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to live

AGENDA

Special Council Meeting to be held at
Darebin Civic Centre,
350 High Street Preston
on Friday 27 March 2020 at 4pm.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITIES IN DAREBIN

Darebin City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land we now call Darebin and pays respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

Council pays respect to all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Darebin.

Council recognises, and pays tribute to, the diverse culture, resilience and heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We acknowledge the leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and the right to self-determination in the spirit of mutual understanding and respect.



English

This is the Agenda for the Council Meeting. For assistance with any of the agenda items, please telephone 8470 8888.

Arabic

هذا هو جدول أعمال اجتماع المجلس. للحصول على المساعدة في أي من بنود جدول الأعمال، يرجى الاتصال بالهاتف 8470 8888.

Chinese

这是市议会会议议程。如需协助了解任何议项，请致电8470 8888。

Greek

Αυτή είναι η Ημερήσια Διάταξη για τη συνεδρίαση του Δημοτικού Συμβουλίου. Για βοήθεια με οποιαδήποτε θέματα της ημερήσιας διάταξης, παρακαλείστε να καλέσετε το 8470 8888.

Hindi

यह काउंसिल की बैठक के लिए एजेंडा है। एजेंडा के किसी भी आइटम में सहायता के लिए, कृपया 8470 8888 पर टेलीफोन करें।

Italian

Questo è l'ordine del giorno della riunione del Comune. Per assistenza con qualsiasi punto all'ordine del giorno, si prega di chiamare il numero 8470 8888.

Macedonian

Ова е Дневниот ред за состанокот на Општинскиот одбор. За помош во врска со која и да било точка од дневниот ред, ве молиме телефонирајте на 8470 8888.

Nepali

यो परिषद्को बैठकको एजेन्डा हो। एजेन्डाका कुनै पनि वस्तुसम्बन्धी सहायताका लागि कृपया 8470 8888 मा कल गर्नुहोस्।

Punjabi

ਇਹ ਕੌਂਸਲ ਦੀ ਮੀਟਿੰਗ ਵਾਸਤੇ ਏਜੰਡਾ ਹੈ। ਏਜੰਡੇ ਦੀਆਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਆਈਟਮਾਂ ਸੰਬੰਧੀ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਵਾਸਤੇ, ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 8470 8888 ਨੂੰ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

Somali

Kani waa Ajandaha Kulanka Golaha. Caawimada mid kasta oo ka mid ah qodobada laga wada hadlay, fadlan la xiriir 8470 8888.

Spanish

Este es el Orden del día de la Reunión del Concejo. Para recibir ayuda acerca de algún tema del orden del día, llame al teléfono 8470 8888.

Urdu

یہ کاؤنسل کی میٹنگ کا ایجنڈا ہے۔ ایجنڈے کے کسی بھی حصے کے بارے میں مدد کے لیے براہ مہربانی 8470 8888 پر فون کریں۔

Vietnamese

Đây là Chương trình Nghị sự phiên họp Hội đồng Thành phố. Muốn có người trợ giúp mình về bất kỳ mục nào trong chương trình nghị sự, xin quý vị gọi điện thoại số 8470 8888.

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Agenda

1. MEMBERSHIP

Cr. Susan Rennie (Mayor) (Chairperson)

Cr. Susanne Newton (Deputy Mayor)

Cr. Steph Amir

Cr. Gaetano Greco

Cr. Tim Laurence

Cr. Kim Le Cerf

Cr. Trent McCarthy

Cr. Lina Messina

Cr. Julie Williams

2. APOLOGIES

3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

4. NOTICE OF MEETING

Due to the urgent and extraordinary circumstances associated with the need for Council to consider this matter the Council has not fully complied with Section 89(4) of the Local Government Act 1989 regarding the giving of at least 7 days public notice of this meeting.

These urgent and extraordinary circumstances relate to the importance of Council endorsing as soon as practical a report from Officers on the City of Darebin COVID 19 Community and Business Resilience and Recovery Package, a report on a COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy and a report on changes to the Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer to ensure the continued good governance and operations of Council.

Pursuant to Section 89(4A)(a) Council has given as much notice as was practical including notification on its webpage www.darebin.vic.gov.au and via its social media channels

Pursuant to Section 89(4A)(b) this explanation will be recorded in the minutes of this meeting.

5. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

5.1 INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER - AMENDMENT TO RESPOND TO EMERGENCIES AND / OR EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Author: Coordinator Governance, Council Business & Civic Services

Reviewed By: Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is presented to seek Council approval to amend the delegation from Council to the Chief Executive Officer to enable broader delegations in the event of an emergency and/or extraordinary circumstances.

Considering the recent developments with COVID-19 these changes are deemed necessary and reasonable to continue the good governance and operations of Council.

Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Endorse and execute the 'Instrument of Delegation by the Council to the Chief Executive Officer' as provided as **Attachment A**.
-

BACKGROUND

The current Instrument of Delegation from Council to the Chief Executive Officer was adopted by Council on 18 September 2017. This delegation is based on the standard model delegation that many Council use and delegates to the Chief Executive Officer all the duties, powers and functions of Council subject to a series of limitations.

It is through an amendment to this delegation that Council can provide the Chief Executive Officer with the additional authority to be able to make decisions (normally made by Council) in emergencies and extraordinary circumstances.

Previous Council Resolution

In addition to the resolution of Council on 18 September 2017 when this Instrument of Delegation was adopted by Council, at its most recent Council Meeting on the 16 March 2020 the following resolution was adopted by Council.

That Council:

Temporarily increase the financial delegation of the Chief Executive Officer from \$500,000 to \$1M including awarding a contract for the purchase of goods and services or for the carrying out of works not exceeding the value of \$1M (including GST) to be used only in the event that Council is unable to meet because of circumstances related to the COVID19 pandemic subject to;

- *The expenditure being included in budget.*
- *Compliance with the provisions of the Local Government Act and Council procurement policy and practices.*
- *Receive a report at the next available Council meeting on the use of the temporary delegations.*

This resolution has been incorporated into the amended Instrument of Delegation presented for endorsement with a notation stating that this resolution will be redundant to the extent that the financial delegation to the CEO will be unlimited if Council endorses the amended delegation.

