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AGENDA

Special Council Meeting to be held
at Darebin Civic Centre,
350 High Street Preston
on Monday, 8 May 2017
at 5.00pm.

Public question time will
commence shortly after 5.00pm.

Table of Contents

Item Number		Page Number
1.	MEMBERSHIP	1
2.	APOLOGIES	1
3.	DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST	1
4.	CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS	2
4.1	DRAFT BUDGET REFERRALS 2017/2018	2
4.2	2017/18 PROPOSED BUDGET: APPROVAL TO PLACE ON PUBLIC DISPLAY	5
4.3	DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2021	10
5.	CLOSE OF MEETING.....	14

Agenda

1. MEMBERSHIP

Cr. Kim Le Cerf (Mayor) (Chairperson)

Cr. Steph Amir

Cr. Gaetano Greco (Deputy Mayor)

Cr. Tim Laurence

Cr. Trent McCarthy

Cr. Lina Messina

Cr. Susanne Newton

Cr. Susan Rennie

Cr. Julie Williams

2. APOLOGIES

3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

4.1 DRAFT BUDGET REFERRALS 2017/2018

Author: Council Business and Governance Officer

Reviewed By: Director Civic Governance and Compliance

Report Background

This report provides an opportunity for Councillors to disclose any conflicts of interest in relation to the 2017/2018 Proposed Budget.

Previous Council Resolution

This matter is not the subject of a previous Council resolution.

Previous Briefing(s)

This matter has not previously been to a Councillor briefing.

Council Plan Goal/Endorsed Strategy

Not applicable

Summary

Funding is included in the Proposed Budget 2017/2018 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 activities 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 Proposed Budget 2017/2018.

Recommendation

That:

- (1) The Mayor invites Councillors to disclose any conflicts of interest in relation to adoption of the 2017/2018 Proposed 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 2017/2018 Proposed Budget.
-

Introduction

In developing the 2017/2018 Proposed 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* (the Act) provides a mechanism for Councillors to vote on a budget, without compromising their position by being in a position of clear conflict.

The Act 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 of the Act and apply to the Council to be exempted from voting.

Issues and Discussion

At the meeting, the Mayor will invite Councillors to disclose any items contained in the Proposed Budget 2017/2018 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 individually and 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 Proposed Budget 2017/2018.

Options for Consideration

Nil

Financial and Resource Implications

Nil

Risk Management

Nil

Policy Implications

Economic Development

Nil

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.

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.

Future Actions

Council to consider the Proposed Budget 2017/2018

Consultation and Advocacy

Nil

Related Documents

- *Local Government Act 1989*

Attachments

Nil

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.

4.2 2017/18 PROPOSED BUDGET: APPROVAL TO PLACE ON PUBLIC DISPLAY**Author:** Chief Financial Officer**Reviewed By:** Director Corporate Services

Report Background

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

This report proposes that Council approve the Proposed Budget for 2017/2018 for public display and invite submissions.

Previous Council Resolution

This matter is not the subject of a previous Council resolution.

Previous Briefing(s)

- Councillor Briefing – 16 December 2016
- Councillor Briefing – 2 February 2017
- Councillor Briefing – 16 February 2017
- Councillor Briefing – 16 March 2017
- Councillor Briefing – 30 March 2017
- Councillor Briefing – 20 April 2017

Council Plan Goal/Endorsed Strategy

- Goal 6 - Open and Accountable Democracy

Summary

The Council must prepare a Budget for each financial year. The Council must ensure that the Budget contains the information specified in the *Local Government Act 1989* (“the Act”) and all details required by the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 (“the Regulations”).

As soon as practicable after the Council has prepared a Budget it must give Public Notice. Any person has the right to make a submission under section 223 of the Act on any proposal contained in the Budget. Following the completion of the statutory obligations, Council may adopt the Budget.

The Act prescribes that Council must adopt its final budget by 30 June each year. This report presents the 2017/2018 Proposed Budget and recommends that public notice be given in accordance with the Act.

