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AGENDA

Hearing of Submissions meeting to be held
at Darebin Civic Centre,
350 High Street Preston
on Thursday, 9 June 2016
at 7.00 pm.

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Agenda

1. MEMBERSHIP

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

2. APOLOGIES

3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

| |
|-----------------------|
| Recommendation |
|-----------------------|

THAT the Minutes of the Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting held on 15 March 2016 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

5. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

5.1 PROPOSED BUDGET 2016/2017

Author: Chief Financial Officer

Reviewed By: Director Corporate Services

Report Background

Council is required to adopt a Budget for each financial year. Prior to adopting the Budget in its final form, Council is required to place the Proposed Budget on public display inviting submission and then after considering all submissions Council can formally adopt a Budget for the financial year.

This report provides details of the submissions made on the Proposed 2016/2017 Budget.

Previous Council Resolution

At its meeting held on 2 May 2016, Council resolved:

'That any person who makes a written submission in relation to the proposed 2016/2017 Budget or in relation to the granting of a rate rebate to pensioners and requests to be heard in support of the written submission, be heard by Council's Hearing of Submissions Committee at a meeting to be held in the Council Chamber, Darebin Civic Centre, 350 High Street Preston at 7.00 pm on Thursday 9 June 2016.'

Previous Briefing(s)

- Councillor Workshop – Briefing 1: 12 December 2015
- Councillor Planning Weekend – Briefing 2: 5 March 2016
- Councillor Briefing 3: 31 March 2016
- Councillor Briefing 4: 18 April 2016
- Councillor Briefing 5: 26 April 2016

Council Plan Goal/Endorsed Strategy

Open and Accountable Democracy

Summary

At its meeting on 2 May 2016, Council resolved to give public notice of its intention to adopt the Proposed 2016/2017 Budget at a meeting of Council to be held on 27 June 2016.

Prior to adopting the Budget in its final form Council placed the Proposed Budget on public display inviting submissions by Friday 3 June 2016 with any person requesting to be heard in support of their written submission to be heard by Council's Hearing of Submissions Committee at 7.00pm on 9 June 2016.

Seventy-five submissions have been received including thirteen submitters requesting to be heard in support of their written submission.

The submissions in total are requesting an estimated additional \$3.35 million for capital works projects excluding purchase of Ruthven Primary School and Lakeside Secondary School and \$1.65 million for operating projects.

Following the Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting, a report in relation to all submissions received will be submitted for consideration at the meeting of the Council scheduled for 27 June 2016.

Recommendation

That Council officers prepare a report for the Council Meeting on 27 June 2016 addressing the written submissions received and verbal presentations heard in respect of the proposed budget 2016/2017.

Introduction

At its meeting on 2 May 2016, Council resolved to give public notice of its intention to adopt the Proposed 2016/2017 Budget at a meeting of Council to be held on 27 June 2016. Further notice has been given to adopt the Proposed 2016/2017 Budget at a meeting of Council to be held on 27 June 2016. A public notice was placed in The Age on 4 May 2016 with copies in the Northcote Leader and Preston Leader on 10 and 12 May respectively.

Those persons wishing to make a submission in relation to the Proposed 2016/2017 Budget were invited to do so by Friday 3 June 2016 with any person requesting to be heard in support of their written submission to be heard by Council's Hearing of Submissions Committee at 7.00pm on 9 June 2016.

Issues and Discussion

2016/2017 Proposed Budget

The 2016/2017 proposed budget is currently reporting an underlying surplus of \$6.71 million. Any amendment to the proposed budget based on the submissions would need to ensure that an underlying surplus is retained.

At the time of preparing this report (Monday 6 June 2016), seventy-five written submissions have been received in relation to the proposed Budget 2016/2017. The following sixteen submitters have requested to be heard in support of their written submissions:

- Jordan Andrews (resident) – Submission # 1
- Vance Duke (Queen Street Reservoir Residents) – Submission # 2
- Paddy McVeigh (PRACE) – Submission # 6
- Colleen Duggan (SPAN Community House) – Submission # 7
- James Allery (Vice President - Rosebank Cricket Club) – Submission # 10
- Freedom Preston-Clark (Darebin Information Volunteer and Resource Service (DIVRS)) – Submission # 12
- Lee O'Mahoney (animal rescue volunteer) – Submission # 21
- Kathleen Chapman (resident, Save Darebin Pets) – Submission # 25

- Jasmine Hirst (Darebin Women's Sports Club) – Submission # 30
- Elena Daxis (resident) - Submission # 44
- Natarajan Balakrishnan (resident) – Submission # 46
- Bruce Nedenbousch (resident) – Submission # 49
- Serena O'Meley (resident) – Submission # 52
- Kim Le Cerf (resident) – Submission # 66
- Susanne Newton (resident) – Submission # 68
- Stephanie Amir (resident) – Submission # 69

Copies of all submissions have been circulated separately to Councillors for their information.