ANALYSIS

Alignment to Council Plan / Council policy

Goal 6 - A well governed Council

Environmental Sustainability Considerations

There are no environmental sustainability implications arising from the preparation of this report

Climate Emergency

There are no climate emergency implications arising from the preparation of this report

Equity, Inclusion and Wellbeing Considerations

There are no equity, inclusion and wellbeing implications arising from the preparation of this report

Cultural Considerations

There are no cultural implications arising from the preparation of this report

Economic Development Considerations

There are no economic development implications arising from the preparation of this report

Financial and Resource Implications

There are no financial and resource implications arising from the preparation of this report

Legal and Risk Implications

The Instrument of Delegation presented to Council has been developed by Councils Solicitors and is based on the model Instrument of Delegation used across the Local Government sector.

DISCUSSION

Section 98(1) of the Local Government Act provides that a Council may by instrument of delegation, delegate to a member of its staff, any power, duty or function of a Council under the Local Government Act or any other Act, subject to certain exclusions.

Given the potential implications on the community of COVID-19, there is a risk that several Darebin's Councillors may be unable to attend a Council or Planning Committee meeting due to illness or mandatory isolation. Should less than five Councillors be able to attend a meeting then it would lapse for want of a quorum and Council business would not be able to proceed. There is no provision in the Local Government Act that provides for Councillors to vote by proxy or participate electronically.

Given this risk, and considering the unique situation, it is desirable for Council to ensure business continuity by temporarily enhancing the current level of the Chief Executive Officer's delegated authority. To this end it is proposed to add a new section (shown under "*Part Two – Emergency Powers*" in **Appendix A** with track changes). These powers would give the authority to the Chief Executive Officer to make decisions in circumstances where a quorum cannot be formed, or the convening of a meeting represents in the view of the Chief Executive Officer an unacceptable risk to public health and safety and it is desirable not to defer a decision.

The additions proposed are modelled on changes made by the Cities of Yarra, Stonnington and Melbourne to their instruments of delegation adopted in recent weeks. It is not possible to establish a delegation where the Chief Executive Officer more formally polls Councillors and is bound by their decision, as such a process would be seen as an attempt to improperly convene a Council meeting and vote. Decisions made by delegates may be informed by the views of others, however the actual decision must be theirs and theirs alone and they cannot be directed in this decision-making.

It is important to note that the Act is explicit about those matters that cannot be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer. These are detailed in the Instrument of Delegation Schedule under condition and limitations.

Further, it is proposed that any decision made by the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to this Emergency Powers section will require the Chief Executive Officer to report the matter to the next available Council Meeting. This is consistent with the decision of Council at the 16 March 2020 Council Meeting regarding the temporary increase in the Chief Executive Officers financial delegation.

OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

As an alternative to adopting the attached amended Instrument of Delegation, Council may make alterations or include the addition of limitations or conditions subject to their legality.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Unless the Council is confronted with the circumstances contemplated by this report ie the inability of Council to achieve of quorum for its meetings and or the convening of a meeting representing in the view of the Chief Executive Officer an unacceptable risk to public health and safety, this delegation will not be utilised.

If these circumstances do eventuate the delegation may be used subject the specific conditions outlined in the Instrument of Delegation.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Nil

Attachments

- Instrument of Delegation to Chief Executive Officer from Council (**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.



S5 Instrument of Delegation to Chief Executive Officer

Darebin City Council

Instrument of Delegation

to

The Chief Executive Officer

Instrument of Delegation

In exercise of the power conferred by s 98(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989 (the Act)* and all other powers enabling it, Darebin City Council (**Council**) delegates to the member of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the position of Chief Executive Officer, the powers, duties and functions set out in the Schedule to this Instrument of Delegation,

AND declares that

- 1. this instrument of Delegation is authorised by a resolution of Council passed on ~~18 September 2017~~ 27 March 2020-
- 2. the delegation
 - 2.1 comes into force immediately the common seal of Council is affixed to this Instrument of Delegation;
 - 2.2 is subject to any conditions and limitations set out in the Schedule;
 - 2.3 must be exercised in accordance with any guidelines or policies which Council from time to time adopts; and
 - 2.4 remains in force until the Council resolves to vary or revoke it.
- 3. The member of Council staff occupying the position or title of, or acting in the position of, Chief Executive Officer may delegate to a member of Council staff any of the powers (other than the power of delegation conferred by section 98(3) of the Act or any other powers not capable of sub-delegation) which this Instrument of Delegation delegates to him or her.

DATED: 27 March 2020

The COMMON SEAL of)
 DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL)
 was affixed on)
 with the authority of the Council:)

Sue Wilkinson
Chief Executive Officer

SCHEDULE

The power to

1. determine any issue;
2. take any action; or
3. do any act or thing

arising out of or connected with any duty imposed, or function or power conferred on Council by or under any Act.

Part 1 Conditions and Limitations

The delegate must not determine the issue, take the action or do the act or thing:

4. If the issue, action, act or thing is an issue, action, act or thing which involves:
 - 4.1 awarding a contract for the purchase of goods and services or for the carrying out of works exceeding the value of \$500,000 (including GST) [\(See Note 1\)](#);
 - 4.2 awarding a contract for the purchase of goods and services or for the carrying out of works that has been requested through the Mayor to be determined by Council;
 - 4.3 making a local law under Part 5 of the Act;
 - 4.4 approval of the Council Plan under section 125 of the Act;
 - 4.5 adoption of the Strategic Resource Plan under section 126 of the Act
 - 4.6 preparation or adoption of the Budget or a Revised Budget under Part 6 of the Act;
 - 4.7 adoption of the Auditor's report, Financial Statements, Standard Statements and Performance Statement under Part 6 of the Act;
 - 4.8 determining pursuant to section 37 of the Act that an extraordinary vacancy on Council not be filled;
 - 4.9 exempting a member of a special committee who is not a Councillor from submitting a return under section 81 of the Act;
 - 4.10 appointment of Councillor or community delegates or representatives to external organisations; or
 - 4.11 the return of the general valuation and any supplementary valuations;
5. if the issue, action, act or thing is an issue, action, act or thing which is required by law to be done by Council resolution;
6. if the issue, action, act or thing is an issue, action or thing which Council has previously designated as an issue, action, act or thing which must be the subject of a Resolution of Council;
7. if the determining of the issue, taking of the action or doing of the act or thing would or would be likely to involve a decision which is inconsistent with a
 - 1.1 policy; or

1.2 strategy

adopted by Council; or

- 8. if the determining of the issue, the taking of the action or the doing of the act or thing cannot be the subject of a lawful delegation, whether on account of section 98(1)(a)-(f) (inclusive) of the Act or otherwise; or
- 9. the determining of the issue, the taking of the action or the doing of the act or thing is already the subject of an exclusive delegation to another member of Council staff.

