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MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 24 February 2025

Released to the public on 28 February 2025

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



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, παρακαλείσθε 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 xiriir 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 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 24 FEBRUARY 2025

THE MEETING OPENED AT 6.05PM

The Chairperson, Mayor Olaris advised that the meeting was being streamed live and that audio and video would be made available on Council's website.

1. OPENING OF MEETING AND MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

Cr. Kristine Olaris OAM (Mayor)
Cr. Emily Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)
Cr. Matt Arturi
Cr. Connie Boglis OAM
Cr. Gaetano Greco
Cr. Ruth Jelley
Cr. Julie O'Brien
Cr. Alexandra Sangster
Cr. Vasilios Tsalkos

Council Officers

Michael Tudball - Interim Chief Executive Officer
Caroline Buisson - General Manager Customer and Corporate
Nina Cullen - General Manager Community
Rachel Ollivier - General Manager Infrastructure, Operations and Finance
Vanessa Petrie - General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy
Enna Giampiccolo - Executive Manager Governance, Risk, Communications and Engagement
Felicity Walsh - Interim Manager Governance and Communications
Jody Brodribb - Coordinator Governance Services

Municipal Monitors

June Anstee
Ross Millard

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

The Chairperson, Mayor Olaris OAM, 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. I recognise their continuing connection to land, water and culture and pay my respects to Elders past and present.

3. APOLOGIES

Nil

4. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

5. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 28 January 2025 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-017

MOVED: Cr. Jelley
SECONDED: Cr. Tsalkos

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 28 January 2025 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted with an amendment to Item 8.3 Tabling of Petition - Victoria Road South Crecent, Northcote to record the seconder of that motion as Cr Boglis OAM, not Cr Olaris OAM.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. COUNCIL'S OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chairperson, Mayor Olaris, 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 the following:

- *A Councillor or any other person who addresses a Meeting must do so in a courteous and respectful manner and must take direction from the Chairperson whenever called on to do so.*
- *Any member of the public physically attending a Meeting must not utter any offensive, indecent, insulting, or objectionable item or words, including words that are racist, sexist or homophobic, or interject or gesticulate offensively in the Council Chamber.*
- *Silence must be preserved by the gallery at all times during a Meeting (other than by a person in the gallery who is invited to address the Meeting).*
- *If any member of the public engages in conduct that is improper or disorderly, the Chairperson may direct that person to cease their conduct and the person must comply with that direction.*

PROCEDURAL MOTION

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)

SECONDED: Cr. Arturi

That the order of business of the meeting be amended to move Item 9.10 Memorandum of Understanding with Darebin Creek Management Committee to be considered after Item 9.1 Contract Award - CT202445 Provision of IT Hardware.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. QUESTION AND SUBMISSION TIME

The Chairperson, Mayor Olaris, responded to the following questions submitted for Public Question Time:

- **Angela Denton**

1. Can Council provide details of the frequency, time and length of parking compliance patrols for Oldis Avenue Northcote?
2. Does Council have a specific policy regarding parking compliance for Oldis Avenue and other nearby streets on the nights when there is a concert at Northcote Theatre?
3. Do parking compliance patrols typically operate on a Sunday evening?

Response From General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

1. Thank you for your questions Angela. Council is aware of parking issues in Oldis Avenue, Northcote. Council's parking enforcement team attended both Thursday and Saturday night last week following events at the Northcote theatre. Officers patrol Oldis Avenue as often as possible and will continue to do so.
2. No, Council doesn't create enforcement policy for parking on individual streets.
3. Yes, Council's Parking Enforcement team operates on weekends, including Sunday nights.

6.17 pm - Cr Emily Dimitriadis left the meeting

- **Warwick Blackmur**

1. Does the council know how many domestic rubbish bins have broken or missing lids?
2. Would the Council consider imposing additional levies or rates on businesses that create high levels of litter? (For example - a fast food business with branded packaging)

Response From General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance

1. Darebin track reports of broken or missing bin lids, but the level of detail and accuracy depends on community members reporting the damage so it can be added into our maintenance systems. Reports can be sent by SnapSendSolve, by calling our customer service line or emailing Council.
2. In Darebin, Litter Enforcement Officers respond to community litter complaints. Where litter can be identified to a specific business or individual, fines may be issued in accordance with local regulations. Council doesn't currently impose additional levies or rates on business.

- **Mohammad Helmy**

1. What investigation, if any, did the probity officer undertake to satisfy themselves that the self-declaration made as part of the IT equipment tenders was founded in fact?

6.18 pm - Cr Emily Dimitriadis returned to the meeting.

Response From General Manager Customer & Corporate

1. The independent Probity Advisor is tasked to oversee and attend all meetings and ensure the evaluation process has been undertaken in an accountable and transparent manner in line with council endorsed policy and process. The principles of the advisor are to ensure fairness, consistency of process and resolution of conflict of interests.

- **Lachlan Chalis**

1. Regarding Item 9.1 in the Council agenda - according to the report, the competitive tender contract is for provision of IT Hardware – Supply and Delivery of Laptop Devices. How soon after it makes its decision will the community know what brand of laptops Council has purchased?
2. Regarding Item 9.1 in the Council agenda - can Council please explain what a “direct affiliation or association with an international military force (government or non-government), manufacturer of weapons used in war, and organisations that benefit from illegal occupation and human rights abuses” means or looks like. For example, does this cover other associations along the supply chain? If not, why not?

Response From General Manager Customer & Corporate

1. As advised in one of the previous questions, in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy, confidential contract information may be released following a resolution of Council.
2. The Council report of 14 Aug 2024 provided a clear self-declaration, which was:
“Darebin City Council actively seeks assurance from all suppliers by way of self-declaration on the extent to which the supplier does not have a direct affiliation or association with international military forces (government or non-government), manufacturer of weapons used in war, and organisations that benefit from illegal occupation and human rights abuses”

The procurement assessment required Council to assess tenders by requesting tenderers submit a self-declaration of their business activities and declare if they have a direct affiliation or association. The endorsed process clarified no further checks would be undertaken.

- **Ben Hjorth**

1. Will Council uphold the principles of the We Vote 4 Palestine pledge (publicly signed by all currently elected Councillors during the recent elections) when it comes to making a decision on the new IT contract tonight?
2. Can the community know what brand of laptops will be purchased by Council, if Councillors award the tender to the supplier recommended by Council officers in Item 9.1 (the name of which is still not known to the community)?
3. Can Council point to which governance rules or other relevant instruments mandate or allow for the suppression of a recommended supplier's name from public view until the moment of the debate (when it will be read out), and comment on how Council can claim to maintain sufficient standards of public probity and oversight by the electorate — foundational to any democratic governance structure — when community members are effectively shut out of any debate or review of the decision to award the contract to a particular recommended supplier?

Response From General Manager Customer & Corporate

1. We understand this is an important matter for the community and Council will discuss this as the first item of business on tonight's agenda.

(Response for Q2 & Q3)

In accordance with Council's Procurement Policy, confidential contract information may be released following a resolution of Council.

This is standard practice when awarding contracts, another example of which is included in Item 9.11 on tonight's agenda.

- **Simone Howard**

1. On page 6 of the report it states that the tender evaluation panel comprised of individuals from the Information Services team. What expertise did the team have in evaluating direct affiliation or association with an international military force manufacturer of weapons used in war, and organisations that benefit from illegal occupation and human rights abuses?
2. On page 6 again it states that Council resolved at its meeting on 14/8/24 that the evaluation criteria for this tender was to include a self-declaration from tenderers to "seek assurance from all suppliers by way of self-declaration on the extent to which the supplier does not have a direct affiliation or association with international military forces manufacturer of weapons used in war, and organisations that benefit from illegal occupation and human rights abuses." Has Council followed up on the veracity of the "self-declarations". If not, why? What further questions were asked?

Response From General Manager Customer & Corporate

1. The evaluation panel was required to assess all tender submission according to the resolution made by council on 14 August meeting, which required tenderers to complete and lodge a self-declaration. The responses were then scored according to the evaluation endorsement which establishes how a criteria will be assessed. In this instance the self-declaration where either scored as 10% or 0% according to the tenderer's response

2. As per my previous response to Lachlan's question, the procurement assessment required Council to assess tenders by requesting tenderers submit a self-declaration of their business activities and declare if they have a direct affiliation or association. The endorsed process clarified no further checks would be undertaken.

- **Jess Gordon**

1. As per page 7 in the report, what reference checks were conducted for the recommended supplier in ensuring the supply and delivery of laptop brands, specifically in relation to any connection to an international military force (government or non-government), manufacturer of weapons used in war, and organisations that benefit from illegal occupation and human rights?
2. What are the ethical implications and reputational governance risks if it is found at a later stage that Council purchased laptops from a company that is implicated (including as a subsidiary or affiliate) with an international military force (government or non-government), manufacturer of weapons used in war, and organisations that benefit from illegal occupation and human rights?

Response From General Manager Customer & Corporate

1. Thanks Jess, I believe I've just answered that question – and that is that we asked tenderers to complete a self-assessment.
2. This is a hypothetical question but we understand this is an important matter for the community, so in answering, Council will discuss this as the first item of business on tonight's agenda.

- **Jacqueline Langrick**

1. A competitive public tender process was undertaken to identify a suitable supplier capable of delivering high-quality laptops and services to meet business requirements. In general terms and without revealing any confidential information, did any of the suppliers fail to meet Council's social procurement requirements

Response From General Manager Customer & Corporate

1. Of all submitted tenders, four were assessed as meeting the council's criteria, which progressed to formal assessment.

- **Tallulah Jane**

1. Can the Council acknowledge that the role of local government is to serve everyone in the community and that by flying the Palestinian flag at Preston Town Hall, it is alienating residents by valuing one side over the other?
2. When will the flag policy for Darebin be finalised, which has currently been in review for over a year?
3. Does Council have a current Graffiti Management Strategy in place to tackle the significant rise in tagging, vandalism and graffiti, including antisemitic graffiti, to public and private property in Darebin?

Response From General Manager Customer & Corporate

Response to Q1 & Q2)

The Office of the CEO is coordinating the review of the Flag Policy, which Council will have the opportunity to consider and finalise in the very near future.

3. Council has a strong commitment to enhancing and developing the visual appearance of its municipality to ensure it is a place where people feel safe, connected and proud. In Darebin, graffiti management is governed by Council's Graffiti Management Strategy.

Residents can report graffiti on council assets for action, while private property owners are encouraged to seek support or resources for the removal of graffiti from their property. We will work with the appropriate authorities on graffiti removal on assets across Darebin

PROCEDURAL MOTION – EXTENSION OF PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr. Boglis OAM

SECONDED: Cr. O'Brien

That Public Question Time be extended for 30 minutes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- **Lily Levine**

1. Given the recent display of the Palestinian flag during the handover of deceased hostages by Hamas terrorists, why does the Council believe it is appropriate to continue flying the Palestinian flag at Preston Town Hall?
2. What actions will Council take to ensure murals that are painted in our community promote unity and inclusiveness? This is in specific reference to a large mural at 126A Gladstone St which displays, "Globalise the Intifada", which can be viewed from St George's Road. Given that this slogan can be interpreted as promoting aggressive resistance against community members with links to Israel, potentially inciting divisiveness and hostility within the community, I am concerned that previous requests to address this issue via Snap Send Solve have been ignored and subsequently deleted.
3. Can the Council provide information on the measures being taken to address the increase in antisemitic messages, graffiti, and stickers across the entire municipality of Darebin?

Response From General Manager Customer & Corporate

1. As previously advised, the Office of the CEO is coordinating the review of the Flag Policy, which Council will have the opportunity to consider and finalise in the very near future.

Response From General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

2. Murals aren't considered signage for the purposes of the Planning Scheme, and are therefore not regulated under the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

A check of Council's request management system indicates Council received a single complaint about the mural on 8 October 2024, which was responded to.

Response From General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance

3. I refer to my previous answer that residents can report graffiti to Council. Graffiti on Council assets will be removed, and kits are available to help people remove graffiti on private property.

Council alerts the State Government when offensive and harmful graffiti is found on State owned infrastructure.

• **David Taylor**

1. What evidence (e.g. an Act or Association Rules) was relied upon to form the view, as recorded in the agenda papers and minutes of the December Council meeting, that Darebin Creek Management Committee and Merri Creek Management Committee require: "Committee members... to act in the Association's interests [when attending Management Committee meetings]" and that the role "is not a representative one"?
2. Does this advice to Councillors mean, as is certainly implied, that Darebin Councillors and officers attending Management Committee meetings must shed their responsibilities to Darebin and instead act exclusively in the interests of the Association?
3. While such a position is self-evidently contradictory and impossible, to what extent was such advice, along with repeated assertions more recently about the independence of incorporated associations, part of attempting to diminish their standing to prepare the ground for attempts at outsourcing?

Response From General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance

1. Council sought legal advice to understand this and the lawyers considered the Local Government Act, the Associations Incorporation Act and the rules of the association.
2. Broadly, yes, we understand that any management committee member of an incorporated association must prioritise the interests of the association when they are exercising their role as management committee member. However generally it's also fine for councillors to be on management committees and to draw on their experience with Council.
3. We value the many incorporated associations that work with Council and support community across Darebin and are looking forward to enduring community partnerships into the future. That's why it's important that we have a clear understanding of the legal requirements and options - so that when we work with partner organisations we are all on firm ground. I can clarify that service provision for Darebin Parklands is currently subcontracted to DCMC and that if a decision is not made about what to do after the end of the current arrangement, it would sunset.