Community Submissions

| # | Submitter | Issue | Budget Implication | Management Comment |
|----|------------------|--|--|---|
| 1 | Jordan Andrews | Upgrade or removal of East Preston Senior Citizens Centre, Donald Street, Preston | \$1,950,000 | The building is dated and in need of a major refurbishment. Funds not available in the Proposed 2016/17 Budget. |
| 2 | Vance Duke | Safety at Queen Street, Reservoir | \$100,000 | \$1,500,000 has been allocated to traffic management which would address this issue if identified as a priority |
| 3 | Rebecca Milnes | Pedestrian path and fencing to Dennis Station | Already in Proposed Budget (Year 1 – approvals and design) \$65,000 (Year 2 - delivery) | \$50,000 for approvals and design is included in the Walking Program within the Proposed Budget. Delivery funds will be applied for through the 2017/18 budget process. |
| 4 | Helen Jennings | Opposing Council's purchase of State Government land next to Merri Creek and Railway | No additional financial impact | Council has yet to make a decision on whether or not to purchase or lease this land from VicTrack. A report will be provided to Council in July 2016. |
| 5 | Alastair Jaffray | 1. Better design of public spaces – Murray Rd market area 2. St Georges Road bike and pedestrian safety | 1.Exact site unclear 2.Cost dependant on planning and development with State Government | 1. The Preston market and Woolworths area are both in private ownership and therefore not the responsibility of Council. Plenty Rd is subject to the Junction Urban Master Plan which will be implemented in the coming years. 2. \$600,000 has been included in the Proposed Budget for works on St Georges Rd. Further works are being negotiated through Melbourne Water. |
| 6 | Paddy McVeigh | Install 3 portables on vacant block 35 Sturdee Street, Reservoir | \$475,000 | Other projects identified as higher priority. Funds not available in the Proposed 2016/17 Budget. |
| 7 | Colleen Duggan | Acknowledge Council's commitment to Neighbourhood Houses | No additional financial impact | Noted |
| 8 | Chris Lombardo | | | |
| 9 | Gina Wittingslow | | | |
| 10 | James Allery | LE Cotchin Reserve: upgrade of cricket nets and centre wicket pitch | \$80,000 | Council has identified this as requiring an upgrade by 2019. Funds not available in the Proposed 2016/17 Budget but will be reconsidered for funding in 2017/18. |
| 11 | Penny Jamieson | In support of Darebin contribution towards Christmas decorations | No additional financial impact | Noted |

| # | Submitter | Issue | Budget Implication | Management Comment |
|----|-----------------------|--|--|--|
| 12 | Freedom Preston-Clark | Establishment of a casserole club program in Darebin | \$78,981 (Year 1) \$73,857 (Ongoing) | This is an innovative program that supports food security, nutrition and provides further opportunity for volunteering in Darebin, aligning to the 2013-17 Health and Wellbeing Plan and Council Plan Goal Three. The amount requested is substantial and well beyond what can be supported through the allocated 2016/17 food security budget of \$10,253. Consideration could be given to proving part funding and DIVRS absorbing some of the costs through the annual funding agreement of \$107,158 allocated for DIVRS in 2016/17. |
| 13 | Nell Thompson | Additional funding be allocated to preventative intake strategies for animals consisting of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> targeted desexing program provision of desexing vouchers to carers of cats who might otherwise be impounded | Additional \$30,000 to \$47,000 | \$50,000 was allocated and spent in 2015/16 and allowed un-owned and semi-owned cats to be desexed, vaccinated and flea/worm treated. Desexing cats reduces overall cat numbers and reduces the negative impact of cats. \$20,000 has been included in the Proposed Budget. |
| 14 | Rallou Lubitz | | | |
| 15 | Sarah Spencer | | | |
| 16 | Heather Carmichael | | | |
| 17 | Shannon Stacey | | | |
| 18 | Samantha Henry | | | |
| 19 | Sarah Davidson | | | |
| 20 | Josara de Lange | | | |
| 21 | Lee O'Mahoney | | | |
| 22 | Sonia Kretschmar | | | |
| 23 | Tess Cutler | | | |
| 24 | Douglas Sedunary | | | |
| 25 | Kathleen Chapman | | | |
| 26 | Jacob McGarry | | | |
| 27 | Lachlan Sedunary | | | |
| 28 | Marica Selpietro | | | |
| 29 | Jenny Morris | | | |

