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MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 25 March 2024

Released to the public on 27 March 2024

**LIVE STREAMING OF THE COUNCIL MEETING WAS MADE AVAILABLE ON
COUNCIL'S WEBSITE.**



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

These are the Minutes for the Council Meeting. For assistance with any of the items in the minutes, please telephone 8470 8888.

Arabic

هذه هي محاضر اجتماع المجلس. للحصول على المساعدة في أي من البنود في المحاضر، يرجى الاتصال بالهاتف 8470 8888.

Chinese

这些是市议会会议纪要。如需协助了解任何纪要项目，请致电8470 8888。

Greek

Αυτά είναι τα Πρακτικά της συνεδρίασης του Δημοτικού Συμβουλίου. Για βοήθεια με οποιαδήποτε θέματα στα πρακτικά, παρακαλείστε να καλέσετε το 8470 8888.

Hindi

ये काउंसिल की बैठक का सारांश है। सारांश के किसी भी आइटम में सहायता के लिए, कृपया 8470 8888 पर टेलीफोन करें।

Italian

Questo è il verbale della riunione del Comune. Per assistenza con qualsiasi punto del verbale, si prega di chiamare il numero 8470 8888.

Macedonian

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

Nepali

यी परिषद्को बैठकका माइन्युटहरू हुन्। माइन्युटका कुनै पनि वस्तुसम्बन्धी सहायताका लागि कृपया 8470 8888 मा कल गर्नुहोस्।

Punjabi

ਇਹ ਕੌਂਸਲ ਦੀ ਮੀਟਿੰਗ ਵਾਸਤੇ ਸੰਖੇਪ ਸਾਰਾਂਸ਼ ਹੈ। ਸੰਖੇਪ ਸਾਰਾਂਸ਼ ਵਿਚਲੀਆਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਆਈਟਮਾਂ ਸੰਬੰਧੀ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਵਾਸਤੇ, ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 8470 8888 ਨੂੰ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

Somali

Kuwaani waa qodobadii lagaga wada hadlay Fadhiga Golaha. Caawimada mid kasta oo ka mid ah qodobada laga wada hadlay, fadlan la xiriiir 8470 8888.

Spanish

Estas son las Actas de la Reunión del Concejo. Para recibir ayuda acerca de algún tema de las actas, llame al teléfono 8470 8888.

Urdu

یہ کاؤنسل کی میٹنگ کی روداد کے نقاط ہیں۔ روداد کے کسی بھی حصے کے بارے میں مدد کے لیے براہ مہربانی 8470 8888 پر فون کریں۔

Vietnamese

Đây là những Biên bản Họp Hội đồng Thành phố. Muốn có người trợ giúp mình về bất kỳ mục nào trong biên bản họp, xin quý vị gọi điện thoại số 8470 8888.

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MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY 25 MARCH 2024

THE MEETING OPENED AT 6.05PM

The Mayor advised that the meeting was being streamed live and that the recording would be made available on Council's website.

1. OPENING OF MEETING AND MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

Cr. Susanne Newton (Mayor) (Chairperson)

Cr. Tim Laurence (Deputy Mayor)

Cr. Gaetano Greco

Cr. Tom Hannan

Cr. Trent McCarthy

Cr. Lina Messina

Cr. Susan Rennie

Cr. Julie Williams – 6.11pm

Council Officers

Peter Smith - Chief Executive Officer

Kylie Bennetts - General Manager Community

Enna Giampiccolo - Acting General Manager Customer and Corporate

Rachel Ollivier - General Manager Operations and Capital

Vanessa Petrie - General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy

Anthony Smith - Acting Manager Governance and Communications

Jody Brodribb - Coordinator Governance Services

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

The Chairperson, Mayor Newton, opened the meeting with the following statement:

I would like to start by acknowledging the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people, the Traditional Owners of this land and pay my respects to Elders past and present, and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and culture.

3. APOLOGIES

Nil

4. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Vanessa Petrie, General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy disclosed a conflict of interest related to a proposed petition – 'Support Electric Vehicle Hub in Alphington – Australia's First'.

5. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr. T Hannan
SECONDED: Cr. S Rennie

That the Minutes of the following Council Meetings be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted:

- Ordinary Council Meeting 18 December 2023
- Special Council Meeting 8 January 2024
- Special Council Meeting 22 January 2024
- Special Council Meeting 1 February 2024
- Special Council Meeting 12 February 2024
- Special Council Meeting 19 February 2024
- Ordinary Council Meeting 26 February 2024

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. COUNCIL'S OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Mayor made the following statement:

Council has an occupational health and safety responsibility to ensure anyone attending tonight's meeting, feels safe both physical and emotionally.

I would like to remind everyone in attendance to be respectful of each other, and as outlined in our Governance Rules, please note that Councillors, or any other person, who addresses the Meeting must do so in a courteous and respectful manner and must take direction from the Chairperson whenever called on to do so.

7. QUESTION AND SUBMISSION TIME

The General Managers responded to the following questions submitted for Public Question Time.

- **Anonymous submitters**

1. Why do you require prior registration and photo ID for people to observe the council meetings?
2. Does this restrict access to the meetings?

Response from Acting General Manager Customer and Corporate

Normally, Mayor we wouldn't accept questions from anonymous submitters, however we know there is some has been some concern and a few queries about this in the community and in the interests of transparency, I'm happy to make a statement.

As you can see, we have limited capacity in the Council Chamber, so to ensure community members can secure a seat, we have introduced a registration process.

The registration form captures community members asking questions and making submissions and also allows for community members wishing to generally observe the meeting. This process is common practice across a number of Councils.

We understand the requirement to present ID has caused some concern for the community, and as such, we have heard that feedback and we have made the decision to remove this requirement from today onwards.

In terms of access to meetings, we also livestream each meeting to ensure community members who can't make it into the gallery have the option to watch from their own home.

- **Hannah Schneider**

Could the issue of graffiti, especially along High St, please be addressed in the upcoming budget bid?

Response from General Manager Infrastructure, Operations and Finance

Thank you for your question. Councillors have recently asked officers for advice about their options for managing graffiti so officers are working through that at the moment, and we will bring that back to Councillors soon, and I understand that Council is planning to consider this matter during its 24-25 Budget development process.

- **Anna Viola**

1. On what basis was the proposal for the trial new hard waste collection designed, as it does not reflect the findings of the community consultation report as promised and claimed?

2. By what rationale did Councillors reject the amendment to minutes put by Cr. Greco at the last meeting, that freed up borrowing power if the Victorian Government issued a grant for Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre (NARC) costs, be put to Reservoir Leisure Centre rather than the Bill Lawry Reserve, given community sentiment on this issue?

Response from General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy

1. Thank you for the questions, Anna. Information received from the community about Council's hard rubbish service was important in preparing a recommendation.

Other information considered included community safety, findings from trials by other local Councils, and Council's Waste and Recycling Strategy.

The trial is planned for two years, and Darebin specific data can then be collected to inform a future ongoing service model.

Response from General Manager Community

2. Thank you for your second question Anna. This particular question is a matter for the Mayor and Councillors. However, I do note that a paper on RLC forms part of the Council agenda this evening.

• Nino Galgano

1. When will Council upgrade/re-develop Edwardes Lake Boathouse?
2. When will Council upgrade /re-develop the main entrance at the corner of Edwardes St & Griffiths St?
3. When will Council reinstate the original wrought iron "Edwardes Lake" sign?

Response from General Manager Infrastructure, Operations and Finance

1. Thank you for your question, Nino. Council has a commitment in its Council Plan to activate the Boathouse through a lease and it has been working towards this. It's current four-year capital works program plans for investment in this facility in the 2025-26 financial year.

At a Council meeting in February 2024, Council decided to consider its options and next steps further as part of development of its 2024-25 Budget. The draft budget will be released for community consultation in late April and a final 2024-25 Budget decision is expected in June. We welcome any community feedback through that process.

2. In regard to the main entrance of the corner of Edwardes St & Griffiths St and the original wrought iron sign, Council doesn't have plans for redeveloping this entrance or the iron Edwards Lake sign currently.
3. We've recently considered this suggestion alongside ideas and requests for improvements right across Darebin and ultimately other projects have been assessed as being important to do first. I don't expect that this project would be assessed as highest priority for at least a few years. Choices about priorities are currently tough for Council – Council has absorbed very high construction sector inflation recently and its budgets do not go as far as they used to.