Recommendation

That Council adopts the proposed 2017/2018 Budget for the purposes of public consultation and that:

- (1) Public Notice be given in accordance with sections 129 and 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* of Council's intention to adopt, at a Council meeting proposed to be held at 6.00 pm on Monday 22 June 2017, the proposed 2017/2018 Budget (**Appendix A**) presented to this meeting.
 - (2) Public Notice be given in accordance with sections 169 and 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* of Council's intention to grant, at a Council meeting proposed to be held at 6.00 pm on Monday 22 June 2017, a rate rebate to pensioners in the 2017/2018 year 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*.
 - (3) Any person who makes a written submission in relation to the proposed 2017/2018 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 6.00 pm on Thursday 16 June 2017.
-

Introduction

Council must prepare a Budget for each financial year. The Act together with the Regulations, stipulate the information to be included in the budget and form of those disclosures.

The Proposed Budget shown in **Appendix A** has been reviewed and is considered to satisfy all statutory requirements.

Following Council's approval for the public display of the Proposed Budget, Council must give Public Notice and provide a 28 day period for submissions to be lodged. Any person has the right to make a submission under section 223 of the Act on any proposal contained in the Proposed Budget.

It is proposed that submissions will close on Thursday 8 June 2017 at 5:00 pm, with a meeting of the Council's Hearing of Submissions Committee to be held in the Council Chamber, Darebin Civic Centre, 350 High Street Preston at 7.00 pm on Thursday 16 June 2017 to hear those submitters who wish to be heard in support of their submissions.

Following the consideration of any submissions received, Council is then required to formally adopt the final Budget for 2017/2018.

The Act prescribes that Council must adopt its final budget by 30 June each year. This report presents the proposed 2017/2018 Budget and recommends that public notice be given in accordance with the Act.

It is proposed that the Council hold a Council meeting on the 22 June 2017 at which the Budget for 2017/2018 is formally adopted.

Issues and Discussion

Council has prepared a Budget for 2017/2018 which is aligned to the vision in the draft Council Plan 2017-21. It seeks to maintain services and infrastructure as well as deliver projects and services that are valued by our community, and do this within the rate increase mandated by the State Government.

The proposed 2017/2018 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.
- 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 and other assets in order to meet Council's payment obligations to suppliers and employees.

This Budget projects a surplus of \$13.22 million for 2017/2018, however, it should be noted that the adjusted underlying result is a surplus of \$5.40 million after adjusting for capital grants and contributions.

The proposed 2017/2018 Budget presents a financially sound budget that maintains all services from the previous year. This budget is balanced and community focused. The average rate will rise by 2.0% in line with the order by the Minister for Local Government on 16 December 2016 under the Fair Go Rates System.

Key drivers of the proposed 2017/2018 Budget:

1. To fund ongoing service delivery – business as usual (balanced with greater service demands from residents).
2. To fund renewal of infrastructure and community assets.
3. To allow for the forecast growth in the population of Darebin residents.
4. To cover cost shifting from the State and Federal Governments.
5. To cover a reduction in funding from the Commonwealth Government via the Victoria Grants Commission.

The Victorian State Government has introduced a new model budget which includes mandatory sections. The proposed 2017/2018 Budget adheres to the model budget for 2017/2018.

Options for Consideration

1. Adopt the proposed 2017/2018 Budget for consultation as attached. This is the recommended option.
2. Adopt the proposed 2017/2018 Budget for consultation as attached with amendment.

Financial and Resource Implications

All matters raised in this report which have a financial implication have been reflected in the proposed 2017/2018 Budget.

Risk Management

The proposed 2017/2018 Budget has been prepared in the context of minimising and mitigating the risks associated with Council's delivery of services and infrastructure to the community.

Policy Implications

Economic Development

Economic development activities proposed for 2017/2018 include 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.

Environmental Sustainability

The draft Council Plan 2017-2021 contains a number of policy directions specifically designed to reflect Council's commitment to environment sustainability and the proposed 2017/2018 Budget has been prepared in this context.