Part 2 – Emergency Powers

10. Where a State of Emergency is in force after having been declared by the Premier of Victoria under the provisions of the Emergency Management Act 2013 and a quorum of Council or the Planning Committee cannot be formed or the convening of a meeting represents in the view of the Chief Executive Officer an unacceptable risk to public health and safety, the Chief Executive Officer may make any decision on any matter, (with the exception of those matter they are explicitly prevented from determining under the Act) as required to continue the good governance and operation of Council, which would normally be subject of a resolution of Council.

11. The Chief Executive Officer may only exercise the power as referred to in clause 10 if, they believe that the powers they are exercising are in the best interests of the City of Darebin

12. Any decision taken by the Chief Executive Officer under this Part is required to be subject of a report to the next available Council Meeting.

Note 1 – Council at its Ordinary Council Meeting on Monday 16th March 2020 considered a report from the Chief Executive Officer to temporarily increase the Chief Executive Officers financial delegation in the event that Council is unable to meet because of circumstances related to the COVID 19 pandemic to allow for business continuity.

The resolution of Council is as follows :

That Council:

Temporarily increase the financial delegation of the Chief Executive Officer from \$500,000 to \$1M including awarding a contract for the purchase of goods and services or for the carrying out of works not exceeding the value of \$1M (including GST) to be used only in the event that Council is unable to meet because of circumstances related to the COVID19 pandemic subject to:

- The expenditure being included in budget.
- Compliance with the provisions of the Local Government Act and Council procurement policy and practices.
- Receive a report at the next available Council meeting on the use of the temporary delegations.

Subject to Council endorsing the Part 2 Emergency Powers outlined in this Instrument of Delegation this resolution is redundant to the extent that the financial delegation would be unlimited.

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5.2 COVID-19 FINANCIAL HARDSHIP POLICY**Author:** Manager Finance**Reviewed By:** General Manager Governance and Engagement

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Financial Hardship Policy is to provide Council with a policy framework to provide financial relief to residents and businesses who may need assistance from the impacts of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

The policy aims to provide our residents and businesses with a clear and transparent understanding of options and assistance available if currently experiencing financial hardship due to the pandemic.

Recommendation

That Council adopts the COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy (refer **Attachment A**).

BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION

COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic on 11 March 2020 and a State of Emergency was declared in Victoria on 16 March 2020.

COVID-19 is a new virus that can cause an infection in people, including a severe respiratory illness and possible death. COVID-19 spreads through close contact with an infected person or contact with an infected surface.

In times of crises, it is important to remember that Council still requires cashflow to deliver critical services to the community, however, it is also recognised that the COVID-19 pandemic will cause significant financial hardship for some members of the community and Council can in certain circumstances, provide assistance.

Rates received from residents and businesses are a secure and reliable source of revenue that Council uses to deliver services to the community. It is important that Council maintains a strong financial position through periods of emergency and through this Policy, Council can support both the community and achieve financial obligations.

Previous Council Resolution

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

COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT**Consultation**

The Executive Management Team was consulted in the preparation of this report.

Communications

A detailed communications plan will be developed to ensure all stakeholders are aware of and can access the COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy. This will be done in conjunction with the Darebin City Council Community and Business Resilience and Recovery Package.

ANALYSIS

Alignment to Council Plan / Council policy

Goal 6 - A well governed Council

Environmental Sustainability Considerations

There are no environmental sustainability considerations arising from the preparation of this report.

Climate Emergency

There are no climate emergency implications arising from the preparation of this report.

Equity, Inclusion and Wellbeing Considerations

There are no equity, inclusion and wellbeing implications arising from the preparation of this report.

Cultural Considerations

There are no cultural implications arising from the preparation of this report.

Economic Development Considerations

There are no economic development considerations arising from the preparation of this report.

Financial and Resource Implications

Council is in a sound financial position. However, there will be impacts that need to be understood and managed.

The closure of Council's various facilities, changes to services and programs will affect the financial position through reduced revenue and increased expenses. The variation in timing of cashflow also needs to be managed so that payments can be processed as and when they fall due.

Opportunities to divert funding to the delivery of critical services will be the primary objective and where possible to manage within current financial settings.

In addition, not charging interest on debt outstanding will cost Council approximately \$200,000 in interest revenue per annum.

Legal and Risk Implications

There are no legal and risk implications arising from the preparation of this report.

DISCUSSION

- The Policy is to provide temporary financial relief to individuals and business who may need assistance.
- The current Rates Financial Hardship Policy only applies to residents - this policy applies to both residents and businesses.
- Encourages residents and businesses to setup a payment plan tailored to their needs and not charge interest.
- If a resident or business is unable to enter into a payment plan, Council will defer the debt accumulated during COVID-19 and will not charge interest on the debt from 29 February 2020 to 30 June 2021.

OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

That Council adopts the COVID-19 Hardship Policy.

This is the recommended option.

That Council does not adopt the COVID-19 Hardship Policy and maintains the current Financial Hardship Policy.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Details

Once adopted by Council, the Policy will be promoted using a variety of communication channels.

Communication

A full communication plan will be developed in the promotion of the COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy.

Timeline

The Policy will take effect retrospectively from 29 February 2020 to 30 June 2021 and will be reviewed when the State of Emergency is lifted or if Councils cashflow position is potentially compromised.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- City of Darebin's existing Rates Financial Hardship Policy

Attachments

- COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy (**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.



COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy

Responsible Business Unit:	Governance & Engagement
Responsible Author:	Manager Finance
Date Authorised by Council:	TBC
Effective Date:	TBC
Date to be Reviewed:	30 June 2021
Objective Document ID number:	A5471348

1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy is to provide Council with a policy framework to provide financial relief to residents and businesses who may need assistance from the impacts of the Coronavirus Pandemic. The policy aims to provide all of our ratepayers, businesses and sundry debtors with a clear and transparent understanding of options and assistance available if currently experiencing financial hardship due to the pandemic.

2 CONTEXT

The COVID-19 is a new virus that can cause an infection in people, including a severe respiratory illness. COVID-19 spreads through close contact and hold interest with an infected person, mostly via face to face contact.

COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic on 30 January 2020 and a State of Emergency was declared in Victoria on 16 March 2020.

Rates received from residents and businesses are a secure and reliable source of revenue that Council uses to deliver services to the community. In times of crises it is important to remember that Council still requires cashflow to deliver critical services to the community, however, it is also recognised that the COVID-19 pandemic will cause significant financial hardship for some members of the community and Council can in certain circumstances provide assistance.

2.1 Alignment

The policy aligns with the existing City of Darebin Rates Financial Hardship Policy.

2.2 Organisational Context

- *Local Government Act 1989/new LG Act*
- *City of Darebin Council Plan 2017-21*
- *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*

3 OBJECTIVES COVID-19 Hardship Policy

To provide direction to Council officers when collecting and providing for debts owed to Council and to ensure Council takes into consideration the financial hardship of sundry, residential, business and commercial debtors caused by COVID-19. Council will provide assistance to those in financial hardship in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*, while ensuring it does not jeopardise the funding of its operations.

The policy will be guided by the principles of transparency, efficiency, capacity to pay and equity by treating all debtors consistently and in a fair manner.

4 POLICY DETAILS

4.1 Financial Hardship

Financial hardship is a circumstance of experiencing a lack of financial means, which may be either ongoing or temporary. This policy is to address temporary financial hardship due to impacts of COVID-19. This policy will apply to sundry debtors, residents, business and commercial ratepayers in Darebin.

4.2 Payment plan and interest hold

The total deferral of all financial responsibilities due to an event can cause a secondary bout of financial stress when the event has concluded, and bills are owed. Council's aim is to provide assistance to sundry debtors, residents, business and commercial ratepayers through the COVID-19 event without creating additional financial stress when the pandemic has been resolved.

Council will encourage sundry debtors, residents, business and commercial ratepayers to set up a payment plan with Council tailored specifically to their needs, to reduce the amount of debt owing after the pandemic. Council will not charge interest on debt accumulated during the COVID-19 pandemic. The interest hold will begin from the 29 February 2020 until 30 June 2021 to allow ample time for the debt to be paid without interest. If any debt is still outstanding at 1 July 2021, Councils existing Rates Financial Hardship Policy will apply.

4.3 Rates and sundry debtors deferral and interest hold

If the sundry debtor, resident, business or commercial ratepayer is unable to enter into a payment plan, Council will defer the debt accumulated during the COVID-19 pandemic and will not charge interest on this debt from the 29 February 2020 until 30 June 2021 to allow ample time for the debt to be paid without interest. If any debt is still outstanding at 1 July 2021, Councils existing Rates Financial Hardship Policy will apply.

4.4 Debt recovery

Council will make a reasonable attempt to contact a resident or business about their overdue account. This may include a reminder letter, account statement, email or phone call.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Council will hold off on all legal action for the collection of sundry fees and rates and charges. This does not include legal action to recover the payment of fines.

The debtor will be liable for all legal costs incurred by Council in the debt collection process.

5 MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

Council officers will monitor Councils cashflow position and will include this report in the quarterly finance paper to Council.

This Policy will be reviewed when the State of Emergency is lifted or if Councils cashflow position is threatened to be compromised.

6 DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Council	City of Darebin, being a body corporate constituted as a municipal Council under the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i>
Debt	Debt is the amount (of money) owed by a debtor as a result of a transaction with Council.
Debtor	Debtor refers to the individual, organisation or other party that owes a debt as a result of a transaction with Council.
Ratepayer	Is the occupier of any rateable property who is liable to pay rates. This maybe the property owner or a tenant who under the lease agreement is liable to pay rates.

7 ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- City of Darebin Rates Financial Hardship Policy

5.3 DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL'S COVID-19 COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY PACKAGE

Author: General Manager Governance and Engagement

Reviewed By: Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Like the rest of Australia, and the world, the Darebin community is facing an unprecedented and potentially devastating challenge in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 will have a substantial impact on the social and economic health of our community, in particular those community members already experiencing disadvantage. Swift action is needed to minimise the negative impacts of the pandemic on the wellbeing of our community and on our local businesses, and to ensure that they are in the best position to recover.

In order to respond to this challenge, this paper sets out a proposal for Council to focus and reprioritise its resourcing, workplan and budgets to implement a COVID-19 Community and Business Resilience and Recovery Package (the Package). The Package seeks to:

- Mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the health and wellbeing of Darebin residents, in particular vulnerable community members and those already experiencing disadvantage.
- Provide immediate and ongoing support to our local businesses who are currently experiencing devastating levels of disruption and uncertainty.
- Advocacy for change at the State and Federal level that support the immediate recovery and long-term wellbeing of our community and local economy

In particular, the Package prioritises people already experiencing disadvantage and those who have emerging vulnerabilities and provides immediate and ongoing support to our local businesses.

Reflecting the Victoria State Government's State Relief Plan and the various Commonwealth and State measures for COVID-19, the proposal seeks to build on existing social and health networks to strengthen the ongoing reliance and capacity within the community. Council will work closely with and where possible seek to enhance the capacity of organisations already working with vulnerable community members.

Likewise, developing a program to support businesses, we have designed our proposals to complement existing services, policies and agencies such as Business Victoria and Federal and State Government economic stimulus packages. Wherever possible, the plan will enable businesses to articulate and define their own needs and ideas for support and recovery and act as the lead for delivery.

Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Notes that a range of activities aimed at supporting the community and local businesses respond to COVID-19 have commenced through reprioritisation of Council resources, workplan and budgets.