- **Max Smith**

1. What are Council's official plans to increase affordable housing and end homelessness?
2. How are the Council's plans to increase affordable housing and end homelessness coordinated with others, including nearby Councils?
3. Does the Council know how many people are sleeping rough across the Darebin LGA?

Response from General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy

1. **Thanks for the questions, Max. Council recognises that increasing affordable housing and ending homelessness requires action from all levels of government.**

Provision for social housing and support for homelessness is primarily a State Government responsibility, with the support of Federal funding.

Council is seeking to influence the planning system to facilitate more affordable housing in private developments, and by raising the issue through advocacy.

This includes working with the State Government's Development Facilitation and Big Housing Build programs to ensure major developments in Darebin provide sufficient affordable housing.

Council is also preparing a new Housing Supply and Demand Strategy that will further encourage and stimulate housing affordability and diversity in our city.

2. **Council's Advocacy Strategy 2022-26 calls on the State Government to provide mandatory affordable housing controls and sustained and diverse funding streams for affordable housing.**

Council officers participate in regular meetings with colleagues in the M9 group of Councils for a more powerful and unified voice to the State.

Council continues to advocate for funding to establish a Towards Zero program in Darebin which would provide support for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness who present in Darebin. Council has allocated \$80K to put towards this project and is seeking a contribution of \$70K from other sources.

Response from General Manager Community

3. **Unfortunately, an estimated 1500 people in Darebin are at risk or experiencing homelessness on any given night, which would include people couch surfing, people living in rooming houses, cars, or on the streets and parklands. As mentioned by my colleague Vanessa, if Council is successful in gaining \$70K from other sources, to put towards Council's contribution of \$80K to progress with Darebin Zero, more detailed information on people sleeping rough and their lived experience will be available, given the know by name approach - which is a key part of this program, and Council hopes this will help improve support provided to people who are sleeping rough and reduce the number who are sleeping rough based on experiences of other municipalities that have adopted similar approaches.**

- **Dean Hurlston**

1. What amount of waste enforcement costs in the current financial year 2023/24 has the Council included in its waste levies charged to residents? (if any)
2. What amount of revenue has Council included in the current financial year 2023/24 from waste enforcement actions?
3. Has that revenue been offset in the waste levy OR applied to Council's General Revenue streams?

Response from General Manager Infrastructure, Operations and Finance

1. **Thanks for the questions, Dean. Council didn't include any costs relating to waste enforcement in the waste levies for residents.**
2. **Council didn't include any revenue relating to waste enforcement in the waste levies for residents.**
3. **As neither costs nor revenue are covered by the waste levies, instead both costs and revenue are included within Council's general revenue and expenses lines.**

• Liz Landray

1. Which Councillors have marched in the Midsumma Pride March in support of the LGBTIQ+ community?
2. Could Council please provide an update on the development of its Community Flag Schedule and when this will be presented to Council?
3. Will Council's Sporting Fees, Charges and Occupancy Agreement Policy be updated to incorporate gender equitable access and use policies as required under the Victorian Government's Fair Access Policy Roadmap and replace outdated terminology such as "GLBTIQ"?

Response from General Manager Community

1. **Thank you for your questions, Liz. The Midsumma Pride March is an annual event, and one way Darebin councillors and staff can show their support for the LGBTIQ+ community. Many Darebin Councillors and staff have marched in the Pride March in this year and in previous years either with Darebin Council and / or with other participating organisations in the March. In 2024 Mayor Newton and Councillor Hannon participated in the Darebin Council contingent and other Councillors are more than likely to have marched with other organisations also.**
2. **The Community Flag Policy is in development and will also include a draft Community Flag schedule for consideration at a future Council meeting.**
3. **Council will be reviewing and updating this policy in due course with a particular focus on incorporating gender-inclusive terminology and focus to ensure alignment with the Fair Access Policy Roadmap. Council is committed to gender-inclusion and this is demonstrated through Council's Performance Subsidy focus for sporting clubs and the recent but not yet finalised review of our Outdoor Sports Infrastructure Framework.**

• Marlene Rouse

1. I am a Northcote resident and part of Melbourne Zero a movement to end rough sleeping by 2030. Between 1994 and 2000 all 14 of Victorias stand-alone Psychiatric Hospitals were closed. This was all part of a worldwide movement to deinstitutionalise mental health care and get people back into the community. Unfortunately, insufficient services were provided. As a consequence, many people ended up on the street or in gaol. Recently in Station Street Fairfield, a man set up his camp outside the vacant shop of what was the Fairfield Medical Centre. As time went on, he accumulated more and more stuff around him. What is Council Policy in this situation?
2. Where can people like him go?

Response from General Manager Community

Thank you for the questions, Marlene. Council has an Assertive Community Outreach Program for people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and Council allocates \$370K per annum for this service. The service is delivered by Merri Outreach Support Services, the program consists of specialist outreach workers who can visit and respond to rough sleepers and connect them to services they need, including housing and health care.

There is information on the Assertive Community Outreach Program on Council's website, and we can certainly make that information available to you.

Council continues to advocate for funding to establish a Towards Zero program, which alongside of the Assertive Community Outreach Program, would further strengthen Council's support in that regard.

- **Rachel Davey**

1. When will the glass recycling program with the designated bin that was announced more than 2 years ago be implemented?
2. If plans have changed, and there is no longer going to be a glass recycling program, what will the additional fees that were charged for this recycling service in last year's rates be spent on?

Response from General Manager Infrastructure, Operations and Finance

1. Thank you for the question. Council is looking to implement the State Government's announced glass recycling program by 2027.
2. Darebin Council has not charged any additional fees or charges for a glass recycling service to date. Part of the reason for delaying introduction of the glass service until 2027 is because Council is mindful of the additional costs that would be borne by residents. In the meantime, we encourage people to participate in the recently introduced Container Deposit Scheme. High levels of participation will help keep recycling costs low and will also help us design the future glass service in the best most cost-efficient way possible.

- **Hunter Cullen**

1. Some time ago I asked a question regarding when the Youth Hub would return to at a bare minimum 6pm finish times again rather than 5pm on Friday evenings as had been the case last year especially now that new staff have been hired - what progress has occurred since I asked this question before several months ago?
2. What is Darebin City Council doing to support homeless people, particularly homeless youth generally but with a special mention in regard to making Northcote Aquatic Centre's showers available to homeless people in the same way Reservoir is?
3. What is Darebin Council doing to address land banking, particularly concerning privately owned unused vacant plots of land, blocks with houses, and businesses, in response to the ongoing housing crisis that's largely caused by a lack of supply?

Response from General Manager Community

1. Thank you for your questions. The reduced service hours at The Hub have been a result of reduced workforce capacity. I am pleased to confirm that, following a successful recruitment and onboarding process in late 2023 and early 2024 the service is now fully staffed.

As a result, from the start of Term 2, the service hours at The Hub will increase from 5pm to 5.30pm, Tuesday to Friday.

Historically, The Hub closed at 5pm; except for a short period of time in 2022 when the Hub was open until 6pm (when reopening after the COVID lockdowns).

The increase from a 5pm closure time to 5.30pm closing time is in line with feedback previously received from young people and a review of the service hours.

The Youth Services team is excited to be able to extend their reach to support young people in our community.

2. Council has an Assertive Community Outreach Program for people including young people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Delivered by our partners Merri Outreach Support Services, the program consists of specialist outreach workers who can visit and respond to rough sleepers and connect them to services they need, including housing and health care. Darebin's community shower access program currently is available at the Reservoir Leisure Centre and Narrandjeri Stadium with plans to expand to other Council owned venues.

Response from General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy

3. Thanks for your question, Hunter. While land-banking tends to be an issue in outer-suburban areas, there are a range of other mechanisms that Darebin Council is actively examining to address the housing crisis. It is also worth noting that the Victorian Government has introduced a "Vacant residential land tax". Council plans to undertake consultation on its Housing demand and supply study, and we plan to undertake consultation on this later this year and we are keen to hear from people about issues that are impacting them, and seeking ideas for ways that Council can actively contribute to boosting supply.

- **Rebecca Gray**

1. What is required for Council to establish a community reference group and community consultation process to improve AG Davis (Wood St) Park in line with the petition previously submitted by 149 people?
2. What would be the timeline for this?
3. How do we secure a budget for upgrades?