The proposed 2017/2018 Budget includes funding for the establishment of an energy foundation, the establishment of a nature trust to enhance Council's active work with the community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and 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.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The draft Council Plan 2017-2021 contains a number of policy directions specifically designed to reflect Council's commitment to social inclusion and diversity, and the proposed 2017/2018 Budget has been prepared in this context.

Other

The proposed 2017/2018 Budget has been prepared to give financial effect in the coming year to the objectives set out in the draft Council Plan 2017-2021 and Strategic Resource Plan 2017- 2021.

Future Actions

- Advertising of the proposed 2017/2018 Budget in The Age of 10 May 2017, with Northcote and Preston Leader newspapers advertisement to appear in the following week.
- Two community information sessions will be held in the Darebin Civic Centre, 350 High Street Preston at:
 - 10.00 am on 16 May 2017
 - 6.30 pm on 18 May 2017.

- The closing date for submissions in relation to the Budget is Thursday 8 June 2017 at 5:00 pm.
- The Hearing of Submissions Committee will meet at 7:00 pm on Thursday 15 June 2017 in the Darebin Council Chamber, 350 High Street Preston to hear any submitters who, in their written submission, request to be heard in support of their submission in relation to the Budget
- Adoption of the 2017/2018 Budget in its final form at a Council meeting on 22 June 2017.

Consultation and Advocacy

- Councillors
- Executive management, managers and coordinators

Related Documents

- Draft Council Plan 2017-2021
- Strategic Resource Plan 2017-2021

Attachments

- Proposed Darebin City Council Budget 2017/18 (**Appendix A**)

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.

4.3 DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2021**Author:** Coordinator Council Plan and Performance**Reviewed By:** Director Civic Governance and Compliance

Report Background

The 'Council' is required by the *Local Government Act 1989* ('the Act') to prepare a Council Plan ('the Plan'). The Act requires that the Plan contain the strategic objectives of Council, strategies for achieving those objectives and measures to monitor the achievement of those objectives. Further, the Council Plan is required to include a Strategic Resource Plan containing, among other things, a series of standard financial statements.

Following the development of a Council Plan, Councils are required to publish a public notice of the right to make a submission in relation to the adoption of a Council Plan, and of the right to appear at (or be represented at) a meeting in support of that submission.

This report presents the proposed City of Darebin 2017-2021 Council Plan and recommends that a public notice be given in accordance with the Act.

Previous Council Resolution

This matter is not the subject of a previous Council resolution.

Previous Briefing(s)

Councillor Briefing – 6 and 27 March and 26 April 2017

Council Plan Goal/Endorsed Strategy

Goal 6 - Open and Accountable Democracy

Strategy 6.1 Good Governance

Summary

After extensive consultation with residents, businesses and other stakeholders, Council has developed a proposed Council Plan where it outlines the priorities and vision that will guide its four term. The City of Darebin faces a number of challenges in the coming years and the Council Plan sets out how council will address them. For the first time at Darebin, there is also an Action Plan that sets out in more detail how the objectives of the Council Plan will be achieved.

It is recommended that the proposed Council Plan, Action Plan and associated Strategic Resource Plan be placed on public exhibition according to section 223 of the Local Government Act. Responses to the proposed plan will be heard at a Hearing of Submissions on 15 June 2017.

Recommendation

That Council formally adopt the draft Council Plan 2017-2021 (**Appendix A**), the Action Plan 2017-2018 (**Appendix B**) and the Strategic Resource Plan (**Appendix C**) and place it on public exhibition for a period of 28 days in accordance with sections 125 and 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Introduction

Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1989 ('the Act') requires that the Darebin City Council prepare and approve a Council Plan. The Act prescribes a number of matters that must be included in the plan, and provides a right for interested parties to make a submission to Council ahead of its adoption.

Issues and Discussion

Darebin City Council launched its Council Plan consultation program in mid-2016, and began an extensive engagement process to develop a new Council Plan that would remain relevant for Council's four year term of office.