- (2) Notes that changes to services, programs and projects have been made, and will continue to be made, by the Chief Executive Officer to ensure critical service delivery and the safety of staff and the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- (3) Endorses the Darebin City Council's COVID-19 Community and Business Resilience and Recovery Package which totals approximately \$10 million (to be reflected in the 20/21 budget) and includes:
- a) a range of community and economic development programs (refer Attachment A) - estimated amount \$5.2 million which includes but not limited to:
 - the development of packages that deliver a range of additional small and medium scale grants that support community organisations to deliver initiatives which support recovery and wellbeing.
 - the waiver of footpath trading fees from 1 March 2020 to 30 June 2021.
 - the waiver of food and health registration renewal fees from 1 March to 30 June 2021.
 - the waiver of ground use lease fees for sporting clubs from 1 March 2020 to 31 December 2020.
 - the waiver of ground use charges for sporting clubs from 1 March 2020 to 31 December 2020.
 - freeze on all current fees related to licensees in our arts venues and community hubs.
 - The waiver of overdue library books/items until the libraries reopen.
 - b) waiver of interest accrued on late payment of rates for the period 29 February 2020 to 30 June 2021 for residential, business and commercial properties – estimated amount \$300K
 - c) where possible, the temporary reallocation of Darebin City Council's employees' responsibilities to support community resilience and recovery programs and projects – estimated value \$2.5M
 - d) allocation of funds to on-demand projects and initiatives yet to be developed but will be required during 2020-21 – estimate value \$2M
- (4) Notes that the Darebin City Council's COVID-19 Community and Business Resilience and Recovery Package costs will be included in the 20/21 Budget and met by reducing capital works expenditure to no more than \$33M (including the commencement of construction of the Multi-purpose Sports Stadium and the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre) to allow for a redirection of funds to support operational and strategic community recovery activities
- (5) Endorses a targeted COVID-19 Advocacy Strategy that includes the following three pillars:
- Pillar 1 – Community resilience
 - Support for vulnerable groups: Homeless people
 - Family violence, elder abuse and children at risk
 - Refugees and asylum seekers
 - Neighbourhood House coordination funding
 - Immediate expansion of CALD communications
 - Income support payments
 - Building capacity for community services

Pillar 2 – Financial hardship

- Mortgage and rent relief
- Fines Victoria – extension of pay period
- Rate Relief
- Economic stimulus, employment and business packages

Pillar 3 – Local Government sector

- Defer the 2020 Local Government Elections to 2021-22
 - Delay the implementation of the 2020 Local Government Act changes
 - No increase to Landfill levy
-

BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION

In response to the growing impact of COVID-19, the following action has been undertaken to prepare this Package:

- Review of the organisational workplan and budget
- Mapped what other government agencies and organisations are doing to respond to the pandemic
- Analysed any gaps in announced COVID-19 support programs
- Analysed the potential impacts on our community members, considering this from an equity perspective to consider the needs for those who are most vulnerable, and our local businesses
- Spoken to local stakeholders, community organisations, business associations, trader's associations and individual businesses
- Drafted an integrated and agile recovery program designed to support our community and businesses through the challenges ahead

Recognising the changing needs as a result of the impacts of the pandemic, the Package seeks to be a starting platform, flexible and able to respond and adapt as needed.

Previous Council Resolution

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

COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT**Consultation**

Nil

Communications

Nil

ANALYSIS

Alignment to Council Plan / Council policy

Goal 6 - A well governed Council

Environmental Sustainability Considerations

There are no environmental sustainability considerations arising from the preparation of this report.

Climate Emergency

There are no climate emergency implications arising from the preparation of this report.

Equity, Inclusion and Wellbeing Considerations

There are no equity, inclusion and wellbeing implications arising from the preparation of this report.

Cultural Considerations

There are no cultural implications arising from the preparation of this report.

Economic Development Considerations

There are no economic development implications arising from the preparation of this report.

Financial and Resource Implications

Council is in a sound financial position. However, the impact will be ongoing and changing as the effect of the pandemic is more clearly defined and analysed at both a global and local level.

The closure of Council's various facilities, changes to services and programs will affect the financial position through significantly reduced revenue and increased expenses. The variation in timing of cashflow also needs to be managed so that payments can be processed as and when they fall due.

Legal and Risk Implications

There are no legal and risk implications arising from the preparation of this report.

DISCUSSION

Phases for Response

The Package considers the response that will be needed in three phases:

1. Phase One – an immediate targeted response to the current crisis and support to those who need it most
2. Phase Two – strengthening communities and businesses to build recovery and stabilize

3. Phase Three – actions to create long term sustainable change for the benefit of community wellbeing and resilience

Principles

The response has been designed according to the following principles:

- Equity: Focus on those most in need taking account of emerging vulnerabilities
- Giving those affected – both individuals and businesses – a strong voice throughout in how we respond
- Being clear about our role – filling in the gaps between what Federal and State Government and local agencies are better placed to deliver
- Coordinating efforts and providing backbone support between partners, across sectors and across all levels of government
- Being agile to rapidly changing circumstances
- Being the voice for our community and businesses through advocacy as well as direct action

People / groups with vulnerabilities

Reflecting the Victoria State Government's State Relief Plan for COVID-19 and *Council's Towards Equality Framework* (in no particular order) and recognising that individuals and families may experience disadvantage that intersects across more than one of these categories and that there will be new cohorts of people experiencing this vulnerability for the first time:

- Older people, living alone without support
- Young families, especially single parent families
- Aboriginal community members
- International students
- Culturally, linguistically and religiously diverse people, migrants, asylum seekers and refugees
- People experiencing poverty, especially families or individuals on little or no income
- People with a disability or mental illness
- People experiencing or at risk of homelessness, especially women and children experiencing family violence

Focus areas for community

- Community Wellbeing and Resilience – initiatives to support the immediate social and physical wellbeing of vulnerable community members and build more connected, resilient and resourceful communities
- Creative Culture - strategies to ensure that the creative culture and arts sector is reactivated
- Advocacy – advocacy for change at the State and Federal level that support the immediate recovery and long-term wellbeing of our community

Focus areas for business

- Darebin registered businesses
- Micro, small and medium sized businesses
- Social enterprises
- Activities that enable businesses to keep trading, and to hold onto staff
- Activity centres

There will be a focus on advocacy across all community groups and business sectors.

Short term: Community

Key immediate activities to support community members include:

Emergency Relief Boost

Council will be the backbone to provide short term funding to increase and stabilise the food supply to existing emergency relief services and increase their capacity to respond to a growing client base, providing food vouchers, essential supply hampers and local pre- made meals.

Community Navigation Service

Council will establish a navigation service to support community members to ensure they are quickly and effectively linked to relevant community services, support and information.

Family Violence and Homelessness System Support

Council will provide short term funding or redeploy staff to support the local family violence, elder abuse and homelessness service systems to respond to the increased demand and complexity.

Creativity in Social Isolation contexts

Artist-led contactless and digital creative interventions and commissions that promote local creativity, social connection, collaboration and exchange using digital/online platforms.

Advocacy

Council will advocate for change required on a range of issues to ensure the continued response to the crisis and recovery phases. This will include increasing the job seeker allowance, reinstating Status Resolution Support Service for Asylum Seekers, increasing investment in family violence, homeless and affordable housing sector and supporting increased funding for our Neighbourhood Houses and Emergency Relief Sector.