6.41pm – Cr Julie O'Brien left the meeting

6.42pm – Cr Boglis left the meeting

6.43pm – Cr O'Brien returned to the meeting

6.44pm – Cr Boglis returned to the meeting

- **Peter Thomson**

1. With reference to the #552 Route of Dyson Bus line which once served the People of Reservoir travelling North will it be reinstated now that a Roman Catholic Secondary School of potentially a population of two hundred students has opened this year and thus buses are travelling each way . If not ,why Not?
2. In reference to The City of Darebin communal garden adjacent to the Senior Citizens Centre in Strathmerton Street Reservoir. Who manages it and what are the fees charged used for?
3. Given the demise of the Red Kite initiative some time ago what is your Stance / Policy and positive and direct action with waste soft polymers / plastics in waste collection and in our environment.

Response From General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

1. Thank you for your question. Bus route 552 continues to connect the northeast of Reservoir with Northcote Plaza via High Street.

Bus routes in Victoria are set by the Department of Transport & Planning.

We will continue to advocate for improved frequency and services of bus networks in Darebin.

Response From General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance

2. The East Reservoir Community Garden was managed by the Reservoir Neighbourhood House up until late 2023. Council is currently supporting a group of local residents to enter into a license agreement to continue managing the space as a community garden. Standard 'Peppercorn' rental fees of \$104 per annum apply to community gardens which is collected as part of councils consolidated revenue.
3. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) granted conditional authorisation (for a 12-month period) allowing major supermarkets to continue collaborating on soft plastics management following the collapse of REDcycle in 2023. In 2024 a Soft Plastics Taskforce launched a Soft Plastics Recycling Trial, operating as a drop-off-only system in partnership with participating supermarkets. This initiative enables community members to participate at no cost, providing designated drop-off points for soft plastics disposal. At the completion of this trial feedback will be included as part of Darebin's waste management strategy review.

6.45pm - Cr Emily Dimitriadis left the meeting

- **Adam Mills**

1. The Owners Corporation of the recent development at 198 Beavers Road sent a letter to Council Officers and Councillors on 26 August 2024 requesting a response on a number of issues associated with the development, including non-compliance of the approved plans and requesting a comprehensive update on the status of all 33 planning conditions, which we have not yet had a formal, adequate response to – will Council be responding?
2. Why and how did Council's Engineering Department authorise the removal of the rain gardens without agreement from the Planning Department, in breach of the approved permit, resulting in increased costs and maintenance by the OC?

3. Given the serious breaches of planning conditions and that the OC is currently about to commission a report on the implementation of common property, will senior Council Officers meet with members of the Committee within the next 14 days to discuss the issues of noncompliance by Metro and Creation Homes?

Response From General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

1. Council is aware of the long standing issues surrounding compliance with the planning permit at 198 Beavers Road, Northcote.

Council Officers have been working closely with the developer and builder to seek remedy of those compliance issues.

2. This matter will need to be investigated further to establish whether any permission has been granted to vary the stormwater management elements of approved planning permit. Council officers can discuss this at the upcoming meeting with the owners corporation.
3. Council will arrange a meeting with senior officers and the OC to discuss any non-compliances with the Planning Permit within the next 14 days.

6.49pm - Cr Emily Dimitriadis returned to the meeting.

SUBMISSIONS

Ben Hjorth made a submission to agenda Item 9.1 Contract Award - CT202445 Provision of IT Hardware.

8. PETITIONS

Nil

9. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS**9.1 CONTRACT AWARD - CT202445 PROVISION OF IT HARDWARE**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines the proposed project to replace Council's ageing laptop fleet with modern devices. By upgrading to new laptops, Council aims to improve operational efficiency, enhance cyber security and optimise overall performance. Funding is available in the 2024/25 Capital Works program to undertake the proposed procurement.

A competitive public tender process was undertaken to identify a suitable supplier capable of delivering high-quality laptops and services to meet business requirements. The evaluation panel assessed tenders based on various criteria, including price, technical specifications, warranty terms, social procurement requirements, compliance requirements and environmental considerations.

In accordance with the Council Resolution of 14 August 2024, all suppliers were also required to provide a self-declaration regarding the extent to which the supplier does not have a direct affiliation or association with international military forces (government or non-government), manufacturer of weapons used in war, and organisations that benefit from illegal occupation and human rights abuses.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Awards contact CT202445 for the Provision of IT Hardware to _____.
- (2) Awards the contract and warranty period for a term of 3 years commencing 1 March 2025 and ending on 28 February 2028.
- (3) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to finalise and execute the contract documents on behalf of the council.
- (4) Notes the previous resolution of 14 August 2024 that a review of the whole Social and Sustainable Procurement Policy is scheduled for the next Council Term in 2025.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. Arturi
SECONDED: Cr. O'Brien

That Council:

- (1) Progress the contract CT202445 for the Provision of IT Hardware to preferred supplier Uplinx Advanced Services for the total value of \$1,882,818 inc. GST, subject to assessing the following final performance matters:
 - a. A financial assessment is carried by an independent risk and procurement assessor, which results in satisfactory or greater capacity of Uplinx Advanced Services in accordance with the contract
 - b. Reference checking of past and current contracted services, which confirms the capacity and capability of Uplinx Advanced Services to configure, supply and support the delivered laptop devices over the contract term.

- (2) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to review the results of the final performance matters and:
- Award the supply and delivery of CT202445 Provision of IT Hardware contract including the execution of the contract agreement on behalf of the council.
 - Award the contracted warranty period for a fixed term of 3 years from date of laptop delivery.
 - Incur any additional hardware and configuration associated costs to deliver the program CT202445 for the Provision of IT Hardware.
 - If resolution 1(a), 1(b) do not result in a satisfactory or greater result, this matter will be referred to council for further consideration.
- (3) Notes the previous resolution of 14 August 2024 that a review of the whole Social and Sustainable Procurement Policy is scheduled for the next Council Term in 2025.

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

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-018

MOVED: Cr. Arturi
SECONDED: Cr. O'Brien

That Council:

- (1) Progress the contract CT202445 for the Provision of IT Hardware to preferred supplier Uplinx Advanced Services for the total value of \$1,882,818 inc. GST, subject to assessing the following final performance matters:
- A financial assessment is carried by an independent risk and procurement assessor, which results in satisfactory or greater capacity of Uplinx Advanced Services in accordance with the contract
 - Reference checking of past and current contracted services, which confirms the capacity and capability of Uplinx Advanced Services to configure, supply and support the delivered laptop devices over the contract term.
- (2) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to review the results of the final performance matters and:
- Award the supply and delivery of CT202445 Provision of IT Hardware contract including the execution of the contract agreement on behalf of the council.
 - Award the contracted warranty period for a fixed term of 3 years from date of laptop delivery.
 - Incur any additional hardware and configuration associated costs to deliver the program CT202445 for the Provision of IT Hardware.
 - If resolution 1(a), 1(b) do not result in a satisfactory or greater result, this matter will be referred to council for further consideration.
- (3) Notes the previous resolution of 14 August 2024 that a review of the whole Social and Sustainable Procurement Policy is scheduled for the next Council Term in 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7.10pm The Chairperson, Mayor Olaris OAM adjourned the meeting for 5 minutes.

7.15pm – The Meeting recommenced.

9.10

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH DAREBIN CREEK
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The following people made a verbal submission to this agenda item:

- Annette Salkeld
- Graeme Hamilton

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has an established Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Darebin Creek Management Committee (DCMC), which is responsible for delivering on-ground environmental works, education and advocacy along the Darebin Creek corridor, and primarily, within 'Darebin Parklands'.

The MoU is due to expire on 30 June 2025. Council needs to decide on its course of action beyond this date; otherwise, the agreement will lapse. Without a service agreement, Council would need to take over site management, which is not recommended due to the potential impact on service levels in other areas.

Substantial work has been undertaken to understand Council's options, however further work is needed to fully pressure test legal advice about options possible under the Local Government Act.

Therefore, this report recommends that Council endorse a 12 month extension to allow it to undertake further work. A further report would come to Council no later than May 2025 outlining Council's options for the period beyond the extension (30 June 2026).

Generally, Council has a clear obligation from a procurement and probity perspective to undertake a tender process for the delivery of services of the scale currently managed under the MoU that is in place. This arises from both the Local Government Act and Council's Procurement Policy. A key complexity is that although DCMC was originally conceived as a 'partnership' and set up with the intent of enabling collaboration between the member organisations (including Darebin City Council), it is a legally separate entity and as such is considered a 'supplier of services' to Council for the purposes of Council's procurement and probity obligations under the Local Government Act.

Given the complexities and further work required, the basis on which an extension is recommended is that this is part of a pathway to achieving compliance regarding Council's procurement obligations.

DCMC's performance managing Darebin Parklands and providing services outlined in the MoU has been excellent and officers recommend them as a good supplier of these services.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Acknowledges and thanks the Darebin Creek Management Committee for their dedication and excellent work in managing the Darebin Parklands and coordinating the education and volunteer program across the Darebin Creek Catchment.
- (2) Extends the current Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Darebin City Council and Darebin Creek Management Committee (DCMC) to 30 June 2026 at

the current funding level adjusted for the 2025/2026 Victorian Rate Cap.

- (3) Request a report to Council no later than May 2025 outlining Council's options for the period beyond 30 June 2025, and include updates advice on two matters requested by Council at its meeting on 28 January 2025:
- the possibility, including advantages and disadvantages for both Darebin Council and DCMC to engage in a long-term [greater than 10 years] MOU.
 - options to increase the funding for DCMC in future years.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)

SECONDED: Cr. Sangster

That Council:

- Acknowledges and thanks the Darebin Creek Management Committee for their dedication and excellent work in managing the Darebin Parklands and coordinating the education and volunteer program across the Darebin Creek Catchment.
- Extends the current Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Darebin City Council and Darebin Creek Management Committee (DCMC) to 30 June 2026 at the current funding level adjusted for the 2025/2026 Victorian Rate Cap.
- Request a report to Council at the August 2025 Council meeting outlining Council's options for the period beyond 30 June 2026, and include updates advice on two matters requested by Council at its meeting on 28 January 2025:
 - the possibility, including advantages and disadvantages for both Darebin Council and DCMC to engage in a long-term [greater than 10 years] MOU.
 - options to increase the funding for DCMC in future years.
- Undertakes community consultation, including consultation with Aboriginal communities and organisations, to give members of the community an opportunity to provide feedback on how the Darebin Creek and the Parklands should be managed. The Community consultation should include feedback on options for the future management of the site, including long term options. The results of the consultation should be incorporated into the report in point (3), and received as part of the options for council at the August 2025 council meeting.

Cr Greco proposed to the mover and seconder an amendment as follows which was not accepted by the mover and seconder:

- Continues to indicate its support for the work of DCMC into the future and Council's intention to develop ways in which DCMC's services can continue to be provided, in preference to outsourcing.
- Seeks detailed legal advice regarding:
 - the concept of DCMC being formally adopted, via Council resolution, as a delegated committee with specific powers, duties and functions as per Chapter 4 - Delegated Committees of the Governance Rules 2020.; and
 - the extent to which such a change would create circumstances for exemption under Darebin's Social and Sustainable Procurement Policy 2021-2025 (expiring October 2025) and the inclusion of DCMC in the Exemptions Table at 2.3.2.1 in the current Policy or in Appendix 5 when the Policy comes up for review later in 2025 and that both these items be reported to Councillors at the proposed

March/April Council briefing.

- c. the applicability and operation of section 65 of the Local Government Act 2020 regarding the establishment of a Community Asset Committee for the purpose of managing a community asset in the municipality.
- (6) Seeks advice about differences in approach regarding procurement procedures between waterway management committees of which Darebin has membership.
- (7) Sends a delegation of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to Banyule Council to explain Darebin's in principle position in continuing to support DCMC and Darebin Parklands operational staff and its intention not to outsource their functions.
- (8) In line with the officer report regarding consultation with the Wurrundjeri Woi Wurrung corporation, also formally seeks the views of DAAC in relation to proposals to tender for services at DCMC and Darebin Parklands, especially considering discussions currently underway regarding the return of land as per Council's four-year plan.

The Chairperson determined Cr Greco's proposed amendment was substantially different to the motion and would be considered as an Alternative Motion if the substantive motion failed.

THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION WAS PUT AND CARRIED AS FOLLOWS:

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-019

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)

SECONDED: Cr. Sangster

That Council:

- (1) Acknowledges and thanks the Darebin Creek Management Committee for their dedication and excellent work in managing the Darebin Parklands and coordinating the education and volunteer program across the Darebin Creek Catchment.
- (2) Extends the current Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Darebin City Council and Darebin Creek Management Committee (DCMC) to 30 June 2026 at the current funding level adjusted for the 2025/2026 Victorian Rate Cap.
- (3) Request a report to Council at the August 2025 Council meeting outlining Council's options for the period beyond 30 June 2026, and include updates advice on two matters requested by Council at its meeting on 28 January 2025:
 - a. the possibility, including advantages and disadvantages for both Darebin Council and DCMC to engage in a long-term [greater than 10 years] MOU.
 - b. options to increase the funding for DCMC in future years.
- (4) Undertakes community consultation, including consultation with Aboriginal communities and organisations, to give members of the community an opportunity to provide feedback on how the Darebin Creek and the Parklands should be managed. The Community consultation should include feedback on options for the future management of the site, including long term options. The results of the consultation should be incorporated into the report in point (3), and received as part of the options for council at the August 2025 council meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.2

OUR DAREBIN COMMUNITY PANEL REPORT AND COMMUNITY VISION ADOPTION**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Local Government Act 2020, Part 4 – Planning and Financial Management, Division 1 – Strategic Planning (the Act), sets out all Victorian Councils' obligations to review their Community Vision and develop the 4-year Council Plan, 10- year Financial Plan and 10-year Asset Plan.

This report presents the Darebin 2041 Community Vision (the Vision) to Council for adoption under section 88 of the Local Government Act 2020. In accordance with the Act, the revised Vision which includes the statement and pillars has been developed with the municipal community adhering to Council's deliberative engagement practices as set-out in Darebin City Council's Community Engagement Policy. The Our Darebin community panel (the Panel) was tasked with the responsibility to review the Vision that was originally adopted by Council in 2021.