Response from General Manager Infrastructure, Operations and Finance

I'll answer the three questions together. The petition you've referred to was accompanied by a very comprehensive request and vision for the park – thank you.

I know our team have contacted you with details about several small improvements that have been and will be made, and which go towards the aspiration you have for the park. I understand the team have also explained that we are intending to leave some elements the same and the reasons for this. I trust that this assists.

Council doesn't have plans for major redevelopment nor associated consultation at AG Davies Park. Council's current plans focus on keeping play spaces in good condition rather than on major upgrades. There are 130 play spaces across the city that we are looking after, and Council has absorbed very high construction sector inflation. This means that Council's works budget does not go as far as it used to.

That said, Council considers its priorities across all its open spaces, sporting grounds and community facilities every year when it develops its budget. I am expecting some minor works at AG Davies to be proposed in the draft budget.

The draft budget will be released for community consultation in late April, and we welcome community feedback.

- **Darren McBride**

If the outcome of the Petition regarding an Electric Vehicle Hub in Alphington is in the petitioner's favour - would that be in my favour also?

Response from General Manager Infrastructure, Operations and Finance

Thank you for your question, Darren. I understand your question is about a specific situation. We will take your question on notice and contact you this week. I can clarify that if a petition is accepted in a Council meeting, a decision on the matter is not made at that time, but rather it is referred to one of three possible pathways for a decision, usually by referring the matter to the CEO for response, or by calling for a Report to Council so that Council can make a decision with full information about a matter.

- **Ruth Jelley**

1. Following successful Ride 2 School Day events across Darebin on Friday, will Council review its abandonment of the Octopus Schools program – a decision that arguably goes against Council's Transport Strategy – and commit to investing in safety infrastructure around schools to encourage school students to cycle, scoot and walk to school?
2. During Your Street Your Say Group A consultation in Thornbury West, many community members commented about safety issues with through traffic on Hutton Street next to Thornbury Primary School, which indicates that parents fear for the safety of their children when cycling, scooting, or walking to this school. Why were these community concerns ignored and no safety improvements proposed for Hutton Street?

EXTENSION OF TIME

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr. S Rennie
SECONDED: Cr. T Hannan

6.37pm - That Council extend Public Question time for 30minutes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Response from General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy

1. Grant support from the State Government has made it possible for Council to continue delivering the Octopus Schools Program, and we're providing 3 schools with support this year. The focus of the program is on behaviour change and school activities, with infrastructure identification delivered through Council's Your Street Your Say program.
2. To address safety concerns around Thornbury Primary School, Council has:
 - Constructed a raised crossing at Rayment and Hutton Street intersection.

- Refreshed line-marking at the children's crossing.
 - Advocated to the Department of Transport and Planning for a countdown timer at Hutton Street /St Georges Road and to improve St Georges Road cycling corridor as part of Council's key advocacy priorities for 2022-2026.
-
- **Marion Attwater**
 1. Is an Annual Report for the Young Citizens Jury activities of 2023 going to be submitted to Council or has the status of this advisory committee altered?
 2. The Council's Governance Rules do not have any provisions about how Councillors should submit a request for a leave of absence, has this been delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to approve requests for leave?
 3. My third question is about the overarching governance principle of transparency and agenda item 9.5 on e-scooters - are Councillors satisfied that the overarching governance principles will be fulfilled if the Council joins the M9 consortium contract for e-scooters?

Response from General Manager Community

1. **The Young Citizens Jury Terms of Reference does not include Councillor representation following the review of the Darebin Youth Advisory Committee and the subsequent establishment of the Young Citizens Jury in 2017. The recommendation from young people at that time was to not have Councillors on the Jury to ensure young people could freely express their views. Unfortunately, a report from the Jury was not available for inclusion in the recent Advisory Committee report that was presented to Council on the 26 February 2024, due to operational issues. We will make sure that a report will be included as part of the next reporting period.**

Response from General Manager Customer and Corporate

2. **Currently there isn't a prescribed process in our Governance Rules. The current practice has been to advise the CEO, who will note and record the leave request. We are reviewing this process against the Local Government Act, and we'll brief Council in due course.**
3. **Thanks again for this question. We would consider the governance principals in advising Council if and when Council does choose to go ahead with e-scooters through the M9.**

- **Brian Sanaghan**

Last month my questions to the Mayor were disallowed, Mayor Newton were you or the CEO Peter Smith informed prior to the meeting what the content of these questions was?

Response from General Manager Customer and Corporate

All public questions must adhere to the Governance Rules before they are permitted. I understand that a member of my team explained the reason why the questions weren't permitted and also offered assistance to help rephrase your questions.

- **John Nugent**

1. Why is Council killing off democracy and transparency in Darebin? How will you bring back democracy and open up transparency in the city?
2. Can you please advise why the residents, ratepayers and general public have such a low/or poor opinion of this Council?
3. Could you please advise if this council will introduce a new performance subsidy program before the Winter season which also doesn't discriminate against junior boy's club and not charge another \$2500 for a two club team?

Response from the CEO

Thank you for your questions, Mr. Nugent. Your first question is around democracy and transparency and your concerns about the Governance Rules. The Governance Rules are approved by Council and all questions, including the time allocated for those who ask questions and make submissions, are contained in the Governance Rules. I understand that for the next Council, there will be a review of the Governance Rules, so that will be an excellent opportunity for you to put forward your ideas about how democracy and transparency can be improved at Darebin City Council. We will make sure you know the timing of that, I believe it will be in the next Council Term.

You've asked a question around the residents, rate payers and public view of Council. Interestingly tonight in the governance report there is a report back on the Local Government Survey which explains the Council's response, it explains the opinions of rate payers and residents taken across many Councils. No responses in the Governance report tonight and I draw your attention to that includes some actions that Council are undertaking to respond to the feedback they have received through that survey.

In relation to your third question around subsidies for sports. Council's upcoming budget process will look at sporting fees and that will likely open at the end of April for submissions, and you are more than welcome to put a submission to Council on how you would like to see subsidies being applied to sporting groups.

- **Cath Rouse**

1. Can Council confirm they will not allow any rubbish from Darebin to go to industrial incinerators?
2. Will Council prepare an EPA submission expressing the harms to Darebin residents of this planned incinerator, and this would be in line with the stated policy against waste to energy incinerators on page 9 of the Waste and Recycling Strategy. Submissions to the EPA on this are due on 14 April 2024.
3. Will Council agree to not contract Cleanaway for any services if they continue to pursue this proposal?

Response from General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy

Thank you for your questions, Cath, I acknowledge that your questions were emailed to us before 12pm today, however we unfortunately haven't been able to respond. A member of my team will respond to you this week.

SUBMISSIONS

The following person made a submission to Item 9.4 Reservoir Leisure Centre - High-level costs, funding strategy options and next steps:

- Matthew Zammit

8. PETITIONS

6.56pm – Vanessa Petrie, General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy left the meeting

8.1 TABLING OF PETITION – PATHWAYS ON DONATH WEST RESERVE

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 24-033

MOVED: Cr. G Greco
SECONDED: Cr. S Rennie

That the petition:

We the undersigned believe and request that the use of pathways on Donath West Reserve to be included in the 2024/2025 budget.

This includes the completion of the Pathway on Number 1 Oval along its western boundary to the northern boundary of the parks, then along the northern boundary to where it meets the seal pathway.

be tabled and referred to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration and response.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

John Nugent, as the petitioner made a 2 minute submission to item 8.1.

7.01pm – The meeting was adjourned to address a technical issue.
7.09pm – The meeting resumed.

8.2 TABLING OF PETITION - REQUIRING PRE-REGISTRATION AND PHOTO ID FOR DAREBIN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 24-034

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

That the petition:

We, the undersigned, are deeply concerned by Darebin Council's recent decision to require pre-registration and photo identification for attendance at council meetings. We believe this decision poses a threat to the democratic rights of all citizens, particularly those from marginalised groups such as Indigenous Australians, people experiencing homeless and financial disadvantage, people with disabilities, migrants, and minors under 18 years old.

The requirement for pre-registration and photo ID mirrors the discriminatory issues associated with voter ID laws, which have been widely criticised for disproportionately disenfranchising marginalised communities. Just as we do not mandate IDs for voting in Australian elections to ensure equal access to the democratic process, attendees of local council meetings should not be subjected to such barriers.