Supporting our partners

Council will make a donation to the Inner North Community COVID-19 Fund. The fund will support Emergency relief vouchers for families to buy essentials from local traders, Rapid Response grants for charities, Pathways to Employment projects that support people in our community impacted by COVID-19.

Immediate Response: CommunityNew Grant Programs

Package and deliver a range of additional small and medium scale grants that support:

- Community organisations and groups to deliver initiatives which support recovery and wellbeing
- Sports clubs to restart activities after the shutdown period ends
- Creative organisations to restart the creative infrastructure and industry of Darebin

Culture On-line

Create an easy to use online platform that provides an opportunity for community to connect with these creative experiences and engages local artists to create the content.

Intermediate response: Local Business

Key immediate activities to support local businesses include:

One on One Support

Dedicated Business Support Line

Online Info Hub of links, referrals, case studies and resources

Counselling services

Business Strengthening

The setup of a Local Business Taskforce made up of local business leaders to define and lead the delivery of business support programs, with dedicated resources to make this happen

A series of free webinars for Darebin businesses featuring business experts to support businesses in reviewing business models, managing remote workforces and strengthening their online and/or delivery offer

A program of easy-to-access grants to enable businesses to make fast changes such as purchasing new IT equipment, training or legal advice, and to support creative industries and social enterprise

Fees and Charges Waivers

Waiving multiple fees and charges and changing restrictions on local laws to enable new business conditions, such as increased deliveries.

Freeze on all current fees related to licensees in our arts venues and community hubs.

Creative Development: Seeding and Commissions

Investment in small and medium creative initiatives that inspire and cultivate ideas into creative participatory projects for the future in the medium and long term. All artforms and multidisciplinary.

Advocacy

Ensuring the issues of local businesses are understood by Federal and State Governments so that they can reflect them in emerging programs.

Asking retail and business landlords to freeze rents for local businesses unable to operate.

Long term: Proposals for Strengthening and Recovery

Activities proposed for later stages will become clearer as the situation evolves, but are proposed at this stage to include:

- Financial support and capacity building for Not For Profit Arts Organisations that have had a forced closure or cessation of operation
- Ongoing support of volunteer-led social and community connection projects
- Redeployment of staff to focus of relief and recovery initiatives and secondment to support community organisations
- A 'We Love Our Mainstreets' program of targeted interventions to support local centres to spring back to life

It is noted that this is an exceptionally dynamic and uncertain period and there will be a need for continual review and recalibration of all activities to ensure Council's efforts are having the greatest impact possible.

The total estimated cost of the Package is approximately \$10 million. This includes the short term, immediate, intermediate and long term programs outlined above of \$5,169,000 - which includes \$4,556,000 direct cost and \$613,000 in-kind.

OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

The Council adopts all items included in the recommendation.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Communication

Once adopted by Council, the Community and Business Resilience and Recovery Package will be promoted using a variety of communication channels including online, social media, letterbox drop and localised print media.

Timeline

Implementation will commence immediately.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Nil

Attachments

- DCC COVID-19 Community and Business Resilience and Recovery Package – Community and Economic Development Program (**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.

Darebin City Council's COVID-19 Community and Business Resilience and Recovery Package

Community and Economic Development Program

Aim and objective

In light of the immediate and ongoing impact that the Covid-19 pandemic will have on the wellbeing of the Darebin community, the following Community and Business Resilience and Recovery Package (Package) is proposed. The Package seeks to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 on the wellbeing of Darebin residents, in particular vulnerable community members and those already experiencing disadvantage, and to provide immediate and ongoing support to our local businesses who are currently experiencing devastating levels of disruption and uncertainty.

Reflecting the Victoria State Government's State Relief Plan and the various Commonwealth and State measures for Covid-19, the proposal seeks to build on existing social and health networks to strengthen the ongoing reliance and capacity within the community. Council will work closely with and where possible seek to enhance the capacity of organisations already working with vulnerable community members.

In developing a program to support businesses, we have designed our proposals to complement existing services, policies and agencies such as Business Victoria and Federal and State Government economic stimulus packages, rather than duplicate their efforts. Wherever possible, we have sought to enable businesses to articulate and define their own needs and ideas for support and recovery and act as the lead for delivery.

Council's investment will seek to address gaps which will not be met by the current State and Federal support packages. Council will need to monitor the flow of this support and adapt as required, as further measures are announced. Uncertainty around Council levels of resourcing will also require an agility in planning and delivery of services over the next 6-18 months.

Any direct Council investments into the service system (which are not Council's core responsibility e.g. emergency relief, family violence, homelessness) are temporary measures only to support community recovery and are not designed to be an ongoing model.

People / groups with vulnerabilities

Reflecting the Victoria State Government's State Relief Plan for Covid-19 and *Council's Towards Equality Framework* (in no particular order and recognising that individuals and families may experience disadvantage that intersects across more than one of these categories and that there will be new cohorts of people experiencing this vulnerability for the first time):

- Older people, living alone without support
- Young families, especially single parent families
- Aboriginal community members
- International students
- Culturally, linguistically and religiously diverse people, migrants, asylum seekers and refugees
- People experiencing poverty, especially families or individuals on little or no income
- People with a disability or mental illness
- People experiencing or at risk of homelessness, especially women and children experiencing family violence

Focus areas for community

- Community Wellbeing and Resilience – initiatives to support the immediate social and physical wellbeing of vulnerable community members and build more connected, resilient and resourceful communities
- Creative Culture - strategies to ensure that the creative culture and arts sector is reactivated
- Advocacy – advocacy for change at the State and Federal level that support the immediate recovery and long-term wellbeing of our community

Focus areas for business

- Darebin registered businesses
- Micro, small and medium sized businesses
- Social enterprises
- Activities that enable businesses to keep trading, and to retain staff.

Budget Proposal

*indicates where employee temporary redeployment (alternative duties) opportunities exist.