The Panel also deliberated on community priorities, focus areas for the Council Plan and guiding principles for asset management and financial decisions. These are presented to Council in this report for noting and consideration in the development of the Council Plan, 10-year Financial Plan and 10-year Asset Plan.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Adopt the Darebin 2041 Community Vision (statement and pillars) including minor editorial amendments contained in this report.
- (2) Note the Our Darebin Deliberative Panel Report in **Appendix A** and consider the recommendations relating to Community Priorities, Focus Areas for the Council Plan and Guiding Principles for asset management and financial decisions, in the development of the Council Plan, 10-year Financial Plan and 10-year Asset Plan.
- (3) Thank the members of the Our Darebin Deliberative Panel for their time and contribution.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. Jelley
SECONDED: Cr. Arturi

That Council:

- (1) Adopt the Darebin 2041 Community Vision (statement and pillars) including minor editorial amendments contained in this report.
- (2) Note the Our Darebin Deliberative Panel Report in **Appendix A** and consider the recommendations relating to Community Priorities, Focus Areas for the Council Plan and Guiding Principles for asset management and financial decisions, in the development of the Council Plan, 10-year Financial Plan and 10-year Asset Plan.
- (3) Thank the members of the Our Darebin Deliberative Panel for their time and contribution.

Cr Greco proposed to the mover and seconder an amendment as follows:

(4) Ensures the Council Plan, 10-year Financial Plan and the 10-year Asset Plan include a section outlining how the 2041 Community Vision has been addressed as required under s.89 (2) (b) of the Local Government Act.

(5)) In adopting the Darebin 2041 Community Vision and Our Darebin Deliberative Panel Report, flags that it may seek to further strengthen and enhance Community Priorities and/or Focus Areas in its on-going strategic planning work.

The mover and seconder agreed to include point 4 but not point 5. Cr Greco agreed to remove point (5).

THE AMENDED MOTION THEN READ AS FOLLOWS:

Amended Motion

MOVED: Cr. Jelley

SECONDED: Cr. Arturi

That Council:

- (1) Adopt the Darebin 2041 Community Vision (statement and pillars) including minor editorial amendments contained in this report.
- (2) Note the Our Darebin Deliberative Panel Report in **Appendix A** and consider the recommendations relating to Community Priorities, Focus Areas for the Council Plan and Guiding Principles for asset management and financial decisions, in the development of the Council Plan, 10-year Financial Plan and 10-year Asset Plan.
- (3) Thank the members of the Our Darebin Deliberative Panel for their time and contribution.
- (4) Ensures the Council Plan, 10-year Financial Plan and the 10-year Asset Plan include a section outlining how the 2041 Community Vision has been addressed as required under s.89 (2) (b) of the Local Government Act.

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

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-020

MOVED: Cr. Jelley

SECONDED: Cr. Arturi

That Council:

- (1) Adopt the Darebin 2041 Community Vision (statement and pillars) including minor editorial amendments contained in this report.
- (2) Note the Our Darebin Deliberative Panel Report in **Appendix A** and consider the recommendations relating to Community Priorities, Focus Areas for the Council Plan and Guiding Principles for asset management and financial decisions, in the development of the Council Plan, 10-year Financial Plan and 10-year Asset Plan.
- (3) Thank the members of the Our Darebin Deliberative Panel for their time and contribution.

- (4) Ensures the Council Plan, 10-year Financial Plan and the 10-year Asset Plan include a section outlining how the 2041 Community Vision has been addressed as required under s.89 (2) (b) of the Local Government Act.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.3**OPTIONS TO ENSURE LONG TERM FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents a range of confidential options to Council for consideration as it develops its Long Term Financial Plan, four-year Council Plan and four-year Budget over the coming months.

The report is presented to Council for consideration as part of its legislative requirement to develop the Council Plan and Budget, which is due for adoption in June. A draft Council Plan and Budget is expected to be shared with community for feedback at the end of April.

This report was requested by Council at its meeting of June 2024 to help make the necessary decisions about how to manage the effects of rapid price inflation over the last few years, which has increased costs beyond revenue. These cost pressures are not dissimilar to the financial challenges currently being experienced across the local government sector.

Over the next four years, Council is required to either generate additional surplus revenue or reduce costs (or a mix of both) by 4% of its budget by 2028/2029. This is around \$9.7M a year by 2028/2029 compared to 2024/2025. To achieve this by year four, Council needs to achieve interim targets of between \$2-\$3 million additional savings or revenue each year from 2025/2026.

A 4% savings target is considered modest in the context of Council's overall budget (which is expected to be \$242M in 2028/2029), however it requires careful consideration given the role Council plays in supporting local communities at a time when many community members are also feeling the effects of high prices and cost of living pressures. Council supports community members at all stages of life, it keeps public places and facilities in good condition and it helps community bring their local area to life: through grants and support for clubs and community groups, and by hosting events, arts and cultural activities which connect us all.

Local governments, like households, businesses and other levels of government are all facing new and significant challenges associated with rapid rises in inflation and other cost pressures. In the last four years Darebin's costs have increased more than revenue and Council has managed this significant pressure by improving efficiency, deferring some work and by reducing funding for new infrastructure. The State Government rates cap that applies to the local government sector is also contributing to the challenge. Darebin's average rates per household are currently lower than the average for Victorian households.

The attached report canvases a wide breadth of options so that Council has transparent sight of the wide range of possibilities. In identifying options, high priority has been placed on maximising benefits and minimising drawbacks for the community. This includes efficiencies that could do more with less, and on other types of win-win opportunities.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Recognises that Council's services support many community members, especially those experiencing cost of living pressures.

- (2) Notes the substantial financial sustainability challenges for the local government sector outlined in the November 2024 report of the Victorian Legislative Council's Economy and Infrastructure Committee on 'Local government funding and services'.
- (3) Recognises that due to significant pressure from recent price rises, particularly in regards to construction, maintenance and utilities, Darebin's budget does not go as far as it used to, and to remain financially sustainable, Darebin Council will need to either increase revenue or make cost savings of an estimated 4% of its operating budget by 2028/2029 (\$9.7M per year)
- (4) Receives the options report provided in **Appendix A** to help council develop its draft Council Plan and Budget.
- (5) Notes that at the Council meeting in April, Council will release its Council Plan and draft Budget for community consultation and that all community members will have the opportunity to put a submission to council. All submissions will be considered.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. Jelley
SECONDED: Cr. Tsalkos

That Council:

- (1) Recognises that Council's services support many community members, especially those experiencing cost of living pressures.
- (2) Notes the substantial financial sustainability challenges for the local government sector outlined in the November 2024 report of the Victorian Legislative Council's Economy and Infrastructure Committee on 'Local government funding and services'.
- (3) Recognises that due to significant pressure from recent price rises, particularly in regards to construction, maintenance and utilities, Darebin's budget does not go as far as it used to, and to remain financially sustainable, Darebin Council will need to either increase revenue or make cost savings of an estimated 4% of its operating budget by 2028/2029 (\$9.7M per year)
- (4) Receives the options report provided in **Appendix A** to help council develop its draft Council Plan and Budget.
- (5) Notes that at the Council meeting in April, Council will release its Council Plan and draft Budget for community consultation and that all community members will have the opportunity to put a submission to council. All submissions will be considered.

Cr Greco proposed to the mover and seconder insert a new point (2) as follows which was not approved by the mover and seconder.

(2) In line with the new vision of sustaining community ownership of services, Council will not outsource or privatise council services the community depend on and expect Council to deliver, for example (but not limited to) Age Care Services and children services.

The Chairperson determined Cr Greco's proposed amendment was substantially different to the motion and would be considered as an Alternative Motion if the substantive motion failed.

THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION WAS PUT AND CARRIED AS FOLLOWS:

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-021

MOVED: Cr. Jelley
SECONDED: Cr. Tsalkos

That Council:

- (1) Recognises that Council's services support many community members, especially those experiencing cost of living pressures.
- (2) Notes the substantial financial sustainability challenges for the local government sector outlined in the November 2024 report of the Victorian Legislative Council's Economy and Infrastructure Committee on 'Local government funding and services'.
- (3) Recognises that due to significant pressure from recent price rises, particularly in regards to construction, maintenance and utilities, Darebin's budget does not go as far as it used to, and to remain financially sustainable, Darebin Council will need to either increase revenue or make cost savings of an estimated 4% of its operating budget by 2028/2029 (\$9.7M per year)
- (4) Receives the options report provided in **Appendix A** to help council develop its draft Council Plan and Budget.
- (5) Notes that at the Council meeting in April, Council will release its Council Plan and draft Budget for community consultation and that all community members will have the opportunity to put a submission to council. All submissions will be considered.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.4

2025 MEETING SCHEDULE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with the Council's Governance Rules 2020, Council must fix the date, time and place of all Council meetings. The schedule of Council Meetings must be published in publications that are distributed throughout the municipality (including Council publications) and on Council's website at least once each year or with such greater frequency as the Chief Executive Officer determines.

At its meeting of Meeting on 25 November 2024, Council resolved its meeting dates for the remainder of 2024 and for 2025. Due to a busy period of work and a number of decisions required by Council, an additional meeting is required to ensure all necessary business is transacted.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-022

MOVED: Cr. Tsalkos
SECONDED: Cr. Boglis OAM

That pursuant to 1.1.1 (1) of the City of Darebin Governance Rules 2020, that Council makes an adjustment to the Meeting Schedule fixed and published on 25 November 2024 to include an additional meeting on Monday 3 March at 6pm in the Council Chamber at the Darebin Civic Centre.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.5

2024-25 Q2 PERFORMANCE REPORT (FINANCIAL AND NON-FINANCIAL) ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2024**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to provide the 2024-25 Quarter Two (Q2) Performance Report (non-financial and financial) to 31 December 2024. This report includes:

- (1) Non-financial performance, including Council Plan Action Plan (CPAP), Capital Works Performance and Council Resolutions; and

Financial performance including 2024-25 Quarter Two Financial Report and Q2 Procurement update.

The 2024-25 Q2 (October - December 2024) Performance Report includes progress of the CPAP, Capital Works Program, Council Resolutions, Procurement, and Financial Performance.

The 2024-25 CPAP provides an overview of Council's performance in delivering the year four actions that will contribute to the completion of the four-year strategic actions in the Council Plan 2021-2025.

At the end of Q2, thirteen actions are reported as Off Track or Delayed and are at risk of not being delivered by 30 June 2025. Ten actions are recommended to be Deferred and considered as part of the development of the 2025-29 Council Plan. The remaining three actions will continue to be monitored, and updates provided in the next quarter. Detailed commentary for all actions is provided in **Appendix A**. Detailed information on delayed actions is provided in **Appendix B**.

For period ending December 2024, Council recorded a YTD Operating Surplus of \$80.5M, compared to a YTD budget of \$81.1M, resulting in an unfavourable variance of **(\$615K)**. Unbudgeted (non-cash) additional YTD depreciation expense **(\$3M)** has been largely offset by the following:

- Better than budgeted interest income returns on financial investments (due to favourable market conditions).
- Better than budgeted operating grants primarily due to conservative Maternal Child Health service estimates and receipt of unbudgeted grants across the family and ageing well services.
- Receipt of unbudgeted capital grants to be spent on related project delivery as per funding agreements.
- Timing differences between budget profiling and actuals, skewing YTD financial results.

The 2nd Quarter budget review indicates an End of Year Operating result that is **\$8.9M net unfavourable** compared to the adopted budget.

Through the budget review process, the following budget pressures have emerged (high level summary):

- Additional unbudgeted depreciation expense (Non-cash impact) – **(\$6.7M)**
- Reduction to end of year Open Space Levy income estimates as a result of continued downturns within the construction industry (cash impact) – **(\$3M)**
- Prior year budget carry forwards (Timing – non-cash impact) – **(\$1.7M)**
- Unbudgeted increase to the new Tree maintenance contract pricing schedule (cash impact) – **(\$1.5M)**.

Partially offset by:

- Unbudgeted profit-sharing income through various leisure contracts (cash impact) - **\$1.6M**
- Salary related savings as a result of implementing operating model efficiencies (cash impact) - **\$836K**
- Better than budgeted interest income returns on financial investments, due to favourable market conditions (Cash impact) - **\$812K**
- Receipted of unbudgeted capital grants to be spent on related project delivery as per funding agreements (Timing – non-cash impact) - **\$677K**

The unfavourable Q2 outcome has had a direct, adverse impact to Council's long term financial plan. Additional cash savings (on top of the already built-in savings targets) to the value of **\$7M** over the next 5 years, are now required to be identified & operationalised to remain financially sustainable over the long term.

Financial sustainability options will be presented to Council at its ordinary meeting on 24 February 2025, so that Council has time to fully consider and consult on its options, while it develops its four-year Council Plan & Budget, and Long Term (10 year) financial plan over the next few months.