Furthermore, this decision comes in the aftermath of online council sessions, justified

Emily Castle, as the petitioner made a 2 minute submission to item 8.3

7.22pm - Vanessa Petrie, General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy returned to the meeting.

9. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

9.1 ICT AND DIGITAL STRATEGY INCLUDING ERP INVESTMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In line with recommendations from the Audit and Risk Committee and findings from the January 2023 Municipal Monitor Report to meet commitments to the Minister, Council engaged external consultants with significant local government experience to assist with the development of the ICT and Digital Strategy.

Since early 2023, industry experts have alerted Council on the low level of maturity of its IT systems after years of underinvestment and estimated the organisational and financial effort that Council is now facing to bridge the gap and maintain its service obligations.

An ICT and Digital Strategy (**Appendix A**) has been developed on that basis, to guide the use of technology as an enabler to meet the needs of the community in the long term. The draft strategy was presented to Councillors at a briefing session on the 7th of August 2023 and subsequently on 12th March 2024.

A critical component of this draft strategy is to transform Council's Enterprise Resource Planning system (ERP). Officers have collaborated with business units, external consultants, and local government specialists to develop implementation options. These implementation options were presented to Council at multiple briefing sessions with recent one being on 12 March 2024.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 24-036

MOVED: Cr. T Hannan
SECONDED: Cr. T Laurence

That Council:

- (1) Adopts the Information Communications Technology & Digital Strategy 2023.
- (2) Notes that Council currently utilises several ageing ICT systems that will require significant investment of circa \$31m over the next 4 years to keep functioning and that there is a likelihood that in the future some of these systems will not be supported by system vendors and become obsolete.
- (3) Notes the recommendation of the Municipal Monitor for Council to invest in replacing these ageing systems and the request from the Minister for Local Government for Council to report back to her on this investment.
- (4) Notes that current systems are ageing and not integrated with each other, creating a number of risks and major issues, including:
 - a. Customers data and customer service requests are kept in multiple systems, and this significantly compromises Council's ability to provide excellent and efficient customer service and meet service standards and requires the customer to have multiple touch points with Council.
 - b. Council is unable to adequately address Cyber security requirements and this risk is increasing.

- c. Council's ability to achieve full legislative and regulatory compliance is likely to be compromised as systems age and become unsupported.
- (5) Commits to an investment of \$36.44 M over four years for an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solution as a key enabler of the 2023 ICT & Digital Strategy as follows:
- a. Approves the inclusion of \$0.5M in the 2024/25 Budget to conduct the procurement process to identify suitable Technology and Delivery partners for the ERP program, with subsequent appointment of the Technology and Delivery partners subject to a decision of Council.
 - b. Approves a stage gate investment with further Long-Term Financial Plan allocations as follows: \$12.12M in 2025/26, \$11.77M in 2026/27 and \$12.04M in 2027/28.
 - c. Requests the CEO to commence the procurement process and establish ERP program governance, with associated reporting, roadmap, decision milestones, benefits realisation plan to enable Council to monitor progress.
 - d. Notes that the progress on deliverables will be reviewed as per agreed milestones and this will provide opportunity to adjust delivery time frames, if required, and will inform the quarterly and annual budget review process to endorse appropriate release of funds for the subsequent phases of the program.
- (6) Notes that work will need to be approved and commence ahead of the 24/25 budget process to enable the Council to undertake preparatory work for a procurement process to identify suitable Technology and Delivery partners for the ERP program.
- (7) Notes that Council will only release the ERP program funds in a phased manner, contingent upon a decision of Council as per agreed milestones.
- (8) Writes to the Minister for Local Government providing an update on Councils progress in prioritising its investment in information technology.

CARRIED

For: Cr's Hannan, Rennie, Williams, McCarthy, Laurence, Newton and Messina (7)
Abstained: Cr Greco (1)

9.2 GOVERNANCE REPORT - MARCH 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Summary of attendance at Advisory Committees Meetings, Councillor Briefings and other informal meetings of Councillors (**Appendix A**)
- Reports by Mayor and Councillors
- Responses to public questions taken on notice at the Council Meeting held on 26 February 2024 (**Appendix B**)
- Notes 2023 Darebin Annual Community Survey Update

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 24-037

MOVED: Cr. S Rennie
SECONDED: Cr. T McCarthy

That Council:

- (1) Notes the Governance Report – March 2024.
- (2) Notes the Summary of attendance at Advisory Committees Meetings, Councillor Briefings, and other informal meetings of Councillors at **Appendix A** to this report, for incorporation in the minutes of this meeting.
- (3) Notes that reports by Mayors and Councillors submitted prior to the meeting and circulated to Councillors, will be incorporated in the minutes of this meeting.
- (4) Notes the responses to the public questions taken on notice at the Council Meeting on 26 February 2024 (**Appendix B**).
- (5) Notes the 2023 Darebin Annual Community Survey Update included in this report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS – 25 MARCH 2024**REPORT OF CR. SUSANNE NEWTON, MAYOR**

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

- Weekly meeting with CEO
- Weekly meeting with governance team
- Weekly meeting with communications team
- Weekly Councillor meeting
- Weekly meeting with Cr Hannan
- Weekly Councillor briefings
- Meetings with Deputy Mayor Laurence
- Meeting with resident and Deputy Mayor Laurence
- Filming climate emergency video

- Arts Project Australia Studio Open Day - 50th anniversary year - tour
- Melbourne Palm Sunday Walk for Justice and Peace - marching with the Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum
- African Youth Alliance - Inaugural AMARI Gala
- Meet the Makers Picnic at Bundoora Homestead Art Centre - opening speech and judging Mayor's award
- Easter Egg Hunt and celebrating High Street being named 'coolest street in the world' at Novotel Preston
- Circus Nexus grand opening - speech
- Northcote Bike Ride for a Safer South Crescent with Streets Alive Darebin
- Pathways to Politics for Women mentoring session
- Ride2School Day at Preston North East Primary School
- Northern Councils Alliance (NCA) meeting with Mayors and CEOs, hosted by Merri-Bek Council
- Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum meeting
- Darebin Audit and Risk Committee March meeting
- Friends of Baucau meeting
- Darebin Art & Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting 1 - 2024
- Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee (DAAC) meeting
- Darebin LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee
- Tour of Edwardes Lake Boathouse
- Meeting with Westgarth resident about a postcode for Westgarth
- Darebin Antiracism Community Forum 2024
- Inaugural Darebin Volunteer Expo
- VLGA Councillor Leadership Development Program - 'Leading under pressure'
- M9 Meeting with Lord Mayor Sally Capp and M9 Mayors and CEOs
- Pathways to Politics Alumni lunch
- Meeting with Reservoir Neighbourhood House executive officer
- Preston Cricket Club launch of new nets at Preston City Oval
- 'Gravity Dolls' performance at Speakeasy
- Meeting with principal of East Preston Islamic College
- Meeting with President of the Australian Palestinian Advocacy Network (APAN)
- Meeting with Victorian government representatives about the Preston Central project
- Yeti Football Club 13th annual 'Kandel Cup' - national competition for Nepali soccer clubs - speech and handing out prizes
- Youth Roundtable to inform our Families, Youth and Children strategy
- Coin toss at Preston Lions Club International Women's Day match at B.T. Connor - Preston Lions v. Kingston City

- Northern Business Achievement Awards (NBAA) breakfast celebrating International Women's Day, and businesses in Darebin
- VLGA International Women's Day lunch - Women's participation in local government
- Women's Property Initiatives (WPI) International Women's Day lunch
- Meeting with CEO Peter Smith and representatives from Northcote Cricket Club about Bill Lawry Oval
- Clean Up Australia Day at Edwardes Lake with Friends of Edwardes Lake
- Your Community Health men's shed launch
- Meeting with Friends of Edwardes Lake representative
- Edgars Creek and Edwardes Lake taskforce meeting
- Meeting with Bicycle Network CEO
- Filming of post-council meeting video

REPORT OF CR. LINA MESSINA

Cr. Messina did not submit a report.