The Vision 'A greener, bolder, more connected city' and the Mission 'To preserve and improve the physical, social, environmental and economic health of our neighbourhoods, and ensure quality of life for current and future generations' were developed following an extensive program of community and stakeholder engagement and further consultation with Councillors and Advisory Committees.

In addition to an analysis of a range of customer, staff and resident satisfaction surveys, the Council Plan consultation program involved:

1. Councillor and community workshops,
2. A business survey,
3. An online community portal that allowed for interactive discussion,
4. A survey of community organisations and other stakeholders,
5. A promotion to Sporting Clubs,
6. A series of 'listening posts' at various festivals and events, and,
7. A series of staff workshops and one-on-one discussions to examine the specifics of implementing the Council Plan's strategic objectives.

The attached proposed 2017-2021 Council Plan (**Appendix A**) builds on the results of the consultation program and includes;

- a Vision and Mission for Council,
- the key challenges for Council in the future,
- Six Goals (referred to in the Act as the strategic objectives)
- A series of strategic indicators relating to each of the goals

The attached proposed Council Plan Action Plan 2017-2018 (**Appendix B**) specifies in more detail how the objectives of the Council Plan will be achieved.

The attached proposed Strategic Resource Plan (**Appendix C**) has been prepared for a four year period to guide the setting of future budgets including the 2017-2018 Annual Budget.

When adopted, the Council Plan and the Strategic Resource Plan together will form the Council Plan for the City of Darebin as required by section 125 of the Act.

Options for Consideration

The legislative requirements for public exhibition invite respondents to forward their feedback online or in the mail. Respondents are also invited to make a verbal presentation in support of their written suggestions. All feedback will be presented to Council at the Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting on 15 June 2017.

Financial and Resource Implications

The Council Plan will take the form of both an online website and a small paper summary document. The estimated cost for the production of the plan for distribution to all staff and the provision of suitable quantities made available to the public is approximately \$30,000. Provision for this amount has been included as part of the 2016/2017 Council Plan and Performance Unit's operational budget.

Risk Management

If the Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan are not adopted by Council by the due date, then under Section 125(6) of the Act, the state government must be notified and details of the failure must be displayed in council's Annual Report.

Policy Implications

Economic Development

The draft Council Plan has a specific goal that addresses council's commitment to support and attract local businesses and industries.

Environmental Sustainability

The draft Council Plan has a specific goal that acknowledges that there is a climate emergency and outlines the strategies that are planned to mitigate its effects and reduce its causes.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The needs and inclusion of groups identified in the Equity and Inclusion policy such as; disadvantaged individuals and communities including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, refugees, people with little or no English, isolated and elderly people, people with disabilities, homeless people, and people living in poverty, have been considered in the development of the Council Plan.

Other

The proposed 2017-2021 Council Plan is a statement of Council's policy direction across all areas of operation. Following its adoption, it will influence the development of all future Council policy, and will inform Council's decision-making on an ongoing basis.

The proposed Strategic Resource Plan 2017-2021 outlines the principles used to underpin Council's long-term financial planning.

Future Actions

- The closing date for submissions in relation to the Council Plan is 5pm, Wednesday, 7 June 2017
- The Hearing of Submissions Committee will hear any submitter who requests to be heard in support of their written submission in relation to the Council Plan on Thursday, 15 June 2017.

Consultation and Advocacy

- This proposed 2017-2021 Council Plan has been developed following an extensive consultation program, which consisted of a number of elements designed to engage different parts of the Darebin community in the process. The process received a wide response from the Darebin community, with nearly 1,000 people providing a response of some kind. The consultation process is discussed in more detail in the body of this report.

The Council staff and external organisations were:

- Executive Management Team, all Managers and all other staff through intra-organisational workshops
- External organisations including schools, businesses, sports clubs, children and health services, and Centrelink

Related Documents

- *Local Government Act 1989*

Attachments

- Draft Council Plan 2017-2021 (**Appendix A**)
- Draft Action Plan 2017-2018 (**Appendix B**)
- Draft Strategic Resource Plan (**Appendix C**)

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.

5. CLOSE OF MEETING