Officer Recommendation**That Council:**

- (1) Note the Q2 Non-financial performance report
- (2) Endorse deferral of the following 2024-25 Council Plan Action Plan actions and consider them as part of developing the 2025-29 Council Plan.
 - a. [1-1] Finalise and commence implementation of the Aboriginal Action Plan.
 - b. [1-36] Monitor the progress of improvement actions from the Welcoming Cities evaluation report
 - c. [2-21] Finalise the draft Community Infrastructure Plan
 - d. [2-50] Review, amend and adopt our Social and Sustainable Procurement Policy to increase the engagement of Aboriginal-led businesses, and focus on job creation for culturally and linguistically diverse peoples, and young people
 - e. [3-8] Undertake site investigation works at Clements Reserve as required by the Environmental Action Notice and subsequently undertake the required remediation works to remove contamination
 - f. [3-8] Continue to progress the acquisition of the three parcels of land at Clements Reserve from the Department of Transport & Parking.
 - g. [4-5] Finalise a Lease and Licensing Policy, with consideration to the inputs provided through deliberative engagement to inform the Council Plan
 - h. [4-5] Complete the Property Strategy
 - i. [1-13] Finalise a Cultural Diversity Action Plan to improve access, participation and engagement of people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds

- j. [1-19] Finalise and commence implementation of an LGBTIQ+ Action Plan to support the inclusion, rights and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ communities and work to combat homophobia, biphobia and transphobia
- (3) Notes the quarter two update of the Capital Works program at **Appendix C**
- (4) Notes the Financial Report for the six months ended 31 December 2024 at **Appendix D**
- (5) Notes the quarter two Procurement update contained within this report.
- (6) Notes the Chief Executive Officer, as required under Section 97(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020* is of the opinion a revised budget is not required.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)
SECONDED: Cr. Arturi

That Council:

- (1) Note the Q2 Non-financial performance report
- (2) Endorse deferral of the following 2024-25 Council Plan Action Plan actions and consider them as part of developing the 2025-29 Council Plan.
 - a. [1-1] Finalise and commence implementation of the Aboriginal Action Plan.
 - b. [1-36] Monitor the progress of improvement actions from the Welcoming Cities evaluation report
 - c. [2-21] Finalise the draft Community Infrastructure Plan
 - d. [2-50] Review, amend and adopt our Social and Sustainable Procurement Policy to increase the engagement of Aboriginal-led businesses, and focus on job creation for culturally and linguistically diverse peoples, and young people
 - e. [3-8] Undertake site investigation works at Clements Reserve as required by the Environmental Action Notice and subsequently undertake the required remediation works to remove contamination
 - f. [3-8] Continue to progress the acquisition of the three parcels of land at Clements Reserve from the Department of Transport & Parking.
 - g. [4-5] Finalise a Lease and Licensing Policy, with consideration to the inputs provided through deliberative engagement to inform the Council Plan
 - h. [4-5] Complete the Property Strategy
 - i. [1-13] Finalise a Cultural Diversity Action Plan to improve access, participation and engagement of people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
 - j. [1-19] Finalise and commence implementation of an LGBTIQ+ Action Plan to support the inclusion, rights and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ communities and work to combat homophobia, biphobia and transphobia
- (3) **Requests that a report be tabled by the 15 December 2025 Council meeting that presents the food resilience scoping study (Action 3.6.2 of the Climate Emergency Plan) and reviews the Plant-Based Treaty, including receiving a report at the 24 March 2025 council meeting, before work progresses to implement any of the 40 suggested proposals listed in the Plant Based Treaty.**

- (4) Notes the quarter two update of the Capital Works program at **Appendix C**.
- (5) Notes the Financial Report for the six months ended 31 December 2024 at **Appendix D**.
- (6) Notes the quarter two Procurement update contained within this report.
- (7) Notes the Chief Executive Officer, as required under Section 97(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020* is of the opinion a revised budget is not required.

Cr Greco proposed to the mover and seconder insert a new point (4) as follows which was accepted by the mover and seconder.

- (4) Approves \$80,000 to commence work to develop a Concept Design Plan for the Reservoir Leisure Centre.

THE AMENDED MOTION THEN READ AS FOLLOWS:

Amended Motion

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)
SECONDED: Cr. Arturi

That Council:

- (1) Note the Q2 Non-financial performance report
- (2) Endorse deferral of the following 2024-25 Council Plan Action Plan actions and consider them as part of developing the 2025-29 Council Plan.
 - a. [1-1] Finalise and commence implementation of the Aboriginal Action Plan.
 - b. [1-36] Monitor the progress of improvement actions from the Welcoming Cities evaluation report
 - c. [2-21] Finalise the draft Community Infrastructure Plan
 - d. [2-50] Review, amend and adopt our Social and Sustainable Procurement Policy to increase the engagement of Aboriginal-led businesses, and focus on job creation for culturally and linguistically diverse peoples, and young people
 - e. [3-8] Undertake site investigation works at Clements Reserve as required by the Environmental Action Notice and subsequently undertake the required remediation works to remove contamination
 - f. [3-8] Continue to progress the acquisition of the three parcels of land at Clements Reserve from the Department of Transport & Parking.
 - g. [4-5] Finalise a Lease and Licensing Policy, with consideration to the inputs provided through deliberative engagement to inform the Council Plan
 - h. [4-5] Complete the Property Strategy
 - i. [1-13] Finalise a Cultural Diversity Action Plan to improve access, participation and engagement of people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
 - j. [1-19] Finalise and commence implementation of an LGBTIQA+ Action Plan to support the inclusion, rights and wellbeing of LGBTIQA+ communities and work to combat homophobia, biphobia and transphobia
- (3) Requests that a report be tabled by the 15 December 2025 Council meeting that presents the food resilience scoping study (Action 3.6.2 of the Climate Emergency Plan) and reviews the Plant-Based Treaty, including receiving a report at the 24 March

2025 council meeting, before work progresses to implement any of the 40 suggested proposals listed in the Plant Based Treaty.

- (4) Approves \$80,000 to commence work to develop a Concept Design Plan for the Reservoir Leisure Centre.
- (5) Notes the quarter two update of the Capital Works program at Appendix C.
- (6) Notes the Financial Report for the six months ended 31 December 2024 at Appendix D.
- (7) Notes the quarter two Procurement update contained within this report.
- (8) Notes the Chief Executive Officer, as required under Section 97(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020* is of the opinion a revised budget is not required.

With leave of the Chairperson, Cr Jelley proposed that points (3) and (4) be voted on separately from the rest of the motion.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-023

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)

SECONDED: Cr. Arturi

That Council:

- (1) Notes the Q2 Non-financial performance report
- (2) Endorse deferral of the following 2024-25 Council Plan Action Plan actions and consider them as part of developing the 2025-29 Council Plan.
 - a. [1-1] Finalise and commence implementation of the Aboriginal Action Plan
 - b. [1-36] Monitor the progress of improvement actions from the Welcoming Cities evaluation report
 - c. [2-21] Finalise the draft Community Infrastructure Plan
 - d. [2-50] Review, amend and adopt our Social and Sustainable Procurement Policy to increase the engagement of Aboriginal-led businesses, and focus on job creation for culturally and linguistically diverse peoples, and young people
 - e. [3-8] Undertake site investigation works at Clements Reserve as required by the Environmental Action Notice and subsequently undertake the required remediation works to remove contamination
 - f. [3-8] Continue to progress the acquisition of the three parcels of land at Clements Reserve from the Department of Transport & Parking.
 - g. [4-5] Finalise a Lease and Licensing Policy, with consideration to the inputs provided through deliberative engagement to inform the Council Plan
 - h. [4-5] Complete the Property Strategy
 - i. [1-13] Finalise a Cultural Diversity Action Plan to improve access, participation and engagement of people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
 - j. [1-19] Finalise and commence implementation of an LGBTIQ+ Action Plan to support the inclusion, rights and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ communities and work to combat homophobia, biphobia and transphobia
- (5) Notes the quarter two update of the Capital Works program at **Appendix C**
- (6) Notes the Financial Report for the six months ended 31 December 2024 at **Appendix D**

- (7) Notes the quarter two Procurement update contained within this report.
- (8) Notes the Chief Executive Officer, as required under Section 97(3) of the Local Government Act 2020 is of the opinion a revised budget is not required.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-024

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)
SECONDED: Cr. Arturi

That Council:

- (3) Requests that a report be tabled by the 15 December 2025 Council meeting that presents the food resilience scoping study (Action 3.6.2 of the Climate Emergency Plan) and reviews the Plant-Based Treaty, including receiving a report at the 24 March 2025 council meeting, before work progresses to implement any of the 40 suggested proposals listed in the Plant Based Treaty.

CARRIED

For: Crs Arturi, Boglis, Dimitriadis, Tsalkos and Olaris
Against: Crs Jelley, O'Brien and Sangster
Abstained: Cr Greco

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-025

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor)
SECONDED: Cr. Arturi

That Council:

- (4) Approves \$80,000 to commence work to develop a Concept Design Plan for the Reservoir Leisure Centre.

CARRIED

For: Crs Arturi, Boglis, Dimitriadis, Greco, Sangster, Tsalkos and Olaris
Abstained: Crs Jelley and O'Brien

9.6

**CEO EMPLOYMENT MATTERS COMMITTEE CHARTER AND
CEO EMPLOYMENT AND REMUNERATION POLICY****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Council established the CEO Employment Matters Committee in April 2017 to oversee the employment of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) as an advisory Committee to Council.

In March 2023, Council adopted the CEO Employment Matters Committee Charter and the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy. The adoption of the policy was in accordance with the requirement of s45 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

In line with good governance, and the new Council term, the Charter and Policy have been reviewed. A copy of the Charter (**Appendix A** – marked up changes and **Appendix B** – clean copy) and a copy of the Policy (**Appendix C** – marked up changes and **Appendix D** – clean copy) are attached and contain a small number of minor changes:

- Reference to the new Model Councillor Code of Conduct as part of the Local Government Act reforms
- Formatting changes to the content and structure of the documents to ensure greater clarity and consistency between the Charter and the Policy following a legal review, and feedback from the CEO Employment Matters Committee.

Officer Recommendation**That Council:**

- (1) Notes that the CEO Employment Matters Committee have reviewed and recommend the CEO Employment Matters Committee Charter (**Appendix A & B**) and the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy (**Appendix C & D**) to Council for adoption with changes incorporated in Appendices.
- (2) Notes that the reviewed CEO Employment Matters Committee Charter and the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy was considered by the CEO Employment Matters Committee at its meeting on 21 January 2025 and is recommended to Council for adoption by the Committee.
- (3) Adopts the CEO Employment Matters Committee Charter at **Appendix B**.
- (4) Adopts the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy at **Appendix D**.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. G Greco
SECONDED: -

That Council

- (1) Notes that the CEO Employment Matters Committee have reviewed and recommend the CEO Employment Matters Committee Charter (**Appendix A & B**) and the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy (**Appendix C & D**) to Council for adoption with changes incorporated in Appendices.
- (2) Notes that the reviewed CEO Employment Matters Committee Charter and the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy was considered by the CEO Employment

Matters Committee at its meeting on 21 January 2025 and is recommended to Council for adoption by the Committee.

- (3) Adopts the CEO Employment Matters Committee Charter at **Appendix B**.
- (4) Adopts the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy at **Appendix D with the following change to Section:**

The Contract of Employment is to be read in conjunction with this Policy (but the terms of this Policy are not incorporated into the Contract of Employment).

The full contract or at least key contract terms (with appropriately redacted personal details) will be made public and published on Council's website.

The Contract of Employment will, at a minimum, outline the following:

- to the employment term, which must not exceed five years in accordance with Section 44(2) of the Act;
- the responsibilities and duties of the position, including compliance with the Act and the Code of Conduct for Council staff;
- how conflicts of interest will be managed;
- that the CEO is eligible to be reappointed under a new contract of employment;
- the CEO's Remuneration Package and other entitlements; legislative and contractual obligations, including those during and continuing after employment;
- the CEO's leave entitlements;
- processes for managing unsatisfactory performance;
- processes for early termination, including notice (or payment in lieu) provisions, with notice of termination by Council being restricted to a maximum of three months' notice; and
- any other matters required to be contained in the Contract of Employment by the Regulations.

THE MOTION LAPSED FOR WANT OF A SECONDER

Motion

MOVED: Cr. Jelley
SECONDED: Cr. Arturi

That Council:

- (1) Notes that the CEO Employment Matters Committee have reviewed and recommend the CEO Employment Matters Committee Charter (**Appendix A & B**) and the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy (**Appendix C & D**) to Council for adoption with changes incorporated in Appendices.
- (2) Notes that the reviewed CEO Employment Matters Committee Charter and the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy was considered by the CEO Employment Matters Committee at its meeting on 21 January 2025 and is recommended to Council for adoption by the Committee.
- (3) Adopts the CEO Employment Matters Committee Charter at **Appendix B**.

- (4) Adopts the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy at **Appendix D**.

Cr Greco proposed the following amendment to point (4) which was not accepted by the mover and seconder:

- (4) Adopts the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy at **Appendix D with the following change to Section:**

The Contract of Employment is to be read in conjunction with this Policy (but the terms of this Policy are not incorporated into the Contract of Employment).

With agreement from the CEO, their full contract or at least key contract terms (with appropriately redacted personal details) will be made public and published on Council's website.

The Contract of Employment will, at a minimum, outline the following:

- to the employment term, which must not exceed five years in accordance with Section 44(2) of the Act;
- the responsibilities and duties of the position, including compliance with the Act and the Code of Conduct for Council staff;
- how conflicts of interest will be managed;
- that the CEO is eligible to be reappointed under a new contract of employment;
- the CEO's Remuneration Package and other entitlements;
- legislative and contractual obligations, including those during and continuing after employment;
- the CEO's leave entitlements;
- processes for managing unsatisfactory performance;
- processes for early termination, including notice (or payment in lieu) provisions, with notice of termination by Council being
- restricted to a maximum of three months' notice; and
- any other matters required to be contained in the Contract of Employment by the Regulations.

Amendment

MOVED: Cr. G Greco
SECONDED: Cr. Sangster

That Council:

- (1) Notes that the CEO Employment Matters Committee have reviewed and recommend the CEO Employment Matters Committee Charter (**Appendix A & B**) and the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy (**Appendix C & D**) to Council for adoption with changes incorporated in Appendices.
- (2) Notes that the reviewed CEO Employment Matters Committee Charter and the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy was considered by the CEO Employment Matters Committee at its meeting on 21 January 2025 and is recommended to Council for adoption by the Committee.
- (3) Adopts the CEO Employment Matters Committee Charter at **Appendix B**.
- (4) Adopts the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy at **Appendix D with the**

following change to Section:

The Contract of Employment is to be read in conjunction with this Policy (but the terms of this Policy are not incorporated into the Contract of Employment).

With agreement from the CEO, their full contract or at least key contract terms (with appropriately redacted personal details) will be made public and published on Council's website.