REPORT OF CR. GAETANO GRECO

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

- Pre- meeting - Edgars Creek and Edwardes Lake Task Force
- Edgars Creek and Edwardes Lake Task Force
- Welcoming Cities Community Reference Group
- Interfaith Council Meeting
- Weekly Councillor Meetings
- Councillor Briefings
- Meeting with residents re:
 - Athletic Track
 - Traffic management
 - DAAC meeting
 - Active Ageing Advisory Committee
- Pre- Council Agenda Meeting
- Meeting with officers re: McFazdean Ave traffic management
- Meet the Makers Picnic
- Melbourne Palm Sunday Walk for Justice and Peace

REPORT OF CR. TIM LAURENCE

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

- Attended DEEC Committee at the Intercultural Centre Preston

REPORT OF CR. JULIE WILLIAMS

Cr. Williams did not submit a report.

REPORT OF CR. SUSAN RENNIE

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

- Weekly Councillor meeting
- Weekly Councillor briefings
- Northcote Bike Ride for a Safer South Crescent with Streets Alive Darebin
- Transition Darebin Repair Café
- Climate Emergency Plan community consultation session
- Meeting with mechanic business at Alphington which is subject of petition
- Meeting with residents about petition
- Catch up with staff from Northern Community Centre
- Emails and phone calls with residents

REPORT OF CR. TRENT MCCARTHY

Cr. McCarthy did not submit a report.

REPORT OF CR. TOM HANNAN

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

- Contact (phone / online) with residents and businesses about their concerns, e.g., draft South Crescent and street safety, leasing policy, Israel-Gaza conflict, impacts of racism, Westgarth postcode, laneways, parking, graffiti.
- Audit and Risk Committee
- Darebin Welcoming Cities Reference Group
- Tour of Edwardes Lake Boathouse
- Councillor briefings
- Facilitated session with Councillors
- Councillor only meetings
- Meetings with Mayor
- Ordinary Council meeting

9.3 OUTDOOR DINING AND TRADING POLICY AND DESIGN GUIDELINES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the final draft Outdoor Dining and Trading Policy (Appendix A) and Design Guidelines (Appendix B) for adoption (the Policy and Guidelines).

Consultation with community, businesses, businesses with existing parklets, and State Government agencies has resulted in the refinement of the draft Policy and Guidelines.

At a briefing in March 2024, Councillors requested that officers present options on how the Policy and Guidelines could further contribute towards the Climate Emergency declaration. This is also included in this report. The default option as outlined in the current Policy and Guidelines is Option 1.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the draft Outdoor Dining and Trading Policy (the Policy) and draft Design Guidelines (the Guidelines) as outlined in **Appendix A** and **Appendix B** of this report.
- (2) Endorses the implementation and operationalisation of the adopted Policy and Guidelines with existing parklet owners and for future permit applications.
- (3) Supports businesses with existing parklets to transition to the new Policy and Guidelines by providing a transitional grace period, where no parklet permit fees are required to be paid to Council for the period 1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024 to enable engagement with each business to determine which elements of their existing parklet meets the new Policy and Guidelines and which elements will be required to be removed by Council as they do not meet the new Policy and Guidelines.
- (4) Endorses the fee structure as outlined in **Appendix C** of this report and notes that these will be included in the 2024/25 Council Plan and Budget and that subject to Council's adoption of the 2024/25 fee schedule through the budget process will be charged to all businesses with parklets from 1 July 2024.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. T Hannan
SECONDED: Cr. L Messina

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the draft Outdoor Dining and Trading Policy (the Policy) and draft Design Guidelines (the Guidelines) as outlined in **Appendix A** and **Appendix B** of this report.
- (2) **Strongly encourages holders of Outdoor Dining and Trading Permits to use sustainable heating practices and notes that through the Economic Development Strategy Council will look at ways to encourage Darebin businesses to minimise their environmental footprint and future proof their business to the impacts of climate change.**

- (3) Endorses the implementation and operationalisation of the adopted Policy and Guidelines with existing parklet owners and for future permit applications.
- (4) Supports businesses with existing parklets to transition to the new Policy and Guidelines by providing a transitional grace period, where no parklet permit fees are required to be paid to Council for the period 1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024 to enable engagement with each business to determine which elements of their existing parklet meets the new Policy and Guidelines and which elements will be required to be removed by Council as they do not meet the new Policy and Guidelines.
- (5) Endorses the fee structure as outlined in Appendix C of this report and notes that these will be included in the 2024/25 Council Plan and Budget and that subject to Council's adoption of the 2024/25 fee schedule through the budget process will be charged to all businesses with parklets from 1 July 2024.
- (6) **Delegates to the CEO the ability to make minor editorial amendments that do not materially alter the intent of the Policy and Guidelines.**

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

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 24-038

MOVED: Cr. T Hannan
SECONDED: Cr. L Messina

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the draft Outdoor Dining and Trading Policy (the Policy) and draft Design Guidelines (the Guidelines) as outlined in **Appendix A** and **Appendix B** of this report.
- (2) Strongly encourages holders of Outdoor Dining and Trading Permits to use sustainable heating practices and notes that through the Economic Development Strategy Council will look at ways to encourage Darebin businesses to minimise their environmental footprint and future proof their business to the impacts of climate change.
- (3) Endorses the implementation and operationalisation of the adopted Policy and Guidelines with existing parklet owners and for future permit applications.
- (4) Supports businesses with existing parklets to transition to the new Policy and Guidelines by providing a transitional grace period, where no parklet permit fees are required to be paid to Council for the period 1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024 to enable engagement with each business to determine which elements of their existing parklet meets the new Policy and Guidelines and which elements will be required to be removed by Council as they do not meet the new Policy and Guidelines.
- (5) Endorses the fee structure as outlined in Appendix C of this report and notes that these will be included in the 2024/25 Council Plan and Budget and that subject to Council's adoption of the 2024/25 fee schedule through the budget process will be charged to all businesses with parklets from 1 July 2024.
- (6) Delegates to the CEO the ability to make minor editorial amendments that do not materially alter the intent of the Policy and Guidelines.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.4 RESERVOIR LEISURE CENTRE - HIGH-LEVEL COSTS, FUNDING STRATEGY OPTIONS AND NEXT STEPS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In February 2024, amongst other things, Council requested a report be prepared and presented to the March 2024 Council meeting addressing high-level costing estimates, funding strategy options including a specific Future Fund and next steps to achieve the building of a new Reservoir Leisure Centre (RLC). This report has been prepared to respond to this request by Council.

Council has received feedback from community members who have highlighted their concerns about the current condition of RLC and have expressed to Council the need for RLC to be improved as soon as possible.

Council is in the difficult position of needing to balance community feedback on this facility with Council's current and future financial position as well as meeting asset management responsibilities across Council's entire asset portfolio.

Planning for the RLC redevelopment, is long-term and generational in nature, regardless of the redevelopment option chosen (knock-down and rebuild or refurbishment). Funding a project of this scale requires significant funds to be allocated over an extended period of time and will require Council to make choices and trade-offs given its current financial position and the external operating environment more broadly, which is significantly different to when Council made other long-term and generational in nature investment decisions in recent years.

After exploring the various funding strategies, it is clear Council would need to carefully consider the funding envelope it is prepared to commit to a single project and the financial risks and opportunity costs of doing so and the timeframe over when this could occur so that Council continues to meet its asset management and financial sustainability requirements.

Officers' preliminary advice on a funding strategy for a redevelopment of RLC is that this project could only commence after Council's current debt repayments have been completed and, therefore, only from 2033. Further, not all options for the future of this facility discussed in this paper could be afforded and realistically funded within Council's overall financially sustainable budget envelope.

It should be noted the financial advice in this report is based on high-level analysis and further work needs to be done. It will be important to update assumptions and forecasts over time to take account of any changes in the economic context and outlook.

The RLC building is expected to be at the end of its useful life in around 15 years (2039 with some level of risk). Work towards replacing a building of this size needs a 3–4-year lead time and would need to start by 2035.

