

The *Local Government Act* ("the Act") 1989 requires that Councils review and adopt a Strategic Resource Plan not later than 30 June each year. The Strategic Resource Plan outlines the resources required to achieve the strategic objectives articulated in the Council Plan and its format and contents are governed by section 126 of the Act.

CONSULTATION:

Governance and Corporate Performance Manager

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT:

- (1) Council adopt the Strategic Resource Plan 2015-2019 (**Appendix A**) as its Strategic Resource Plan for the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2019.
- (2) Council adjust the Council Plan 2013-2017 by replacing the existing Strategic Resource Plan with the Strategic Resource Plan 2015-2019 (**Appendix A**).

- (3) Council make the Strategic Resource Plan 2015/2019 available to the public at its Customer Service Centres and on its website.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORT

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Council Plan 2013-2017 was adopted in June 2013, which included the Strategic Resource Plan (SRP) for 2013-2017. Each year, when the annual budget is prepared it is prudent to review the SRP.

That review has been carried out in conjunction with the development of the City of Darebin 2015/2016 Proposed Budget, and has resulted in a new Strategic Resource Plan, for the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2019.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

The attached Strategic Resource Plan 2015-2019 (**Appendix A**) is consistent with the Council resolution on 7 May 2015 on the proposed 2015/2016 Budget.

In respect of the next four financial years the Strategic Resource Plan contains:

- The financial statements describing the required financial resources in the form and containing the information required by the Local Government (Finance and Planning) Regulations 2014.
- Statements describing the required non-financial resources, including human resources.

The Strategic Resource Plan assists Council in adopting a budget within a longer term prudent financial framework. The key objective of the Strategic Resource Plan is financial sustainability in the medium to long term, whilst still achieving the Council's strategic objectives as specified in the Council Plan. The Strategic Resource Plan has been updated through a rigorous process, using the current financial position as a base and factoring in assumptions regarding future increases in income and expenditure for each program and service provided by Council.

The table below provides a summary of the key financial objectives which underpin the Strategic Resource Plan and the outcomes of the Strategic Resource Plan in response to each of these objectives.

Strategic Resource Plan objective	Strategic Resource Plan outcomes
Maintain the scope and standard of ongoing services provided to the Darebin community and be flexible to address changing community needs with innovative services and facilities.	Service levels have been maintained throughout the four year period and a number of new initiatives have been included within the 2015/2016 year.

Strategic Resource Plan objective	Strategic Resource Plan outcomes
Focus on renewing community assets such as roads, footpaths, open space and buildings to ensure they are maintained at an appropriate standard to meet required service levels.	Capital Works funding over the four year period exceeds asset depreciation in each year.
Ensure that Council generates sufficient ongoing income to fund its services and capital works commitments over the longer term.	Operating surpluses have been achieved in each year of the Strategic Resource Plan. The rate increase percentage has been maintained at 5% across the 2015 to 2019 Strategic Resource Plan, which is consistent with the 2013 – 2017 Strategic Resource Plan adopted with the 2013 – 2017 Council Plan. *
Ensure Council holds sufficient cash and other assets in order to meet payment obligations to suppliers and employees.	Council's forecast liquidity ratios are in excess of 1.50.

**Note on rate increases contained in the SRP: Council has forecast rate increases in line with the adopted Council Plan; the forecast rate increase is 5% for the coming years. This quantum of increase has been used to model the resources required by Council to deliver its services to the community, and to provide the infrastructure so vital to our City. This approach has been taken in full understanding that it is the intention of the State Government to limit Council's capacity to raise revenues in future years by reference to CPI.*

However, Council is awaiting the outcomes of the Minister's report (to be undertaken by the Essential Services Commission) on the application and scope of such a limitation on revenue raising, and the assessed impacts on local government services and infrastructure of the Minister's proposal.

Consequently, and in the absence of specific details on the Minister's final proposal, Council is not in an informed position to undertake the essential discussions with our community on how the Council's adopted Council Plan, the related services and infrastructure developments, may best be revised in light of the Minister's final directions related to rate capping. The communities in the City of Darebin have a number of diverse, social and economic challenges. These factors may enable Council to receive exemptions from rate capping in order to continue to achieve the vision for Darebin to be "The Place to Live".

It is recommended Council replace the existing the Strategic Resource Plan with the attached Strategic Resource Plan 2015-2019 (**Appendix A**).

No changes have been made to the 2013 – 2017 Council Plan during the recent review of the Council Plan required under the Act. The Strategy Resource Plan supports and is consistent with the Council strategic and policy objectives contained in the 2013 – 2017 Council Plan.

Should there be any change to the City of Darebin Council Plan 2013-2017 then the Strategic Resource Plan may also require amendment to reflect the resource consequences.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Given the Strategic Resource Plan is published and distributed electronically in conjunction with Council's Annual Budget, the costs associated with any proposed adjustment are minor.

CONCLUSION

The Strategic Resource Plan 2015-2019 focuses on achieving the Council's vision – *Darebin, the place to live*, whilst being fiscally prudent and responsible.

The 2015-2019 Strategic Resource Plan achieves financial sustainability by adhering to the principles stated in the SRP and through a rigorous annual process of consultation and review.

The attached Strategic Resource Plan has been developed to be in accordance with the Local Government Best Practice Guide issued by Department of Transport, Planning and Local Government Infrastructure on preparing a 4 year strategic resource plan in accordance with the legislation.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- The proposed Strategic Resource Plan will be made available to the public on Council's website and at its Customer Service Centres.
- Should the public exhibition and consultation process associated with Council's Annual Budget necessitate material changes to the Strategic Resource Plan, these changes will be presented to Council in June 2015.

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 Director authorising 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

- Strategic Resource Plan 2015-2019 (**Appendix A**)
- Council Plan 2013-2017
- Budget 2015/2016

5. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 10.42 pm.