The Contract of Employment will, at a minimum, outline the following:

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- the responsibilities and duties of the position, including compliance with the Act and the Code of Conduct for Council staff;
- how conflicts of interest will be managed;
- that the CEO is eligible to be reappointed under a new contract of employment;
- the CEO's Remuneration Package and other entitlements;
- legislative and contractual obligations, including those during and continuing after employment;
- the CEO's leave entitlements;
- processes for managing unsatisfactory performance;
- processes for early termination, including notice (or payment in lieu) provisions, with notice of termination by Council being
- restricted to a maximum of three months' notice; and
- any other matters required to be contained in the Contract of Employment by the Regulations.

CARRIED

For: Crs Arturi, Boglis, Dimitriadis, Greco, O'Brien Sangster, Tsalkos and Olaris

Against: Cr Jelley

THE AMENDMENT BECAME THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION AS FOLLOWS:

Substantive Motion

MOVED: Cr. Jelley

SECONDED: Cr. Arturi

That Council:

- (1) Notes that the CEO Employment Matters Committee have reviewed and recommend the CEO Employment Matters Committee Charter (**Appendix A & B**) and the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy (**Appendix C & D**) to Council for adoption with changes incorporated in Appendices.
- (2) Notes that the reviewed CEO Employment Matters Committee Charter and the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy was considered by the CEO Employment Matters Committee at its meeting on 21 January 2025 and is recommended to Council for adoption by the Committee.
- (3) Adopts the CEO Employment Matters Committee Charter at **Appendix B**.
- (4) Adopts the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy at **Appendix D** with the following change to Section:

The Contract of Employment is to be read in conjunction with this Policy (but the terms of this Policy are not incorporated into the Contract of Employment).

With agreement from the CEO, their full contract or at least key contract terms (with appropriately redacted personal details) will be made public and published on Council's website.

The Contract of Employment will, at a minimum, outline the following:

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- the responsibilities and duties of the position, including compliance with the Act and the Code of Conduct for Council staff;
- how conflicts of interest will be managed;
- that the CEO is eligible to be reappointed under a new contract of employment;
- the CEO's Remuneration Package and other entitlements;
- legislative and contractual obligations, including those during and continuing after employment;
- the CEO's leave entitlements;
- processes for managing unsatisfactory performance;
- processes for early termination, including notice (or payment in lieu) provisions, with notice of termination by Council being restricted to a maximum of three months' notice; and
- any other matters required to be contained in the Contract of Employment by the Regulations

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

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-026

MOVED: Cr. Jelley
SECONDED: Cr. Arturi

That Council:

- (1) Notes that the CEO Employment Matters Committee have reviewed and recommend the CEO Employment Matters Committee Charter (**Appendix A & B**) and the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy (**Appendix C & D**) to Council for adoption with changes incorporated in Appendices.
- (2) Notes that the reviewed CEO Employment Matters Committee Charter and the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy was considered by the CEO Employment Matters Committee at its meeting on 21 January 2025 and is recommended to Council for adoption by the Committee.
- (3) Adopts the CEO Employment Matters Committee Charter at **Appendix B**.
- (4) Adopts the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy at **Appendix D** with the following change to Section:

The Contract of Employment is to be read in conjunction with this Policy (but the terms of this Policy are not incorporated into the Contract of Employment).

With agreement from the CEO, their full contract or at least key contract terms (with appropriately redacted personal details) will be made public and published on Council's website.

The Contract of Employment will, at a minimum, outline the following:

- to the employment term, which must not exceed five years in accordance with Section 44(2) of the Act;
- the responsibilities and duties of the position, including compliance with the Act and the Code of Conduct for Council staff;
- how conflicts of interest will be managed;
- that the CEO is eligible to be reappointed under a new contract of employment;
- the CEO's Remuneration Package and other entitlements;
- legislative and contractual obligations, including those during and continuing after employment;
- the CEO's leave entitlements;
- processes for managing unsatisfactory performance;
- processes for early termination, including notice (or payment in lieu) provisions, with notice of termination by Council being
- restricted to a maximum of three months' notice; and
- any other matters required to be contained in the Contract of Employment by the Regulations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.7

CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME - PROGRESS UPDATE

This item was withdrawn from the Agenda.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Summary of Councillor attendance at Advisory Committees Meetings, Councillor Briefings, and other informal meetings of Councillors **(Appendix A)**.
- Activity Reports by Mayor and Councillors.
- Responses to public questions taken on notice at the Council Meeting held 27 May 2024 **(Appendix B)**.
- MAV State Council Meeting – Call for Motions **(Appendix C)**.
- Community Advisory Committee Annual Progress Reports for 2024 **(Appendix D)**.
- Bi-annual CEO expense reimbursements and credit card transactions report (1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024).
- Quarterly reporting of Freedom of Information (FOI) statistics (FY 24/25, to date).
- Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Summary Minutes of the quarterly meeting held on 18 December 2024. **(Appendix E)**.
- Audit and Risk Committee Charter revision **(Appendix F)** and change to Councillor appointments to the Committee **(Table B)**.

Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Notes the Governance Report – February 2025.
- (2) Notes the Summary of attendance at Advisory Committees Meetings, Councillor Briefings, and other informal meetings of Councillors at **Appendix A** to this report.
- (3) Notes that the activity 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 28 January 2025 (**Appendix B**).
- (5) Endorses the motion outlined in **Appendix C** to be submitted to the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council meeting to be held on 16 May 2025.
- (6) Notes that Cr Arturi, as Council's appointed delegate will attend the MAV State Council meeting.
- (7) Notes the Community Advisory Committee Annual Progress Reports (**Appendix D**).
- (8) Notes that there has been one expense reimbursement claim for Peter Smith CEO, for motor vehicle battery repairs to the value of \$428.40.
- (9) Notes that there have been no CEO Credit Card transactions for the period 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024.
- (10) Notes the Freedom of Information (FOI) statistics shown in **Table A**, for the current financial year FY 24/25 to date.
- (11) Notes the Summary Minutes of the quarterly Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 18 December 2024 (**Appendix E**).
- (12) Endorses the revised Audit and Risk Committee Charter (**Appendix F**).
- (13) Notes that to align with the revised Audit and Risk Committee Charter, the Councillor appointments to the Committee are required to be updated.
- (14) Appoints the Councillor representatives to the Audit and Risk Committee as listed in the report at **Table B** below in the Report for a period of 12 months, or until such time as Council makes a further resolution on the matter.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. Jelley
SECONDED: Cr. Sangster

That Council:

- (1) Notes the Governance Report – February 2025.
- (2) Notes the Summary of attendance at Advisory Committees Meetings, Councillor Briefings, and other informal meetings of Councillors at **Appendix A** to this report.
- (3) **Corrects the spelling of Councillor Ruth Jelley's name in the summary of CEO Employment Matters Committee meeting on 21 January 2025.**
- (4) Notes that the activity reports by Mayors and Councillors submitted prior to the meeting and circulated to Councillors, will be incorporated in the minutes of this meeting.

- (5) Requests that **Appendix B** be updated to include a summary of the responses officers provided to the public questions taken on notice at the Council Meeting on 28 January 2025 (**Appendix B**).
- (6) Endorses the motion outlined in **Appendix C** to be submitted to the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council meeting to be held on 16 May 2025.
- (7) Notes that Cr Arturi, as Council's appointed delegate will attend the MAV State Council meeting.
- (8) Notes the Community Advisory Committee Annual Progress Reports, and adds all new Councillor appointments from 16 December 2024 in reports for the following committees: Darebin Interfaith Council, Darebin Nature Trust, and Edgars Creek and Edwardes Lake Task Force (**Appendix D**).
- (9) Notes that there has been one expense reimbursement claim for Peter Smith CEO, for motor vehicle battery repairs to the value of \$428.40.
- (10) Notes that there have been no CEO Credit Card transactions for the period 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024.
- (11) Notes the Freedom of Information (FOI) statistics shown in Table A, for the current financial year FY 24/25 to date.
- (12) Notes the Summary Minutes of the quarterly Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 18 December 2024 (**Appendix E**).
- (13) Endorses the revised Audit and Risk Committee Charter (**Appendix F**).
- (14) Notes that to align with the revised Audit and Risk Committee Charter, the Councillor appointments to the Committee are required to be updated.
- (15) Appoints the Councillor representatives to the Audit and Risk Committee as listed in the report at **Table B** below in the Report for a period of 12 months, or until such time as Council makes a further resolution on the matter.

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

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-027

MOVED: Cr. Jelley
SECONDED: Cr. Sangster

That Council:

- (1) Notes the Governance Report – February 2025.
- (2) Notes the Summary of attendance at Advisory Committees Meetings, Councillor Briefings, and other informal meetings of Councillors at **Appendix A** to this report.
- (3) Corrects the spelling of Councillor Ruth Jelley's name in the summary of CEO Employment Matters Committee meeting on 21 January 2025.
- (4) Notes that the activity reports by Mayors and Councillors submitted prior to the meeting and circulated to Councillors, will be incorporated in the minutes of this meeting.
- (5) Requests that Appendix B be updated to include a summary of the responses officers provided to the public questions taken on notice at the Council Meeting on 28 January 2025 (**Appendix B**).
- (6) Endorses the motion outlined in **Appendix C** to be submitted to the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council meeting to be held on 16 May 2025.

- (7) Notes that Cr Arturi, as Council's appointed delegate will attend the MAV State Council meeting.
- (8) Notes the Community Advisory Committee Annual Progress Reports, and adds all new Councillor appointments from 16 December 2024 in reports for the following committees: Darebin Interfaith Council, Darebin Nature Trust, and Edgars Creek and Edwardes Lake Task Force **(Appendix D)**.
- (9) Notes that there has been one expense reimbursement claim for Peter Smith CEO, for motor vehicle battery repairs to the value of \$428.40.
- (10) Notes that there have been no CEO Credit Card transactions for the period 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024.
- (11) Notes the Freedom of Information (FOI) statistics shown in Table A, for the current financial year FY 24/25 to date.
- (12) Notes the Summary Minutes of the quarterly Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 18 December 2024 **(Appendix E)**.
- (13) Endorses the revised Audit and Risk Committee Charter **(Appendix F)**.
- (14) Notes that to align with the revised Audit and Risk Committee Charter, the Councillor appointments to the Committee are required to be updated.
- (15) Appoints the Councillor representatives to the Audit and Risk Committee as listed in the report at **Table B** below in the Report for a period of 12 months, or until such time as Council makes a further resolution on the matter.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS – 24 FEBRUARY 2025

REPORT OF CR. KRISTINE OLARIS MAYOR

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

- Meeting with the CEO (28 January 2025)
- Council meeting (28 January 2025)
- Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum-Monthly Meeting (29 January 2025)
- Citizenship Ceremony (29 January 2025)
- Meeting with GM and Manager regarding meeting with community group (29 January 2025)
- Meeting with Monitors (29 January 2025)
- Discussion regarding Mayoral Event, Social Justice Oration 2025 (29 January 2025)
- Macedonian Community Festival (1 February 2025)
- Pride March (2 February 2025)
- Meeting with CEO (3 February 2025)
- Meeting with Cr Greco (3 February 2025)
- Councillor Briefing (3 February 2025)
- Darebin Special Audit and Risk Committee Meeting (7 February 2025)
- Our Darebin Workshop (8 February 2025)
- Darebin Falcons Community Fun Day (9 February 2025)
- Lunar New Year Festival (9 February 2025)
- Meeting with CEO (10 February 2025)
- CEO Employment – Councillor Workshop (10 February 2025)
- Councillor Briefing Session (10 February 2025)
- Planning Committee Meeting (10 February 2025)
- Visit to Multicultural Arts Victoria (MAV) (11 February 2025)
- Managing mayoral meeting Invitations for Budget Proposals (11 February 2025)
- Catch up with Manager of Communications & Engagement (12 February 2025)
- Tour of A Blanck Canvas Workshop (12 February 2025)
- Meeting with Nathan Lambert MP (12 February 2025)
- Meeting with CEO (12 February 2025)
- National Anniversary Day of the Apology to the Stolen Generations Event (13 February 2025)
- Meeting with CEO and Deputy Mayor (17 February 2025)
- Meeting with Deputy Mayor (17 February 2025)
- Councillor Briefing Session (17 February 2025)

- Citizenship Ceremony (18 February 2025)
- Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee Agenda discussion Meeting (18 February 2025)
- Northern Councils Alliance Meeting (20 February 2025)
- Meeting with Fitzroy Baseball Club (20 February 2025)
- Meeting with CEO (20 February 2025)
- Multicultural Arts Victoria (MAV) Block Partee (22 February 2025)

REPORT OF CR. EMILY DIMITRIADIS

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

- Ordinary Council meeting
- Statutory Planning meeting
- Councillor briefings
- Fairfield Traders meeting
- Audit and Risk Committee
- Lunar New Year Festival at Preston Market
- Lunar New Year celebration with the North Eastern Melbourne Chinese Association
- Meeting with local residents at Alphington Food Store with Ged Kearney MP and Kat Theophanous MP
- Welcome to the Season event by Northcote Junior Football Club at McDonnell Park
- Meeting with Mayor and CEO
- Inaugural Greek Women's Community Cup at John Cain Memorial Park
- Antipodes Festival
- Citizenship ceremony

REPORT OF CR. MATT ARTURI

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

- Ordinary Council Meeting (28 January 2025)
- Macedonian Community Festival at Preston Lions FC (1 February 2025)
- Midsumma Pride March (2 February 2025)
- Audit and Risk Committee (Observer) (7 February 2025)
- Our Darebin Workshop for Councillors (8 February 2025)
- Lunar New Year Event at Preston Market (9 February 2025)
- CEO Employment Matters Committee – Workshop (10 February 2025)
- Councillor Briefing (10 February 2025)

- Planning Committee Meeting (10 February 2025)
- Councillor Briefing (17 February 2025)
- Meeting with residents in Macleod (20 February 2025)

REPORT OF CR. CONNIE BOGLIS

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

- Citizenship ceremony (29 January 2025)
- PLFC Macedonian Festival (1 February 2025)
- Pride, St Kilda (2 February 2025)
- Your Community health site visit (5 February 2025)
- PLFC 1st Match season visiting Foreign Minister Macedonia (7 February 2025)
- Preston Market Lunar New Year event (9 February 2025)
- RSL Reservoir invitation to attend Region 1 meeting – Veteran wellbeing discussion (12 February 2025)
- Impact Co committee – Darebin brief intervention support pilot (18 February 2025)
- JS Grey meeting – Site Manager, MP Nathan Lamber and Darebin council GM discussion (21 February 2025)
- MAV Block party – Melb Polytech (22 February 2025)

REPORT OF CR. GAETANO GRECO

Cr. Greco did not submit a report.