As Council's current Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) goes through to 2033, this summary provides an indication of the affordable funding envelope by 2033:

Potential funding source	Indicative funds available at 2033	Indicative funds available later	Notes
Capital works program budget	\$10M	\$0	Few other buildings would be redeveloped

Potential funding source	Indicative funds available at 2033	Indicative funds available later	Notes
Current Open Space Levy (OSL)	\$0	\$0	Already factored into the capital works budget above.
Additional OSL	TBA	TBA	More analysis needed
Current Development Contributions Plan (DCP)	\$0	\$3.57M (total)	Future year collections
Additional DCP	\$0	Potentially 18% of cost	Risky
Borrowings	\$40M	-\$5.7M annually for 10 years	Repayments
Minor property sales	\$6.4M	\$0	Subject to future case-by-case decisions
Grants	\$300,000	\$0	Based on current grants and tight economic outlook for other levels of Government
Reduce subsidies to discretionary services	\$0	\$0	If Council changed its approach to services and decided to reduce subsidies or services, it could potentially redirect \$16M by 2033
Income from leased properties	\$0	\$0	Council could generate revenue if it changed its approach, however this would be a significant change from the approach it has taken in recent decisions.
Total	\$56.7M (+ OSL TBA)		

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Notes the report as requested by Council on 1 February 2024 addressing high-level costing estimates, funding strategy options including a specific Future Fund and next steps to achieve the building of a new Reservoir Leisure Centre.
- (2) Notes the indicative steps and timelines outlined in this report to progress the comprehensive RLC Scoping Study requested by Council as outlined in **Table 1** of this report and notes that officers will use best endeavours to meet these.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. G Greco
SECONDED: Cr. S Rennie

That Council:

- (1) Notes the report as requested by Council on 1 February 2024 addressing high-level costing estimates, funding strategy options including a specific Future Fund and next steps to achieve the building of a new Reservoir Leisure Centre.
- (2) Notes the indicative steps and timelines outlined in this report to **immediately** progress the comprehensive RLC Scoping Study requested by Council **and already included in the 2023/2024 budget, which is** outlined in **Table 1** of this report and notes that officers will use best endeavours to meet these.
- (3) **Notes that the outcomes of the RLC scoping study will come back to Council and requests that at that point officers provide advice on costs and a funding approach associated with undertaking a concept design, informed by the outcomes of the RLC Scoping Study, including exploring external funding opportunities and the contribution that would need to be made by Council for developing a concept design.**

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

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 24-039**

MOVED: Cr. G Greco
SECONDED: Cr. S Rennie

That Council:

- (1) Notes the report as requested by Council on 1 February 2024 addressing high-level costing estimates, funding strategy options including a specific Future Fund and next steps to achieve the building of a new Reservoir Leisure Centre.
- (2) Notes the indicative steps and timelines outlined in this report to immediately progress the comprehensive RLC Scoping Study requested by Council and already included in the 2023/2024 budget, which is outlined in **Table 1** of this report and notes that officers will use best endeavours to meet these.
- (3) Notes that the outcomes of the RLC scoping study will come back to Council and requests that at that point officers provide advice on costs and a funding approach associated with undertaking a concept design, informed by the outcomes of the RLC Scoping Study, including exploring external funding opportunities and the contribution that would need to be made by Council for developing a concept design.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.13pm – Cr Messina left the meeting.

9.5 EXTENDED E-SCOOTER TRIAL PARTICIPATION - CITY OF DAREBIN'S OPTIONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the current e-scooter trial that is occurring in the municipalities of Melbourne, Yarra, Port Philip and Ballarat. The report will cover the benefits, challenges and strategies of managing e-scooters, and options for Council to consider.

Shared micromobility is where e-scooters and/or e-bikes, which are owned by private operating companies, are generally stored on public land and are hired out for short trips. These trips are managed and tracked using mobile apps for each of the shared micromobility operators.

Victoria's e-scooter trial was expanded in April 2023 to allow e-scooters across the state, including private use, and to enable other local councils to engage with commercially operated share schemes via an agreement. This trial is currently scheduled to end on 5 April 2024, with no announcement yet made by the Victorian Government on the use of e-scooters after this date.

Since February 2022 there have been over 7.5 million shared micromobility trips taken in Victoria, with over 6.5 million of those trips being taken by e-scooters covering over 12 million kilometres. The remaining trips were on shared e-bikes.

The popularity of the e-scooter service has been increasing, with 45% more trips being taken in 2023 compared with the previous year.

Surveys from e-scooter operators state that 46% of trips were demonstrated to replace a car trip, either by private car, taxi or Uber. Using this data, e-scooters have replaced approximately 3 million car trips and 5.53 million kilometres of car travel. There is no available data on the trips taken by privately owned e-scooters.

As part of the Victorian e-scooter trial, both shared and private e-scooter usage is legal on Victorian roads. The following rules apply to riders of e-scooters, who must:

- Be aged 16 years or over,
- Wear a helmet,
- Ride at a maximum of 20km/h,
- Ride on bicycle paths, shared paths, or roads with a speed limit up to 60 km/h.

If Darebin joined a shared micromobility trial:

- Shared mobility operators would be responsible for all community complaints handling that relate to shared e-scooter/bike parking, behaviour, and operation.
- Council would be responsible for any complaints relating to Council infrastructure, such as signage, bike lanes or parking areas that need to be constructed.

Officers have engaged with Councils participating in the current trial, micromobility operators, and have reviewed research on shared micromobility and e-scooters to prepare this report.

Officer Recommendation**That Council:**

- (1) Notes the contents of this report, including the implementation costs of joining a micromobility scheme.
- (2) In the event that it resolves to participate in a shared micromobility scheme through its future planning and budget processes:
 - a. endorses the operating model where Council:
 - i. joins with a consortium of other M9 Councils to form the agreement for shared micromobility providers to operate in the City of Darebin.
 - ii. implements systems and infrastructure in accordance with an M9 agreement.
 - b. notes that Council could exit an agreement at anytime.
 - c. authorises the CEO to negotiate and enter into an agreement with M9 and shared mobility operators to provide services, including e-scooters and e-bikes, within the City of Darebin.

Motion**MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy****SECONDED: Cr. S Rennie****That Council:**

- (1) Notes the contents of this report, including the implementation costs of joining a micromobility scheme.
- ~~(2) In the event that it resolves to participate in a shared micromobility scheme through its future planning and budget processes:~~
 - ~~a. endorses the operating model where Council:~~
 - ~~i. joins with a consortium of other M9 Councils to form the agreement for shared micromobility providers to operate in the City of Darebin.~~
 - ~~ii. implements systems and infrastructure in accordance with an M9 agreement.~~
 - ~~b. notes that Council could exit an agreement at anytime.~~
 - ~~c. authorises the CEO to negotiate and enter into an agreement with M9 and shared mobility operators to provide services, including e-scooters and e-bikes, within the City of Darebin.~~
- (2) Considers allocating funding thought the 2024/2025 budget process, on the basis that the trial achieves cost neutrality over two years, and after that, continues to achieve cost neutrality or a positive financial return to Council.**
- (3) Receives a further report to consider the implementation model for a micro-mobility scheme in the event that Council resolves to participate in a shared micro-mobility scheme through its 2024/2025 budget processes.**

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

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 24-040****MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy****SECONDED: Cr. S Rennie****That Council:**

- (1) Notes the contents of this report, including the implementation costs of joining a micromobility scheme.
- (2) Considers allocating funding through the 2024/2025 budget process, on the basis that the trial achieves cost neutrality over two years, and after that, continues to achieve cost neutrality or a positive financial return to Council.
- (3) Receives a further report to consider the implementation model for a micro-mobility scheme in the event that Council resolves to participate in a shared micro-mobility scheme through its 2024/2025 budget processes.

CARRIED

For: Cr's Hannan, Rennie, Greco, McCarthy, Laurence and Newton (6)

Abstained: Cr Williams (1)

*8.22pm – Peter Smith, Chief Executive Officer left the meeting.**8.24pm – Peter Smith, Chief Executive Officer returned to the meeting.*

9.6 FACILITATION OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS BY THE VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT AND PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF PRE-APPLICATION FEES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report concerns recent reforms to the planning system which will see major developments approved by the Minister for Planning and seeks to formalise Council's response to these applications when notified by the Victorian Government.

Major developments within the municipality shape our neighbourhoods, can affect a large number of residents and will accommodate existing and new members of our residential and business community.

Through a series of reforms over past years the Victorian Government has progressively removed a range of major development categories from the decision-making powers of councils. Most recently, this trend was accelerated through the series of reforms associated with the Victorian Housing Statement, when two state-wide amendments to planning schemes shifted decision-making powers from councils to the Minister for Planning:

- New Clause 53.22 (Significant economic development) and
- New Clause 53.23 (Significant residential development with affordable housing).

These reforms will significantly reduce Council's ability to influence development outcomes for major developments and achieve its policy objectives, as well impacting people's ability to participate in planning for their local neighbourhoods.