Short Term					
Community Short Term: targeted action to respond to immediate need and crisis until end of June 2020					
Focus area	Initiative	Target community	Description	Estimated Budget required 19/20	Estimated Budget required 20/21
Community Wellbeing & Resilience	Emergency Relief Boost	People experiencing poverty, especially families or individuals on little or no income Older people, living alone without support Young families, especially single parent families Asylum seekers and refugees Aboriginal community members	Council to be the backbone and seek to increase and stabilise the food supply to existing critical emergency relief services and increase their capacity to respond to a growing client base. This includes the purchase and distribution of vouchers, dry goods, essential items and pre-made meals from local businesses to local emergency relief agencies and council services such as Aged and Disability and Family, Youth and Children Services.	\$150,000	\$150,000

Community Wellbeing & Resilience	Community Navigation Service	Community members who need information, support and referral	Utilising the Aged and Disability model, Council to establish a navigation service to support community members impacted by Covid-19 to ensure they are quickly and effectively referred and linked to relevant community services, support and information.	No additional cost*	No additional cost*
Community Wellbeing & Resilience	Library fines / late fees	Broad range of community groups / library users	Council to suspend fines / late fees for the Library services, with a more detailed position statement / policy to be developed.		
Community Wellbeing & Resilience	Social support programs	Broad range of community groups	Council will support the coordination and establishment of telephone outreach program in partnership with local organisations, which can then transition to an organisation / volunteer led service. This role would also focus on other initiatives which respond to social isolation, delivered through existing resources over the next 6-12 months. This will include linking local children with isolated older people – to read books (or have broader conversations) over the phone or via facetime – aim is to address social isolation and building generation connections.	No additional cost*	No additional cost*
Community Wellbeing & Resilience	Family Violence Service system support	Women and children Older people	Council will support the local family violence service system to respond to the expected increase in family violence and elder abuse within the community through the direct funding of local specialist services to employee additional case workers.	\$46,500- \$56,000*	\$186,000 - \$224,000*
Community Wellbeing & Resilience	Homelessness Assertive Outreach Increase	People experiencing homelessness, especially women and children experiencing family violence	Council will expand its contact with Merri Outreach Support Services (MOSS) to provide more support for community members at risk of or experiencing homelessness through outreach and case management.	\$46,500 - \$56,000*	\$186,000 - \$224,000*

		People with a disability or mental illness			
Community Wellbeing & Resilience	Inner North Foundation	Broad range of vulnerable community groups	Council will make a donation to the Inner North Community Covid-19 Fund. The fund will support Emergency relief vouchers for families to buy essentials from local traders, Rapid Response grants for charities, Pathways to Employment projects that support people in our community impacted by Covid-19.	\$50,000* + 28,000 in kind support	
Creative Culture	Creative Isolation	Broad range of vulnerable community groups, families with young children	Fast track and launch a suite of creative initiatives which families and children can participate in while at home in isolation, such as the Mayor’s writing awards for kids and online festival of works.	\$25,000	
Supporting local health care providers			Council to fund and act as a distribution point for the sourcing and distribution of 40,000 masks for local Medical and Health Care staff and services in Darebin.	\$5,000	
Community short term total required				\$230,000 - \$323,000	\$150,000 – \$522,000

Local Business Short Term: targeted action to respond to immediate need and crisis until end of June 2020					
Focus area	Initiative	Target community	Description	Estimated Budget required 19/20	Estimated Budget required 20/21
Business Strengthening Program	Local Business Taskforce	All Darebin businesses	To enable and empower Darebin business leaders to collaborate to define a recovery program for local businesses, support each other and jointly design and deliver campaigns over the coming months. Clear governance arrangements, roles and relationships would need to be established.	\$500,000	\$500,000

One on one support	Dedicated Business Support line for affected businesses	All businesses	Dedicated response for all queries and support. Proposed to provide a service for advice on business continuity planning, innovation and pivoting to redesign products and services to respond to changes in the operating environment and providing a compassionate ear Referral point for info on other support – provide information about grants - assist to find if businesses are eligible and understand requirements. To be reviewed in June	\$40,000*	\$40,000*
One on one support	Counselling sessions	All businesses	Expanding the reach of the EAP so that Darebin SME business owners can access it. Undertaken by professionals, this would be until suitable alternative arrangements or providers can be found. Reviewed in May.	\$20,000	\$10,000
Business Strengthening Program	Regular Webinar Series	All businesses	Regular sessions with experts - Darebin Panel of Industry Experts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving to remote working • Reimagining business services/innovation • Resilience and positive mental health • Employee issues • How to access Centrelink and other support mechanisms 	\$20,000	\$10,000
Business Strengthening Program	Resilience Grants Program	Microbusinesses (up to five employees and sole traders)	Small business grants program to enable home working, deliveries, online payments, modem/routers, training etc., whatever businesses need to strengthen their business in the current climate	\$50,000	
		Events/arts sector creative industries	Funding small projects to enable artists and event organisers to spread joy and hope within the community, either online or on the streets	\$10,000	
		Social Enterprises	Run as previous program to strengthen social enterprises or enable businesses to become social enterprises	\$10,000	\$40,000
Fees, Charges and Local Laws Waivers	Adapting local laws and parking requirements	Retail Centres	To allow for pickup and delivery of take away, esp for elderly and disabled.		
Total required				\$650,000	\$600,000

Short Term: Advocacy to respond to immediate need and crisis until end of June 2020				
Advocacy	Jobseeker Allowance Increase	Existing and new recipients	Council will advocate for a permanent increase to Jobseeker Allowance (formerly Newstart) payments as a vital measure to prevent more people from falling into poverty including advocacy for a universal basic income.	Within existing resources
Advocacy	Status Resolution Support Service reinstatement	Asylum Seekers Existing and new recipients	Council will continue to advocate against recent federal government changes to the eligibility criteria for the Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) for people seeking asylum to prevent them from falling into poverty.	
Advocacy	Housing and homelessness Advocacy	People experiencing or at risk of homelessness, especially women and children experiencing family violence	Council will advocate to the State and Federal government to significantly increase investment in affordable and social housing, and the homelessness sector.	
Advocacy	Rental relief	Landlords and utility companies	Council will write to Darebin commercial landlords requesting rent/bill relief.	