REPORT OF CR. RUTH JELLEY

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

- Meeting with Monitors (29 January 2025)
- Metropolitan Transport Forum delegate introductory briefing (31 January 2025)
- Pride March (2 February 2025)
- Meeting with Mayor (3 February 2025)
- Meeting with CEO (3 February 2025)
- Community meeting (4 February 2025)
- Metropolitan Transport Forum monthly meeting (5 February 2025)
- Meeting with South Central resident (7 February)
- Our Darebin Council Plan workshop (8 February)
- Preston Lunar New Year event (9 February)
- CEO employment workshop for Councillors (10 February)

- Darebin Interfaith Council Committee (13 February)
- Darebin Speakeasy launch: Tantrum for 6 performance (13 February)
- Preston Activity Centre walking tour for Councillors (14 February)
- Emails and phone calls with community members throughout the month

REPORT OF CR. JULIE O'BRIEN

Cr. O'Brien reported on her attendance at the following functions/activities:

- Councillor Briefing Meetings
- Pride March
- Council Plan Workshop
- Planning Committee Meeting
- Preston Activity Centre Walking Tour
- Arts Event – Tantrum for 6 at Northcote Town Hall
- Merri Creek Management Committee Induction Session
- Climate Emergency Australia 'Governing in the Climate Emergency' Training
- Reading and analysis of papers for all meetings, briefings, training etc.
- Contact (in person/online) with residents on various matters including IT hardware concerns, ongoing parking spillover impacts in local streets from events at local businesses, concerns about graffiti, approval of outdoor dining parklets, establishing better governance practices and various matters related to recent YSYS changes including safety concerns around South Crescent, cycling and pedestrian infrastructure improvements, and safety concerns around NARC.

REPORT OF CR. ALEXANDRA SANGSTER

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

- Councilor Briefing Meetings
- Pride March
- Council Plan Workshop
- Planning Com Meeting
- Preston Activity Walking Tour
- St George Community Festival
- Reading and analysis of papers for meetings.
- Merri Merri Way Meeting
- Interfaith Meeting
- Meeting with residents to hear concerns about: graffiti, parking, planning, trees and rubbish and about the rise in antisemitism.
- Phone calls and emails with residents regarding planning concerns and distress at decision to roll back YSYS changes.
- Arts and Heritage Advisory Meeting.

REPORT OF CR. VASILIOS TSALKOS

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

- Ordinary Council Meeting (28 January 2025)
- Macedonian Community Festival at Preston Lions FC (1 February 2025)
- Midsumma Pride March (2 February 2025)
- Audit and Risk Committee (7 February 2025)
- Our Darebin Workshop for Councillors (8 February 2025)
- CEO Employment Matters Committee – Workshop (10 February 2025)
- Councillor Briefing (10 February 2025)
- Planning Committee Meeting (10 February 2025)
- Meeting with Residents (15 February 2025)
- Councillor Briefing (17 February 2025)



SUMMARY OF COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT ADVISORY COMMITTEES, COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS AND OTHER INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS

MEETING DETAILS:	Title:	Councillor Briefing Session
	Date:	13 January 2025
	Location:	Council Chamber (Hybrid Meeting)
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr. Kristine Olaris OAM (Mayor) (Chairperson) Cr. Emily Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor) Cr. Matt Arturi Cr. Gaetano Greco Cr. Ruth Jelley Cr. Julie O'Brien Cr. Alexandra Sangster Cr. Vasilios Tsalkos
	Council Staff:	Michael Tudball Interim CEO Caroline Buisson, General Manager Project Support Nina Cullen, General Manager Community Enna Giampiccolo, Acting General Manager Customer & Corporate Rachel Ollivier, General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance (item 4.1) Vanessa Petrie, General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy (item 4.2, 4.3) Srini Krishnan, Chief Financial Officer (item 4.1) Lee McKenzie Manager Buildings, Properties & Capital (item 4.1) Keith McKellar, Manager Operations & Waste (item 4.1) Allan Middlemast, Acting Manager City Futures (item 4.3) Vasili Nicolaidis, Coordinator, Sustainable Transport (item 4.3) Felicity Walsh, Interim Manager Governance and Communications (item 4.4) Jody Brodribb, Coordinator Governance Services (item 4.4)
	External Attendees:	June Anstee, Municipal Monitor Ross Millard, Municipal Monitor
APOLOGIES:		Cr Connie Boglis OAM

The Meeting commenced at 4.02pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
4.0	Briefing Agenda Overview	No disclosures were made
4.1	Background Briefing - Infrastructure & Asset Management	No disclosures were made
4.2	Options paper for Cultural Diversity and LGBTQIA+ action plans	No disclosures were made
4.3	Revisiting Your Street, Your Say Projects	No disclosures were made
4.4	Governance Services Team Presentation	No disclosures were made
4.5	General Business	No disclosures were made.

The Meeting concluded at 7.42pm.

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name:	Enna Giampiccolo
	Officer Title:	Acting General Manager Customer & Corporate

SUMMARY OF COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT ADVISORY COMMITTEES, COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS AND OTHER INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS

MEETING DETAILS:	Title:	Councillor Briefing Session
	Date:	20 January 2025
	Location:	Council Chamber (Hybrid Meeting)
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr. Kristine Olaris OAM (Mayor) (Chairperson) Cr. Emily Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor) Cr. Matt Arturi Cr. Connie Boglis OAM Cr. Gaetano Greco Cr. Ruth Jelley Cr. Julie O'Brien (online) Cr. Alexandra Sangster Cr. Vasilios Tsalkos (joined online at 4.11pm)
	Council Staff:	Michael Tudball Interim CEO Caroline Buisson, General Manager Project Support (item 4.1) Nina Cullen, General Manager Community (online from 4.25pm) Enna Giampiccolo, Acting General Manager Customer & Corporate (item 4.2, 4.4) Rachel Ollivier, General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance Vanessa Petrie, General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy (item 4.3) Felicity Walsh, Interim Manager Governance and Communications (item 4.2) Jacinta Lidonni, Risk Adviser (item 4.2) Lalitha Koya, Chief Information Officer (item 4.1, 4.4) Christine Walsh, Chief Transformation Officer (item 4.1) Chad Griffiths, Manager City Development (item 4.1) Keith McKellar, Operations and Waste Manager (item 4.1) Michele Burton, Manager City Futures (item 4.3) Srini Krishnan, Chief Financial Officer (item 4.1, 4.4) David Cecala, Coordinator Procurement (item 4.4)
	External Attendees:	June Anstee, Municipal Monitor (online) Ross Millard, Municipal Monitor Ross Ivey, AON Samaya New, AON
APOLOGIES:		

The Meeting commenced at 4.03 pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
4.0	Briefing Agenda Overview	No disclosures were made
4.1	Digital Transformation (ERP) update	No disclosures were made
4.2	Strategic Risk and Risk Management Workshop – External Presenters	No disclosures were made
4.3	Options Paper for Cultural Diversity and LGBTQIA+ Action Plans	No disclosures were made
4.4	Contract Award - CT202445 Provision of IT Hardware - Supply & Delivery Laptop Devices	No disclosures were made
4.5	Council Agenda Overview – 28 January 2025	No disclosures were made.
4.6	General Business	No disclosures were made.

The Meeting concluded at 7.57pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name:	Enna Giampiccolo
	Officer Title:	Acting General Manager Customer & Corporate



SUMMARY OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES, COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS AND OTHER INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS

MEETING DETAILS:	Title:	CEO Employment Matters Committee
	Date:	21 January 2025
	Location:	Hybrid – MS Teams and Conference Room
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Mayor, Cr Kristine Olaris OAM, Deputy Mayor, Cr Emily Dimitriadis, Cr Matt Arturi, Cr Connie Boglis OAM, Cr Gaetano Greco (online), Cr Ruth Jelley, Cr Julie O'Brien (online), Cr Alexandra Sangster (online), Cr Vasilios Tsalkos (online)
	Council Staff:	Enna Giampiccolo, Acting GM Customer and Corporate Yvette Fuller, Chief People Officer (online)
	Other:	Joe Carbone, Independent Chair June Anstee, Municipal Monitor (online) Ross Millard, Municipal Monitor (online)
APOLOGIES:		

The briefing commenced at 4.07pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
4	Presentation from the Chair – Governance principles supporting CEO Recruitment	No disclosures were made
5.1	Draft CEO Employment Matters Committee Charter and Draft CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy	No disclosures were made
5.2	Proposals from recruitment agencies regarding the appointment of an ongoing CEO	The Independent Chair declared a conflict of interest in relation to the proposals for recruitment services to appoint an ongoing CEO. The Chair declared a working relationship for one of the agencies making a proposal. The Chair left the meeting for this item. Cr Greco advised that in 2010, he was the recipient of a Fellowship Award in the local government sector, which was sponsored by one of the agencies. Cr Greco left the meeting for this item and did not participate in the decision. No other conflicts of interest were declared.

The session concluded at 5.41pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name:	Enna Giampiccolo
	Officer Title:	Acting General Manager Customer & Corporate

This form is to be completed by the nominated Council Officer and returned to the Council Business Team within 3 working days for inclusion the agenda of the next Council meeting and in the register available for public inspection.

SUMMARY OF COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT ADVISORY COMMITTEES, COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS AND OTHER INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS

MEETING DETAILS:	Title:	Councillor Briefing Session
	Date:	3 February 2025
	Location:	Council Chamber (Hybrid Meeting)
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr. Kristine Olaris OAM (Mayor) (Chairperson) Cr. Emily Dimitriadis (Deputy Mayor) Cr. Matt Arturi Cr. Connie Boglis OAM Cr. Gaetano Greco Cr. Ruth Jelley Cr. Julie O'Brien Cr. Alexandra Sangster Cr. Vasilios Tsalkos (from 5.12pm)
	Council Staff:	Michael Tudball Interim CEO Caroline Buisson, General Manager Customer & Corporate Nina Cullen, General Manager Community Rachel Ollivier, General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance Vanessa Petrie, General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy Enna Giampiccolo, Executive Manager Governance & Communications Lisa Wheelhouse, Manager Customer & Corporate Performance (item 4.1 & 4.2) Kassia Gibbs, Coordinator Corporate Strategy & Performance (item 4.1 & 4.2) Julie Wyndham, Senior Corporate Strategy Officer (item 4.1 & 4.2) Suzi Park, Corporate Strategy Project Officer (item 4.1 & 4.2) Carmel Ganino, Head Communications & Engagement (item 4.1 & 4.2) Jody Brodribb, Coordinator Governance Services (item 4.3) Allan Middlemast, Acting Manager City Futures (item 4.4) Stevie Meyer, Coordinator Strategic Planning (item 4.4) Lakshmanan Madhu, Senior Strategic Planner (Item 4.4)

		Keith McKellar, Manager Operations & Waste (item 4.5)
	External Attendees:	June Anstee, Municipal Monitor Ross Millard, Municipal Monitor
APOLOGIES:		

The Meeting commenced at 4.07 pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
4.0	Briefing Agenda Overview	No disclosures were made
4.1	Our Darebin Community Panel Report and Community Vision adoption	No disclosures were made
4.2	2024-25 Q2 Non-Financial Performance Report	No disclosures were made
4.3	Update on online Notice of Motion form and process	No disclosures were made
4.4	Preston Central Update	No disclosures were made
4.5	Hard Rubbish Service - Review	No disclosures were made.

The Meeting concluded at 6.10pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name:	Enna Giampiccolo
	Officer Title:	Executive Manager Governance and Communications

Question and Submission Time – Questions taken on Notice

At the Council meeting held on 28 January 2025, the following questions were taken on notice.

- **Timmee Grinham**

What action has Council taken to address safety risks for cyclists near NARC (the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre) since the fatal crash between a truck and a cyclist in 2018?

Response from General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

Thank you for your question Timmee. Following the completion of NARC, Council installed No Stopping zones on Victoria Road near the entrance to improve sight lines between drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.

Council undertook community engagement and technical assessments for the area around NARC as part of the Your Street, Your Say 'Group B' project that was delivered last year. Work has also started on a feasibility study to improve safety near the NARC entrance.

Timmee Grinham asked the Mayor whether a follow up question could be asked. The Mayor granted a follow up question. Timmee Grinham went on to further ask if there is any monitoring of those No Stopping zones around NARC?

The General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy thanked Timmee for the follow up question and confirmed that traffic enforcement officers do patrol the entire municipality, however this question would be taken on notice and specific information on patrols in that area could be provided to Timmee at a later time.

Manager City Safety & Compliance emailed Timmee on 13 February 2025 and a copy of that response is noted below:

Good Afternoon Timmee,

I have been asked to provide a response regarding your question to the Council regarding monitoring of No Stopping Zones around NARC.

I am happy to provide the following response:

Traffic Officers patrol NARC almost daily if not more especially during the warmer days when NARC is busier.

The No Stopping area in issue is the bike path No Stopping area inside the NARC car park adjoining NARC and Lorna Ave.