Additionally, by creating alternative Victorian Government assessment pathways that avoid Council, there is a significant impact on fees that Council will receive from statutory planning applications.

The details and impacts of these issues have been discussed amongst different councils, with a view to developing a coordinated advocacy campaign and developing solutions to the issues that are being created.

To respond to these reforms and to seek to ameliorate the impact on Council's revenue and maintain a level of influence in major development applications, a modification to providing advice and assessment for applicable major development applications is required. To enable this new approach, it is recommended that Council introduce new pre-application advice fees for major developments and modify the applicable instrument of delegation to enable senior council officers the ability to provide advice to the Victorian Government within the expected timeframes.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Notes that the State Government's *Housing Statement* targets 800,000 new dwellings, and that recent amendments to all Victorian planning schemes to support the *Housing Statement* shifts decision-making powers to the Minister for Planning for major developments via the development facilitation program.

- (2) Notes the impact of these reforms on Council's ability to sufficiently fund the statutory planning assessment process.
- (3) Notes the reduction in transparency for decision making, and the diminution of resident's ability to participate in and influence major planning decisions through the Victorian Government's development facilitation program.
- (4) Advocates both as a single organisation and through its networks for a statutory fee sharing approach with the Victorian Government for major development applications, to enable some costs recovery for local, technical advice and assessment.
- (5) Resolves to continue providing a full advice and assessment service for major development applications if a) the Victorian Government agrees to a statutory fee sharing approach and/or b) if the applicant pays the specified pre-application advice fee.
- (6) Seeks to introduce new pre-application fee(s) for major developments as part of the 2024/25 budget process, generally as follows:
 - a. Pre-application Stage 1 – 25% percent of the normal planning application fee.
 - b. Pre-application Stage 2 – 25% percent of the normal planning application fee.
 - c. Pre-application Stage 3 – 25% percent of the normal application fee (if deemed necessary by the Manager of City Development due to the scale of the project and required assessment).
- (7) Resolves to adopt the following approach when notified of a major development application if a) no fee sharing model has been agreed with the Victorian Government and/or b) the applicant has not paid the pre-application fee:
 - a. Advise prospective applicants that Council will not engage in pre-application meetings where they intend to lodge with the Victorian Government.
 - b. Provide high-level advice and response to the Victorian Government, indicating potential issues and key matters to be addressed.
 - c. Due to the limited timeframe, Council's response to be provided by Council officers in accordance with the instrument of delegation.
 - d. Dedicate resources to providing the best service possible to applicants who choose to apply through Council and not the Victorian Government.
- (8) Resolves to modify the 'S6 – *Instrument of Delegation to Members of Council Staff*' to delegate to senior executives and managers the power to respond to the Minister / Victorian Government when they give notice to Council of a planning application that they are assessing under either Clause 53.22 or Clause 53.23 of the Darebin Planning Scheme.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. S Rennie
SECONDED: Cr. T McCarthy

That Council:

- (1) Notes that the State Government's *Housing Statement* targets 800,000 new dwellings, and that recent amendments to all Victorian planning schemes to support the *Housing Statement* shifts decision-making powers to the Minister for Planning for major developments via the development facilitation program.

-
- (2) Notes the impact of these reforms on Council's ability to sufficiently fund the statutory planning assessment process.
 - (3) Notes the reduction in transparency for decision making, and the diminution of resident's ability to participate in and influence major planning decisions through the Victorian Government's development facilitation program.
 - (4) Advocates both as a single organisation and through its networks for a statutory fee sharing approach with the Victorian Government for major development applications, to enable some costs recovery for local, technical advice and assessment.
 - (5) Resolves to continue providing a full advice and assessment service for major development applications if a) the Victorian Government agrees to a statutory fee sharing approach and/or b) if the applicant pays the specified pre-application advice fee.
 - (6) Seeks to introduce new pre-application fee(s) for major developments as part of the 2024/25 budget process, generally as follows:
 - a. Pre-application Stage 1 – 25% percent of the normal planning application fee.
 - b. Pre-application Stage 2 – 25% percent of the normal planning application fee.
 - c. Pre-application Stage 3 – 25% percent of the normal application fee (if deemed necessary by the Manager of City Development due to the scale of the project and required assessment).
 - (7) Resolves to adopt the following approach when notified of a major development application if a) no fee sharing model has been agreed with the Victorian Government and/or b) the applicant has not paid the pre-application fee:
 - a. Advise prospective applicants that Council will not engage in pre-application meetings where they intend to lodge with the Victorian Government.
 - b. Provide high-level advice and response to the Victorian Government, indicating potential issues and key matters to be addressed.
 - c. Due to the limited timeframe, Council's response to be provided by Council officers in accordance with the instrument of delegation.
 - d. Dedicate resources to providing the best service possible to applicants who choose to apply through Council and not the Victorian Government.
 - (8) Resolves to modify the 'S6 – *Instrument of Delegation to Members of Council Staff* to delegate to senior executives and managers the power to respond to the Minister / Victorian Government when they give notice to Council of a planning application that they are assessing under either Clause 53.22 or Clause 53.23 of the Darebin Planning Scheme.

Cr Greco proposed to the mover and seconder the addition of point (9) as follows, which was accepted by Cr Rennie & Cr McCarthy:

- (9) Receives a report outlining the legal constraints, Council mechanisms, and benefits of informing affected residents of major developments applications being assessed by the Victorian Government, in recognition that community participation in planning is essential for increasing the liveability of neighbourhoods

THE AMENDED MOTION THEN READ AS FOLLOWS:

Amended Motion

MOVED: Cr. S Rennie
SECONDED: Cr. T McCarthy

That Council:

- (1) Notes that the State Government's Housing Statement targets 800,000 new dwellings, and that recent amendments to all Victorian planning schemes to support the Housing Statement shifts decision-making powers to the Minister for Planning for major developments via the development facilitation program
- (2) Notes the impact of these reforms on Council's ability to sufficiently fund the statutory planning assessment process.
- (3) Notes the reduction in transparency for decision making, and the diminution of resident's ability to participate in and influence major planning decisions through the Victorian Government's development facilitation program.
- (4) Advocates both as a single organisation and through its networks for a statutory fee sharing approach with the Victorian Government for major development applications, to enable some costs recovery for local, technical advice and assessment.
- (5) Resolves to continue providing a full advice and assessment service for major development applications if a) the Victorian Government agrees to a statutory fee sharing approach and/or b) if the applicant pays the specified pre-application advice fee.
- (6) Seeks to introduce new pre-application fee(s) for major developments as part of the 2024/25 budget process, generally as follows:
 - a. Pre-application Stage 1 – 25% percent of the normal planning application fee.
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 - c. Pre-application Stage 3 – 25% percent of the normal application fee (if deemed necessary by the Manager of City Development due to the scale of the project and required assessment).
- (7) Resolves to adopt the following approach when notified of a major development application if a) no fee sharing model has been agreed with the Victorian Government and/or b) the applicant has not paid the pre-application fee:
 - a. Advise prospective applicants that Council will not engage in pre-application meetings where they intend to lodge with the Victorian Government.
 - b. Provide high-level advice and response to the Victorian Government, indicating potential issues and key matters to be addressed.
 - c. Due to the limited timeframe, Council's response to be provided by Council officers in accordance with the instrument of delegation.
 - d. Dedicate resources to providing the best service possible to applicants who choose to apply through Council and not the Victorian Government.
- (8) Resolves to modify the 'S6 – *Instrument of Delegation to Members of Council Staff*' to delegate to senior executives and managers the power to respond to the Minister / Victorian Government when they give notice to Council of a planning application that they are assessing under either Clause 53.22 or Clause 53.23 of the Darebin Planning Scheme.

- (9) Receives a report outlining the legal constraints, Council mechanisms, and benefits of informing affected residents of major developments applications being assessed by the Victorian Government, in recognition that community participation in planning is essential for increasing the liveability of neighbourhoods.