Intermediate					
Community Intermediate: actions to build recovery and to help stabilise communities July – December					
Focus Area	Initiative	Target community	Description		Estimated Budget required 2020/21
Community Wellbeing / community resilience	Covid-19 Quick Response small grants	Community groups and clubs	Council will provide an additional small grants stream to support community groups to develop and deliver neighbourhood-based initiatives which promote and facilitate good will, support medium- and long-term community connection and resilience at a local level.		\$75,000 \$25,000 in-kind venue support.
Community Wellbeing / community resilience	Covid-19 Quick Response Community Organisation Grants	Community organisations who work with vulnerable client groups Aboriginal Community Organisations CALD community organisations	Council will provide an additional medium grants stream to support community organisations to develop and deliver initiatives which support the social wellbeing of community of community members and groups impacted by Covid-19.		\$175,000
Community Wellbeing / community resilience	Getting sports clubs back on track: small grants	Sports Clubs	Council to provide one-off grants to the 24 winter sports clubs and the 11 that operate all year, to enable them to restart activities after the shutdown period ends.		\$100,000

			Sports Clubs Licence and Lease Renewals: Updating the Performance Subsidies Program which enables reduction in licence and lease agreements based on social benefit outcomes	
Community Wellbeing / community resilience	Covid-19 Ice HQ recovery package	Local business provider (x1) and facility users	Rent relief (currently set at \$150K per annum) for Ice HQ operator to ensure that operator can resume activities after the shut-down.	
Creative Culture	Culture On-line	Arts and Culture organisations	Create a Darebin Culture Online Portal which allows virtual art projects such as Facebook live/webinar session (e.g. for FUSE Fund information sessions), artist marketplace - posting video artist statements from artists, workshops and performances.	\$60,000
Creative Culture	Cultural Infrastructure Support Grants	Arts and Culture organisations	There are a range of arts and culture businesses that provide essential infrastructure framework to cultural life of Darebin, as well as employment to independent artists. This support could be in the form of additional funding for artists to create virtual content in different art mediums that can be viewed and distributed online and will support our local artists but also our community who are isolated.	\$115,000
Total required July – December 2020				\$525,000

Business Intermediate: actions to build resilience and stabilise the local economy July – December				
Focus area	Initiative	Target community	Description	Budget required 20/21
Fees, Charges and Local Laws Waivers	Hardship Rates Policy	Commercial properties	Provision of policy and understanding its application through this period of uncertainty.	

Fees, Charges and Local Laws Waivers	Goods on Footpath permits	Cafes and Restaurants	Waiver of Goods on Footpath Fees (chairs and tables, a-frames) in 20/21.		
Fees, Charges and Local Laws Waivers	Health permits	Health businesses	Businesses will still need to register for Health permits however waiver of administration fee (\$286) for new health businesses		
Fees, Charges and Local Laws Waivers	Health registrations	Health businesses	Reduced health registration to reflect mandatory closures		
We Love Our Mainstreets	Comms campaigns	All businesses – retail centres	Council driven campaign to increase shopping local, buying goods made in Darebin. Bringing people back to the street.		\$100,000
One on one support	Support through permit process	New and existing businesses	Provide a streamlined business permit process which will assist remove red-tape for businesses.		\$50,000*
We Love Our Mainstreets	Back to our Mainstreets	Activity Centres	Undertake a ‘Back to Our Mainstreets’ program which might mean focusing in on current services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cleaning of rubbish bins tops - weeding - street sweeping - window washing - graffiti removal 		No additional costs*.
Total required July – December 2020					\$750,000
Intermediate: Advocacy to respond to July – December 2020					
Advocacy	Kickstart community sport	Sports Clubs and broad range of community	Council to advocate to state government to support investment and enabling strategies to ensure community sport is reactivated ASAP. Strategies to include supporting sports associations (such as AFL,		

			NFNL, FV and tennis Victoria) to waive annual affiliation fee and remove barriers for sports club to re-establish activities. This initiative provides the opportunity to set participation targets for clubs.	
Advocacy	Neighbourhood House Coordination funding	Broad range of community	Council will advocate that all Darebin/ Victorian based funded houses receive the full allocation of coordination hours funding to focus their services to continue to support vulnerable community members.	
Advocacy	Arts Sector kickstart	Arts and Culture sector, including venues, staff, artist etc.	Council to advocate to state government to support investment and enabling strategies to ensure that the creative culture and arts sector is reactivated asap.	
Advocacy	Refine VicSmart to accommodate short term permits	New and existing businesses	Advocate to State Government to draft a VicSmart permit process that allows for greater flexibility in terms of use, and automatically waives some standard requirements such as parking and third party appeal rights before new short term permits (3 months up to 2 years).	

Long Term					
Community Long Term: actions to create long term sustainable change for the benefit of community wellbeing and resilience January – June 2021					
Initiative	Focus area	Target community	Description	Budget required 19/20	Estimated Budget required 20/21
Creative Culture	Arts Partner Protection	Arts and Culture organisations	Financial support and capacity building for NFP Arts Organisations that have had a forced closure or cessation of operation. The Arts Partnership arrangements that Council has entered into may be a clear way of delineating which organisations are to be support sufficiently to ensure they can pick up operation when social distancing measures have been lifted.		Estimated \$200,000 across partners.
Total required January - June 2021					Estimated \$200,000

Business Long term: actions to create long term sustainable change for the benefit of community wellbeing and resilience January – June 2021					
Initiative	Focus area	Target community	Description	Budget required 19/20	Estimated Budget required 20/21
We Love Our Mainstreets	Active Spaces in Darebin	All retail and creative businesses	Activation of vacant shops focusing on activity centres. Provide assistance and support to help businesses re-activate shops in precincts. Funds may assist businesses with connections to utilities and permit requirements.		\$150,000
Total required January - July 2021					\$150,000

Budget Summary

Total cash budget proposed	2019/2020	2020/2021 July – December	2020/2021 January – June	Total
Community	\$230,000 - \$323,000	\$675,000 – \$1,047,000	\$200,000	\$1,105,000 – \$1,570,000
Business - Discretionary	\$650,000	\$750,000	\$150,000	\$1,550,000
Business - Salaries	\$220,000	\$440,000	\$440,000	\$1,100,000
Community – salaries staff redeployed	\$112,000 in staff redeployed	\$112,000 in staff redeployed	\$112,000 in staff redeployed	\$336,000
				\$4,091,000 - \$4,556,000

Estimate in-kind proposed	2019/2020	2020/2021	Total
Community	Up to \$140,000 in staff seconded to other organisations	\$473,000 (Up to \$448,000 in staff seconded to other organisations, \$25,000 venue hire support)	\$613,000

Total cash and in-kind depend on support model, ie secondment of staff to other organisations v cash payment to organisations

6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL

NIL


7. CLOSE OF MEETING

**CITY OF
DAREBIN**

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