| # | Submitter | Issue | Budget Implication | Management Comment |
|----|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 30 | Aleisha Leonard | Upgrade of WH Robinsons reserve pavilion | \$200,000 (Year 1) \$900,000 (Year 2) | \$200,000 has been included in the Proposed Budget and \$900,000 in 2017/18 |
| 31 | Maurizio Tagliano | | | |
| 32 | Ken Griffin | | | |
| 33 | Martin and Veronica Pradel | | | |
| 34 | Sue Thornton | | | |
| 35 | Catherine Hill | | | |
| 36 | Rebecca Mayo | | | |
| 37 | Marina Colbasso | | | |
| 38 | Nick Mikropoulos | Opposing the purchase of the Ruthven School Site | No additional financial impact | Noted |
| 39 | Aldo Crupi | Purchase of Ruthven Primary School site | Cost unknown Valuation to be undertaken by the Valuer General | Previous analysis has shown that this land, or at least a portion of it, is required for municipal purposes to fill a gap in open space provision in the area. |
| 40 | Phyllis Vespucci | | | |
| 41 | John Cisternino | | | |
| 42 | Fiona Duncan | | | |
| 43 | Maria Longo | | | |
| 44 | Elena Dagis | | | |
| 45 | Robert Lapenta | | | |
| 46 | Natarajan Balakrishnan | | | |
| 47 | Jane Miller | | | |
| 48 | Gennarino and Giuseppina Cerminara | | | |
| 49 | Bruce and Maria Nedenbousch | | | |
| 50 | Brett Middleton | | | |
| 51 | Ranjit Singh | | | |
| 52 | Serena O'Meley | | | |

| # | Submitter | Issue | Budget Implication | Management Comment |
|----|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| 53 | Josip and Slava Kernjak | | | |
| 54 | Francesca and Giuseppe Risoli | | | |
| 55 | Angela Hung | | | |
| 56 | Darren Chetcuti | | | |
| 57 | Keith Coffey | | | |
| 58 | Peggy Chetcuti | | | |
| 59 | Adele Mach | | | |
| 60 | Mrs Davies | | | |
| 61 | Joe Disco | | | |
| 62 | Josie Iaria | | | |
| 63 | Chris Erlandsen | | | |
| 64 | Maria Poletti | Increase Statutory Planning budget to improve service and planning decisions | \$937,000 | Compared with other councils, Darebin measures well in terms of investment and general performance. Comments regarding information systems are understood and are identified as an opportunity for improvement. |
| 65 | Paul Dupes | Building sites on Prospect Hill Drive | No additional financial impact | The Building team are actively following this up with the land owners on building compliance. |
| 66 | Kim Le Cerf | Solar saver program | \$35,000 - plus staff resourcing and interest forgone over 10 year payback period | Uptake on the 2015/16 solar saver program has been slow and will continue to be implemented until November 2016. Due to time constraints and staff resourcing it is recommended (dependent on the programs review) to consider a program for the 2017/18 year. |
| 67 | Darebin Environmental Reference Group | Commend Council on its commitment to environmental programs | No additional financial impact | Noted |

| # | Submitter | Issue | Budget Implication | Management Comment |
|----|----------------|--|---|--|
| 68 | Susanne Newton | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase role and funding of Neighbourhood Houses 2. Expand the reach of the Active Spaces program 3. Lease or purchase of Ruthven Primary School site and Lakeside 4. Allocate funds for a common bond fund and temporary housing pilot project using unused apartments and houses for survivors/victims of family violence | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. \$32,000 3. 4. \$100,000 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A CPI increase of 2.5% has been applied to all neighbourhood houses effective in 2016/17. Further to this Alphington Community Centre has been increased to parity with other Houses. In addition to operational support, approximately \$200K has been allocated in the 2016/17 Draft capital budget for renewal works at Neighbourhood houses. This is complemented by the annual action plan between Council and network to expand and develop the role of Neighbourhood Houses in supporting the delivery of Council's goals 2. The current level of funding for Active Spaces is satisfactory and the results so far have been very good. Business Development does not have any additional funds to support the expansion of this program further 3. Comment regarding Ruthven site as above and Lakeside Secondary College site is subject to a Council report 4. This model has been piloted however has not succeeded. This model is not supported by community housing associations or the local emergency relief network without having some end point for these families. The Community Wellbeing team will continue to consider and where appropriate seek to implement findings of the Royal Commission into Family Violence (including consideration of housing options) through existing resources and State Government resources that may become available. |