We have issued 80 infringements for No Stopping inside NARC during the last 3 months. The majority are for the issue location.

We will continue to patrol the area around NARC and any vehicles observed in breach will be issued with an infringement.

Hopefully this addresses your question.

Kind Regards,

Manager – City Safety and Compliance

- **Nina Collins**

1. When will Council provide a safe and accessible entrance to John Cain Memorial Park from Clarendon Street Thornbury?
2. When will Council reinstate the footpath on the western side of Sparks Avenue between Rossmoyne and Mansfield Street?
3. Will Council advocate to DTP for safety crossings for pedestrians and cyclists at the intersections of Wilmoth Street x Darebin Road, and at Collins Street x Station Street? Wilmoth Street is a key pedestrian and cyclist corridor. Darebin Road already has supported crossing at Wales Street and St David Street, and this intersection needs similar intervention. Collins Street is a dangerous intersection with Station Street. It is the primary entrance to the THS.

Response from General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

1. Thank you for your questions, Nina. Regarding question one, Council Officers are currently investigating solutions to provide a safe and accessible entrance to John Cain Memorial Park from Clarendon Street, Thornbury. Unfortunately, no timeline has been set for the delivery of these works, but I have asked the Manager to keep you updated.
2. There's not previously been a footpath on the western side of Sparks Avenue between Rossmoyne and Mansfield Street. Unfortunately, constructing a footpath on the western side of Sparks Avenue is not feasible because of the steep embankment at this location.
3. Council is committed to advocating for the safety of pedestrians and cyclists. Officers will raise the concerns regarding safety improvements at these locations with the Department of Transport and Planning officials. Council will continue to work with DPT to explore options for safer crossings and to ensure the needs of pedestrians and cyclists are considered in any future upgrades at these intersections.

An officer from the Sustainable Transport team has emailed Nina on 14 February 2025 and 27 February 2025 and a copy of those responses is noted below:

14 February 2025

Hi Nina,

Hope the start of the school year is going well for you all.

I have been able to raise this quickly with our engineers and believe it's a good possibility, but will have to get final approval next week.

I also wanted to let you know that we have landed on a solution for the gate at John Cain. We are working through the final details now. I should be able to give you an updated timeline for installation next week.

Have a great weekend.

Transport Project Officer

27 February 2025

Hi Nina,

I'm writing to let you know that a work order has now been raised to reconfigure the gate at John Cain Memorial as discussed.

Estimated time for completion of the works is the end of March.

Thanks again for your efforts on this. If you have any further questions, please let me know.

Kind regards,

Transport Project Officer

- **Courtney May**

1. How is Council progressing against the targets in the Transport Strategy to double the share of walking, cycling and public transport for all trips?
2. What plans or strategies does Council have in place to target safety improvements around schools, noting that Your Street Your Say takes a broader place-making approach to street safety projects, and specifically what action is Council taking to make sure that children riding to schools in Northcote can get there safely?
3. What plans does Council have in place to invest in strategic cycling corridors, including routes such as South Crescent – a key cycling route to the city, Northcote High and Westgarth Primary, as well as to Fairfield and Alphington, with South Crescent safety the highest ranking issue in Council's survey on transport in Northcote and Alphington in 2023.

Response from General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

1. **Thank you for your questions Courtney. A refresh of the Darebin Transport Strategy was completed in 2022. As part of this refresh, we reviewed how Council is progressing against the key policies, actions and targets contained within the strategy. There is a refresh report that tracks progress and is available to download from Council's website. A transport officer will email this link to you.**
2. **Regarding both your questions 2 and 3, Your Street, Your Say is the main way Council currently identifies where capital projects are needed to improve safety and access. It is an integrated program that considers the needs of all transport users.**
3. **In addition to capital improvements, Council also engages closely with 3 schools each year to provide information to families about the benefits of active travel and how to do it safely around their school. This work also identifies opportunities to improve the safety of key access routes to those schools that are participating.**

A senior officer from the Sustainable Transport team emailed Courtney on 28 January 2025 and a copy of that response is noted below:

Dear Courtney,

I have been asked to contact you regarding your question at this evening's Council Meeting about the progress that has been made against the targets set out in the Darebin Transport Strategy,

In 2022, a 'refresh' of the Darebin Transport Strategy was completed. This refresh included a review of the progress made against achieving the key policies, actions and targets contained in the strategy.

You can download a copy of the 'Darebin Transport Strategy Refresh' report [here](#).

If you have any queries in relation to the above, please contact me as required.

Yours sincerely

ACTIVE AND HEALTHY AGEING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AHAAC) ANNUAL REPORT

1 JANUARY 2024 – 31 DECEMBER 2024

AUTHOR: **Community Engagement Officer**

REVIEWED BY: **General Manager Community**

COMMITTEE SUMMARY:

AHAAC represents the interests of older people. It provides advice and recommendations in relation to issues, policies and drivers that impact health, wellbeing and services delivered to residents ageing in Darebin. The committee influences Council's planning on implementing Age Friendly Darebin initiatives and policies.

Committee Members

- 9 Committee Members
- 4 Council Officers

Councillor Representative:

Cr Gaetano Greco (Chair), Cr Julie Williams

ANNUAL REPORT

Key Issues and Challenges 2024

- 2 members resigned from the committee due to personal reasons.
 - Efforts to improve the culture of the committee, based on participant feedback, focused on fostering respectful listening, encouraging open dialogue, and ensuring all members feel valued and heard. These initiatives aimed to enhance the overall management of committee meetings and support being a member of the committee as a rewarding experience, with a clear sense of purpose and contribution to meaningful outcomes.
 - A guest speaker framework was developed and implemented to ensure topic relevance, alignment with Age Friendly Darebin principles, and clear objectives, with speakers providing upfront information and committee feedback used as an age-friendly lens to improve outcomes of future council projects.
-

Key Activities / Outcomes for 2024

- Focus remained on providing updates on Councils response to the Federal Aged Care Reforms, the commencement of the Support at Home (S@H) program in July 2025 and the transition of the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) to S@H no earlier than July 2027.
- Discussions held considering Age Friendly Darebin recommendations with a focus on social connection and inclusion, housing for older people and digital inclusion.
- Various Council Officers attended as guest speakers to consult the committee on projects and policies concerning older community members.

Guest speaker topics included:

- LGBTIQ+ Action Plan
- Draft Darebin Housing Strategy
- Our Darebin Project – Community Vision/Council Plan
- Community Engagement with older adults

FUTURE PLANS

- Recruitment and induction for new committee term
- Planning in response to Federal Government aged care reforms in 2027
- Engage guest speakers to discuss relevant topics and apply age friendly lens to council projects.
- Provide input and guidance on Age Friendly Darebin planning and initiatives.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- 'Active and Healthy Ageing Community Board Terms of Reference'
 - Towards an Age Friendly Darebin (2019)
-

DAREBIN ART & HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – ANNUAL REPORT

1 JANUARY 2024 – 31 DECEMBER 2024

AUTHOR: Coordinator, Art, Collections & Marketing

REVIEWED BY: General Manager, Community

COMMITTEE SUMMARY:

The Art and Heritage Advisory Committee provides expert advice and support to achieving the visual art, public art and heritage interpretation projects, services, and activities that Darebin Council provides to our community.

Committee Members

- Fourteen (14) community members

Councillor Representative:

- Cr. Susanne Newton
- Cr. Gaetano Greco (Proxy)

ANNUAL REPORT

Key Issues and Challenges 2024

- The commissioning of a major new public artwork (Migration Public Artwork) was a key issue requiring extensive support from the committee throughout 2024. Several committee members were co-opted to join a Migration community reference group and provide their expertise for this public art project, in addition to their attendance at the regular Art & Heritage committee meetings.
- One meeting was delayed in November 2024 due to a number of committee members unplanned absences and has been rescheduled for February 2025.

Key Activities / Outcomes for 2024

- Three meetings of the Art & Heritage Advisory Committee were held between January – December 2024.
 - The committee have provided ongoing support and advice around the commissioning of a major new public art project for Darebin, the Migration public artwork.
 - Collections management guidance and industry benchmarking was provided for Darebin's indoor art collection, particularly around the topics of safe storage, and management of works of unknown provenance.
 - The committee advised on new acquisitions to the Darebin Art Collection, as part of Darebin's ten-year capital works plan.
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- The committee participated in a workshop on the Darebin 2041 Community Vision & Council Plan 2025-2029 in partnership with the community engagement team.
 - One committee member resigned in November 2024 reducing the number of committee members to thirteen for 2025.

FUTURE PLANS

- Developing a public art decommissioning policy and plan for decommissioning several public artworks Darebin that are beyond their intended lifespan.
- Continued improvement strategies relating to collections management for the Darebin Art Collection.
- Ongoing fundraising and sponsorship strategies and research.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Darebin Art & Heritage Advisory Panel Terms of Reference

DAREBIN ABORIGINAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE – ANNUAL REPORT

1 JANUARY 2024 – 31 DECEMBER 2024

AUTHOR: Senior Aboriginal Partnerships Officer

REVIEWED BY: General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

COMMITTEE SUMMARY:

The purpose of the Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee (DAAC) is to provide Council with strategic cultural advice, direction, opportunity and representation on behalf of the Darebin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and its' organisations.

DAAC also provides strategic input into Council's projects, initiatives and oversees delivery of the Council Plan through the development of a Darebin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan and implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment Strategy (2017-2027) and the Towards Framework (2019-2029). This work is underpinned by the Statement of Commitment to Traditional Owners and Aboriginal People (2019) and further informed by the DAAC "Our Black Lives Matter" Statement (2020).

Committee Members

- 9 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members

Councillor Representative:

From January 1st until 25 October 2024

- Co-Chair – Mayor Cr Susanne Newton
- Cr Gaetano Greco
- Cr Susan Rennie
- Cr Julie Williams
- Cr Trent McCarthy

From 16 December 2024:

- Co-Chair – Mayor Cr Kristine Olaris
 - Deputy Mayor Cr Emily Dimitriadis
-

ANNUAL REPORT

Key Issues and Challenges 2024

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children encountering racism in sport
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation on the Our Darebin community panel

Key Activities / Outcomes for 2024

- Recruitment of 4 new committee members during 2024, bringing the total members to 9.
- Yarning Circles for DAAC to provide feedback for the OurDarebin project.
- DAAC members advised on the Aboriginal Action Plan

FUTURE PLANS

- Review the Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.
- Advice and guidance to council on matters of importance to the local Darebin Aboriginal community.
- Advice and guidance on council projects, plans and policies
- Ongoing Recruitment
- Accommodating Wurundjeri Elders on the DAAC

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee Terms of Reference
-

DAREBIN DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AUTHOR: **Acting Team Leader Access and Inclusion**

REVIEWED BY: **General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy**

COMMITTEE SUMMARY:

The Darebin Disability Advisory Committee (DDAC) provides advice to Council on issues relating to access and inclusion for people with disabilities and carers living, working, studying or visiting Darebin. The purpose of DDAC is to promote and advocate for improved access and equity within Council and the wider community, irrespective of age, type of disability, gender, culture or linguistic background.

The Committee also monitors the implementation of Council's Access and Inclusion Plan.

Committee Members

- 6 x community members (currently one vacancy)
- 4 x carers
- 2 x service providers (Melbourne Polytechnic and MA Support Services)

Councillor Representative:

From 1st Jan – 25 October 2024:

- Chair: Cr. Williams
- Proxy: Cr. Lawrence

From 16th December 2024:

- Chair: Cr Tsalkos
- Proxy: Cr Arturi

Meetings held – 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024

- Tuesday 5 March 2024
 - Tuesday 4 June 2024
 - Tuesday 2 July (Special Meeting)
 - Tuesday 6 August (Special Meeting)
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- Tuesday 3 September 2024
 - Tuesday 26 November 2024

PROGRESS REPORT

Key Issues and Challenges for 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

- Committee members have requested that the standard Terms of Reference for Council advisory committees are reviewed to ensure that the language is accessible.
- Committee members would like Council to 'close the loop' on projects that the DDAC provide advice on.

Key Activities / Outcomes for 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

- DDAC provided feedback regarding the following projects at the March, June, September, and November meetings:
 - Darebin Council Community Awards (Disability Category)
 - LGBTIQA* Action Plan
 - Outdoor Dining and Trading Policy and Design Guidelines
 - Housing Strategy
 - Future redevelopment of Reservoir Leisure Centre
 - 2024 Year in review of DDAC priorities and achievements
 - Planning DDAC priorities for 2025
- DDAC provided feedback regarding the following projects in Special Meetings:
 - Route 86 Tram Accessibility Upgrades
 - Hard Waste Trial
 - Darebin 2041 Community Vision Review and new Council Plan

FUTURE PLANS

- Continued input into Darebin Access and Inclusion Plan activities
- Provide feedback on the High Street Redevelopment and Hard Waste Trial
- Planning for the International Day People with Disability 2025 project

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Darebin Disability Advisory Committee Terms of Reference
-

DAREBIN EDUCATION NETWORK – ANNUAL REPORT

1 JANUARY 2024 – 31 DECEMBER 2024

AUTHOR: **Community Development Officer**

REVIEWED BY: **General Manager, Community**

COMMITTEE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this Network is to provide advice and recommendations in relation to:

- Promoting equitable and quality learning and education for all students across Darebin primary and secondary schools across all education sectors;
- Emerging and ongoing priorities and areas of partnerships that address equity in education, especially for students who experience educational disadvantage and in student wellbeing.

Committee Members

- Principals or representatives from all Darebin schools are invited to participate – Up to 15 schools participate in quarterly meetings.
- 3 x Representatives from North East Melbourne Area of the North West Victoria Region of the Department of Education and Training (DET) including Senior Education Improvement Leader and Koorie Education Support Officer (KESO).
- Council Officers, Darebin City Council.