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

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 24-041

MOVED: Cr. S Rennie
SECONDED: Cr. T McCarthy

That Council:

- (1) Notes that the State Government's Housing Statement targets 800,000 new dwellings, and that recent amendments to all Victorian planning schemes to support the Housing Statement shifts decision-making powers to the Minister for Planning for major developments via the development facilitation program.
- (2) Notes the impact of these reforms on Council's ability to sufficiently fund the statutory planning assessment process.
- (3) Notes the reduction in transparency for decision making, and the diminution of resident's ability to participate in and influence major planning decisions through the Victorian Government's development facilitation program.
- (4) Advocates both as a single organisation and through its networks for a statutory fee sharing approach with the Victorian Government for major development applications, to enable some costs recovery for local, technical advice and assessment.
- (5) Resolves to continue providing a full advice and assessment service for major development applications if a) the Victorian Government agrees to a statutory fee sharing approach and/or b) if the applicant pays the specified pre-application advice fee.
- (6) Seeks to introduce new pre-application fee(s) for major developments as part of the 2024/25 budget process, generally as follows:
 - a. Pre-application Stage 1 – 25% percent of the normal planning application fee.
 - b. Pre-application Stage 2 – 25% percent of the normal planning application fee.
 - c. Pre-application Stage 3 – 25% percent of the normal application fee (if deemed necessary by the Manager of City Development due to the scale of the project and required assessment).
- (7) Resolves to adopt the following approach when notified of a major development application if a) no fee sharing model has been agreed with the Victorian Government and/or b) the applicant has not paid the pre-application fee:
 - a. Advise prospective applicants that Council will not engage in pre-application meetings where they intend to lodge with the Victorian Government.
 - b. Provide high-level advice and response to the Victorian Government, indicating potential issues and key matters to be addressed.
 - c. Due to the limited timeframe, Council's response to be provided by Council officers in accordance with the instrument of delegation.

- d. Dedicate resources to providing the best service possible to applicants who choose to apply through Council and not the Victorian Government.
- (8) Resolves to modify the 'S6 – *Instrument of Delegation to Members of Council Staff*' to delegate to senior executives and managers the power to respond to the Minister / Victorian Government when they give notice to Council of a planning application that they are assessing under either Clause 53.22 or Clause 53.23 of the Darebin Planning Scheme.
- (9) Receives a report outlining the legal constraints, Council mechanisms, and benefits of informing affected residents of major developments applications being assessed by the Victorian Government, in recognition that community participation in planning is essential for increasing the liveability of neighbourhoods.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.7 CONTRACT AWARD - CT202366 PROVISION OF HARD WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES

This item was withdrawn prior to the meeting by the Chief Executive Officer and will be presented to Council at a future meeting.

9.8

CT202373 - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF MOBILE BINS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To seek Council's approval to access the Procurement Australia (PA) contract 2510/0513, which offers supply of mobile garbage bins at discounted rates.

Local councils have the option of appointing Procurement Australia (PA) as their tendering agent to participate in various aggregated tendering and contracting opportunities. This allows councils to aggregate their expenditure and achieve greater economies of scale, leading to improved efficiencies and cost savings across the sector.

The recommendation in this report will replace the previous PA contract 2110/0503 which expired in October 2023. Council use of this PA contract also satisfies and complies with Darebin's procurement processes and the *Local Government Act 2020*. The expected aggregated cost is likely to fall somewhere between \$1M - \$4m, exceeding operational delegations and, therefore, requiring council endorsement.

Council officers have evaluated the tenderers recommended by Procurement Australia (PA) based on Council's specific requirements, such as the use of recycled content, compatibility of parts with existing bins and their technical capabilities.

This report seeks approval to access Procurement Australia (PA) contract 2510/0513 and appoint _____ to supply bins and parts as needed. Key reasons for this recommendation are their technical capability and interchangeability of parts.

The advantages of accessing this contract include:

1. Compliance with the *Local Government 2020 Act*.
2. Fixed discounted pricing, which would not be available if solely tendered by Darebin Council.
3. Ongoing support and assistance from PA for the duration of the contract.
4. Consistent supply of bins over the long term to service Council's operational needs on a day-to-day basis.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Endorses use of PA Contract 2510/0513 (Darebin reference No. CT202373) supply and delivery of garbage bins from _____ for two years plus two by 1 year extensions (**Appendix A**).
- (2) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or their Delegate) to notify PA and the supplier, of Council's formal endorsement to utilise PA contract 2510/0513 as required, to fulfil its operational requirements.
- (3) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or their Delegate), to review and approve options for two by one-year extensions, subject to satisfactory performance and operational requirements.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. S Rennie
SECONDED: Cr. T McCarthy

That Council:

- (1) Endorses use of PA Contract 2510/0513 (Darebin reference No. CT202373) supply and delivery of garbage bins from **SULO MGB Pty Ltd** for two years plus two by 1 year extensions (**Appendix A**).
- (2) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or their Delegate) to notify PA and the supplier, of Council's formal endorsement to utilise PA contract 2510/0513 as required, to fulfil its operational requirements.
- (3) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or their Delegate), to review and approve options for two by one-year extensions, subject to satisfactory performance and operational requirements.

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

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 24-042**

MOVED: Cr. S Rennie
SECONDED: Cr. T McCarthy

That Council:

- (1) Endorses use of PA Contract 2510/0513 (Darebin reference No. CT202373) supply and delivery of garbage bins from SULO MGB Pty Ltd for two years plus two by 1 year extensions (**Appendix A**).
- (2) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or their Delegate) to notify PA and the supplier, of Council's formal endorsement to utilise PA contract 2510/0513 as required, to fulfil its operational requirements.
- (3) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or their Delegate), to review and approve options for two by one-year extensions, subject to satisfactory performance and operational requirements.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**9.9 NORTHCOTE TOWN HALL COMPLIANCE AND
RECTIFICATION PROJECT**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement to adjust four project budgets within Council's 2023-24 capital works program. It is recommended that the budget be increased for the Northcote Town Hall compliance works project, and that this be offset by reducing budgets for three projects where opportunities for savings have been identified. This would overall have a neutral effect on the financial performance of Council's 2023-24 capital works program. Full details of costs are in confidential appendix A.

The Northcote Town Hall site is a complex, heritage site and following design and a tendering, the full cost of compliance works are now understood. Given the essential nature of the compliance works at the Northcote Town Hall and the important role of the venue in the community and local economy, officers recommend proceeding with the works as soon as possible.

In late 2022, Council identified the need to rectify building non-compliance matters at the Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre and the need to cease functions and events until resolved. Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre is an important venue with a valuable role within the local economy and immediate corrective works were completed by Council to address some of the critical matters identified. This enabled some administrative functions and elements of the presentation program to continue to operate from the facility, albeit with severe restrictions.

Council has been working towards completing the more substantial works required. An initial budget of \$200,000 for further works was committed as part of its 2023-24 Capital Works budget, however at the time this was established there was little information available to inform the cost estimate.

A full scope of works was identified and documented with the assistance of expert consultants. The updated costs have been reviewed through an independent analysis by a Quantity Surveyor which has confirmed the need for an additional funds to complete project.

Details of the three projects identified with offsetting savings are listed in this report. All will still be delivered, with savings identified through scope revision and/or lower costs.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 24-043

MOVED: Cr. T Hannan
SECONDED: Cr. T McCarthy

That Council:

- (1) Notes that the detailed construction costs estimates associated with Northcote Town Hall compliance works are greater than what was initially budgeted in the 2023-24 Capital Works Budget.
- (2) Endorses funding the works by reassigning savings from three other projects in the 2023/2024 Capital works program, as outlined in **Appendix A**.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. ITEMS TO BE TABLED

Nil

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

12. URGENT BUSINESS

13. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL

CLOSE OF MEETING

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr. S Rennie
SECONDED: Cr. T McCarthy

That in accordance with section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), the meeting be closed to members of the public to consider the following items on the basis that these matters are confidential for the following reasons:

13.1 Response to proposed development of an mRNA facility at Latrobe University (44 Crissane Road, Bundoora)

This item is confidential because it is land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values and private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage, pursuant to Section 3(1) (c) and (g(ii)) of the Act.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting was closed to the members of the public at 8.50pm.

The Council considered and resolved on Report Item 13.1 which had been circulated to Councillors with the Council Agenda Paper.

RE-OPENING OF MEETING

Recommendation

That the meeting be re-opened to the members of the public.

The meeting was re-opened to the members of the public at 8.56pm.

14. CLOSE OF MEETING


The meeting closed at 8.56pm.

**CITY OF
DAREBIN**

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हिंदी	ਪੰਜਾਬੀ	Tiếng Việt