| # | Submitter | Issue | Budget Implication | Management Comment |
|----|----------------|---|---|--|
| 69 | Stephanie Amir | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase financial commitment to the upgrade of clubrooms and change room facilities at WH Robinson Reserve 2. Signalised crossing at the <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. intersection of Bracken Ave and Miller St b. corner of High and Raglan St, Preston c. Signalised crossing at the corner of Victoria Rd and Clifton St, Richmond 3. Financial support for Mayer Park to <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Erect a mid-height fence for children safety b. Improve lighting to increase opportunities for evening training c. Tripping safety concerns due to hard and uneven surfaces d. Fund a proper playground at Mayer Park e. Continue funding for the Friends of Mayer Park-initiated outdoor cinema nights | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a.) \$280,000 b.) \$180,000 c.) \$180,000 3. TBA | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Upgrade of WH Robinson reserve same as above 2. Significant investment has been made (or will be made shortly) in all three of these locations to implement pedestrian refuges to improve pedestrian safety. Whilst these locations are important pedestrian links, there are a number of other locations that require pedestrian improvements that would generate greater benefit from this funding than these sites. |

Organisational Submissions

| # | Issue | Budget Implication | Management Comment |
|----|--|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 69 | Victorian Grants Commission – estimate to be received for 2016/17 is less than previous preliminary recommendation | \$258,535 | Update budget |
| 70 | Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre – change to business model to outsource catering | \$138,115 | Update budget |
| 71 | Merrilands Community Centre replacement of 13 tables and 175 chairs (as per tabling of petition re Merrilands Community Centre update tables and chairs 7 March 2016) | \$9,000 (tables) \$26,250 (chairs) | Update budget |
| 72 | Reduce fuel budget based on a review of recent trend analysis | \$46,856 savings | Update budget |
| 73 | Increase in subscription costs to SAI Global Standards advised after Proposed Budget finalised | \$1,851 | Update budget |
| 74 | Specialist consultant to provide a comprehensive, strategically driven report to assess asset use, the financial and community satisfaction with their individual performance/service, and consider future options (as per Notice of Motion No. 280 re Working Towards Long Term Financial Sustainability Options for Council Asset Use) | \$100,000 | Update budget |
| 75 | <p>Changes to fees and charges</p> <p>Reservoir Community and Learning Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crockery (cup/saucer/spoon, side plate, glass) \$2/person • Tea/coffee/sugar/mil \$2.50/person • Tea/coffee/sugar/milk and biscuits \$3/person <p>Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tennis only membership joining fee – was left blank, should be \$69 • Room hire (section omitted in error) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Occasional care room \$77.25 ○ Programme Room 2 \$44.10 ○ Group Fitness Studio \$119.50 ○ Birthday party flat fee \$156.55 ○ Birthday party additional instructor \$91.70 ○ Group fitness studio \$119.50 ○ Birthday party room \$51.50 | No additional financial impact | Update fees and charges schedule |

Options for Consideration

Council can either agree to include all, some or none of the submissions made to the Proposed 2016/2017 Budget.

Financial and Resource Implications

No changes have been made to the proposed budget arising from these submissions. The submissions in total are requesting an estimated additional \$3.35 million for capital works projects excluding purchase of Ruthven Primary School and Lakeside Secondary School and \$1.65 million for operating projects.

Risk Management

If Council does not give due consider to the budget submissions, the risk will be that the community may see Council as not taking the submissions process seriously.

If Council agrees to fund any given submission and Council cannot deliver, it raises community expectations which Council cannot meet.

Policy Implications

Economic Development

The 2016/2017 Proposed Budget includes approximately \$1.2 million for economic development activities including the Green Business Expo, continuing the rollout of WiFi in retail strips, activation of vacant shops, working with local trader and business associations to help them improve business performance to develop and implement regional economic growth.

Environmental Sustainability

The 2016/2017 Proposed Budget continues Council's funding of environmental operations in a range of areas including waste collection, recycling services, street cleaning, litter collection, park and sporting field maintenance and improvements in the context of drought, water-saving and energy efficiency measures.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The Proposed Budget has been prepared using key principles of social inclusion, fairness and equity. These principles determine how Council proposes to raise income and allocate expenditure to fund services and infrastructure.

Over 11,000 eligible Darebin pensioners will receive Council's \$150 rate rebate and one free animal registration.

Other

There are no other factors which impact on this report.

Future Actions

Following the Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting, a report in relation to all submissions received will be submitted for consideration at the meeting of the Council scheduled for

- 27 June 2016 – for the adoption of the 2016/2017 Budget.

The report will include a management response to the issues raised in the submissions.

Consultation and Advocacy

- Budget Managers
- Managers
- Directors
- Public

Related Documents

- Council Minutes 2 May 2016
- Public Advertisement in The Age on 14 May 2016

Disclosure of Interest

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.

6. CLOSE OF MEETING