Councillor Representative:

Chair: Councillor Trent McCarthy

ANNUAL REPORT

Key Issues and Challenges 2024

- Strengthening collaboration between Darebin schools and diverse areas of Council and Darebin-based community organisations – Darebin Recreation and Leisure Services, Darebin Community Grants, Darebin Festival and Events, Darebin Health and Wellbeing Planning and Engagement, Bundoora Homestead, Islamic Museum of Australia and Aboriginal Advancement League.
 - Embedding learning and teaching of local Aboriginal history and culture and truth-telling in schools.
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- Supporting schools to develop culturally safe schools for all students – with a focus on First Nations students and students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
 - Digital safety for students and parents.

Key Activities / Outcomes for 2024

- Three Network meetings were held with excellent guest presentations, discussion, and shared learning including:
 - Teaching and learning resources available to all schools at the Islamic Museum of Australia (IMA) and discussion about how IMA and schools can better engage.
 - Tour of truth-telling exhibition at Bundoora Homestead
 - Discussion about sexism and misogyny in Darebin schools
 - Presentation and discussion by CEO, Aboriginal Advancement League (AAL) – History and current priorities
 - Submission to the Yoorrook Justice Commission *The voices of primary school students participating in the Darebin Schools' NAIDOC Yarning Conferences, 2018 - 2023 – Reflections and learnings and their call for truth-telling and justice for Aboriginal people;* February 2024.
 - Careers tour and visit by First Nations students of Reservoir High to Council. This was a collaboration between Community Inclusion and People and Culture.
 - Greater participation and breadth of schools and projects successful in small (3), youth (3) and venues support (2) applications - Community Grants 2024- 2025.
 - Two schools and community specific workshops for parents and carers by partner/provider *Evo/ve*, on 'Digital Safety and Wellbeing' - East Preston Islamic College, Preston North East PS and Somali Australia Council of Victoria.
 - The **Seventh** Darebin Schools' NAIDOC Yarning Conference held with 450+ Year Five students and staff from 21 Darebin schools, held at Bundoora Park Farm. 25 + First Nations cultural educators shared cultural knowledge, truth-telling and interactive activities to the theme of Keep the Fire Burning – Blak, Loud and Proud. Pre-Conference learning material, prepared in collaboration with cultural advisors and Darebin Schools' Working Group was carried out in most participating schools and provided a strong basis for student active participation at the Conference. First Nations students from two schools were provided with a platform to speak and perform.
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FUTURE PLANS

- Continuation of two key priority areas of the Network: embedding teaching and learning Aboriginal history and culture; and facilitating and co-contributing to the wellbeing initiatives of schools.
- Continue to strengthen and facilitate understanding and collaboration between Darebin schools and diverse areas of Council and partner community organisations.
- Respond to emerging and ongoing areas in education, including disability Inclusion, anti-racism, mental health and climate justice.
- Continue to facilitate Darebin Education Network meetings in premises of diverse partner organisations across Darebin and Council managed services.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Darebin Education Network Terms of Reference.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY DAREBIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE – ANNUAL REPORT

1 JANUARY 2024 – 31 DECEMBER 2024

AUTHOR: **Climate and Community Officer**

REVIEWED BY: **General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy**

COMMITTEE SUMMARY:

Climate Emergency Darebin Advisory Committee (CED AC) provides advice and recommendations to Council about implementing Council's Climate Emergency Plan.

Advice and recommendations are about climate emergency leadership and implementing towards emissions reductions and community resilience, review of policy and program development, building community capacity towards adaptation and effective community engagement on Council's Climate Emergency Plan. The terms of reference can be [found here](#).

Committee Members

- Nine community members at the end of 2024.
- A recruitment process in 2024 to replace three mid-term retirements resulted in three nominations and two appointments.

Councillor Representative:

1st January – 25th October 2024:

- Cr. Trent McCarthy
- Cr. Susan Rennie
- Cr. Emily Dimitriadis
- Cr. Tom Hannon (Proxy commencing 2024)

From 16th December 2024:

- Cr O'Brien
 - Proxy: Cr Dimitriadis
-

ANNUAL REPORT

Key Issues and Challenges 2024

- Mid-term recruitment resulted in two of three replacement appointments as one nominated applicant withdrew her application. An additional process was not undertaken as membership is due for renewal in 2025.
- One meeting was delayed pending Council approval of the Climate Emergency Plan and then cancelled due to Caretaker prior to the Council elections.
- As per the Terms of Reference, a working group meeting of eligible members was able to proceed during Caretaker to enable continued discussion about the Climate Emergency Plan.
- CED AC focus remained on providing advice on the Climate Emergency Plan, noting that once approval was received from Council (July 2024) members' focus shifted to providing advice on developing and implementing specific actions.

Key Activities / Outcomes for 2024

Two committee meetings and one member workshop were held from 20 March and up to and including 31 December 2024. The committee provided advice and/or feedback on the following aspects of the Climate Emergency Plan (CEP):

- Structure, scope and objectives of each Pillar within the CEP.
- Approaches, networks and strategies for reaching a diverse audience for the Stage 2 community consultation about the CEP.
- Detailed feedback and advice on emerging plans for specific actions.

FUTURE PLANS

- Recruit, induct and welcome new committee members.
- Provide ongoing advice to inform the planning and implementation of various actions within the Climate Emergency Plan.
- Support development of advocacy, awareness raising and community engagement with the Climate Emergency Plan.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- [Climate Emergency Darebin Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.](#)
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DAREBIN COMMUNITY AWARDS SELECTION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

1 JANUARY 2024 – 31 DECEMBER 2024

AUTHOR: Festival & Events Coordinator

REVIEWED BY: Manager Creative Culture & Economic Development

COMMITTEE SUMMARY:

The annual Darebin Community Awards highlight the wonderful and impactful contributions our community members make to the City of Darebin.

The Darebin Community Awards Selection Committee is made up of diverse community representatives, and former award recipients, who assesses nominations for the Darebin Community Awards and recommends award winners. Meetings are chaired by the Mayor.

The Darebin Community Awards Presentation Night was held on 15 of September at Narrandjeri Stadium. It was a truly memorable evening for the Darebin community, with over 170 residents in attendance.

Committee Members

Representative group blend:

- Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee Members x 2
- Darebin Ethnic Communities Council Representatives x 2
- Community Representatives x 3
- Former Award Recipients x 3

Councillor Representative/Chair:

- Former Mayor Cr. Susan Newton

ANNUAL REPORT

Key Issues and Challenges 2024

- The Darebin Community Awards Presentation night was delivered within the FUSE Festival Spring program on 15 September 2024.
 - A challenge in event delivery in 2024 was the unexpected change of dates associated with the formal Caretaker period, which was brought forward by a week to 17 September, as declared by the Minister for Local Government.
 - The sudden, unexpected close proximity of the Caretaker period meant social media and communications to celebrate the Community Award outcomes were restricted.
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- A small change to future dates will be discussed by the Committee in 2025 to reduce this future risk.

Key Activities / Outcomes for 2024

- Every year the Darebin Community Awards highlight the wonderful and impactful contributions our community members make to the City of Darebin.
- Two meetings were held during the year, in addition to the Darebin Community Awards Presentation Night on 15 September 2024.
- The annual presentation was delivered during FUSE Spring, prior to caretaker period.
- Darebin Community Awards Presentation Night was held on 15 of September at Narrandjeri Stadium. It was a truly memorable evening for the Darebin community, with over 170 residents in attendance.
- A review of the Darebin Community Awards, initiated by a Council Notice of Motion in April 2022, was delayed due to operational requirements and staffing changes. A report with findings and recommendations will be presented to Council in 2025.
- After a recruitment drive for new selection community members, we inducted two new Committee members in 2024.
- The committee participated in a workshop on the Darebin 2041 Community Vision & Council Plan 2025-2029 in partnership with the community engagement team.

List of 2024 Winners

- Citizen of the Year - Kate Jost
- Special Commendation Citizen of the Year Category - David Malone
- Young Citizen of the Year – Isabella Pingitore
- Special Commendation Youth of the Year Category - Thomas Taylor
- Special Commendation Youth of the Year Category – Minne O’Sullivan
- Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Community Joint Leaders of the Year - Commissioner Travis Lovett and Aunty Rieo Ellis.
- Community Group of the Year Volunteers at Darebin Information Volunteers - Resource Service (DIVRS)
- Special Commendation Group of the Year Category - Gurwidj Neighbourhood House Women’s Group
- CALD Elder Community Leader of the Year - Ngoc Hanh Le
- And Lifetime Achievement Award – Lisa Cappola

FUTURE PLANS

-
- A communication plan for the 2025 Darebin Community Awards is to be completed, with nominations opening in Autumn 2025.
 - A meeting with the new Chairperson (Mayor) and the existing Darebin Community Awards Selection Committee will be held in March 2025.
 - A small change to future dates will be discussed by the Committee in 2025 to reduce risk of future Caretaker period clash.
 - A review of the Darebin Community Awards, initiated by a Council Notice of Motion in April 2022, was delayed due to operational requirements and staffing changes. A report with findings and recommendations will be presented to Council in 2025.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Darebin Community Awards Selection Committee Terms of Reference.

DAREBIN INTERFAITH COUNCIL - ANNUAL REPORT

1 JANUARY 2024 – 31 DECEMBER 2024

AUTHOR: Community Development Officer

REVIEWED BY: General Manager Community

COMMITTEE SUMMARY:

The Darebin Interfaith Council provides advice to Council on issues affecting faith communities and informs Council decision-making about policy, program, and services on interfaith-related matters. The purpose of the Committee is to create opportunities for dialogue between religious leaders and community members of diverse faith backgrounds, by providing leadership on matters of interfaith relations, interfaith understanding, and cooperation in the City of Darebin by promoting social harmony and cohesion between diverse faith communities and the protection of human rights.

Committee Members

- Northern Community Church of Christ
- Sikh Interfaith Council of Victoria, Community Representative x 1
- Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia - District of Northcote
- West Preston Baptist Church
- Masjid Ahlulbait Mosque
- Circles of Light Centre, Community Representative x 1
- Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral
- Sacred Heart Catholic Parish Preston
- Preston Mosque
- Focolare Movement
- Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church x 2
- St Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church
- Bahai Community of Darebin
- Taste of India, Community Representative x 1
- Victoria Police Multicultural Liaison x 2

Councillor Representative:

- Cr. Gaetano Greco (Co-Chair)
- Cr. Julie Williams (Proxy)

From 16 December 2024

- Cr Alexandra Sangster (Chair)
 - Cr Ruth Jelley (Proxy)
-

ANNUAL REPORT

Key Issues and Challenges 2024

- Eight new members were welcomed in March this year. An induction meeting in person took place, where newly recruited members met with long-term members to introduce each other, exchange interfaith knowledge and challenges, and build and celebrate group culture.
- Committee members would like to keep participating in Joint Committee meetings to share knowledge and exchange community engagement practices by applying interfaith and multicultural lenses.
- Committee members continue to agree to form small groups to lead projects/activities with assistance and guidance from Council officer. This engagement style will allow the Committee to be more dynamic.
- Committee members have continued to meet and focus on strengthening social cohesion in Darebin despite challenging times for interfaith relations due to global wars and intractable conflicts affecting Darebin's multifaith and multicultural communities.

Key Activities / Outcomes for 2024

- Participated in Thai Pongal celebration, a multi-day Hindu harvest festival celebrated by Tamils.
 - Attended the Darebin Volunteer Expo 2024.
 - Provided feedback on Council's Leasing and Licensing Policy.
 - Participated in the East Reservoir Community Iftar event led by the Somali Australia Council of Victoria (SACOV).
 - Celebrated the 'Meet The Makers Picnic' event at the Bundoora Homestead Art Centre.
 - Provided input and feedback to the Darebin Council Climate Emergency Plan 2024-30.
 - Participated in the Council's Community Grant Program 2024.
 - Attended the Gaanasaagaram event, a concert celebrating the Indian New Year at the Darebin Arts Centre.
 - Took part in Council consultation about Heritage Amendment - Places of Worship.
 - Held a Special Meeting to discuss and provide guidance on Council Resolution 12.1, as well as Flag Policy and Procurement Policy.
 - Participated in the 2024 Intercultural Centre Cultural Diversity Oration.
 - Organized and hosted the 2024 Refugee Week Dinner, the theme of the year was 'Finding Freedom: Family'.
 - Attended the Welcoming Cities Accreditation Celebration in Council.
 - Provided feedback on the new 'Darebin Families, Youth and Children Strategy: A Framework for Collective Action'.
 - Participated in the Annual Multifaith and Multicultural Shabbat and Kiddush celebration at St Kilda Hebrew Congregation.
-

- Took part in the First major Panagiri, the Youth Conference and Festival, at the Holy Monastery of Axion Estin, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia.
- Attended the 36th Annual Gathering 'Signing of the Common Statement' Interfaith Network of the City of Greater Dandenong.
- Held an online workshop to provide input and feedback on 'Darebin's Community Vision and Council Plan 2025-2029' with Darebin's Community Engagement Team.
- Attended the Onam Celebration event, an annual harvest and Hindu cultural festival, organized by the Taste of India cultural group.
- Participated in the 'Egyptian Cultural Festival 2024 - Banquet Lunch' at the St Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church.
- Attended the historic visit of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew at the Holy Monastery of Axion Estin.
- Took part in the End-of-Year gathering with Hume Interfaith Network and Whittlesea Interfaith Network.
- Provided feedback to the Darebin Arts Community Survey about its Arts & Cultural Services.
- Participated in the end-of-year campaign 'Darebin Celebrates', which provided community support during the festive season.

FUTURE PLANS

- Continue to meet and collaborate with other Interfaith Networks across Melbourne.
- Planning for Refugee Week Dinner 2025.
- Planning for the 2025 Darebin Interfaith Dialogue Community Forum.
- Continue collaborating with other Council's Advisory Committees.
- Continue providing input and feedback to Council's key policies and projects.
- Continue to respond to emerging and ongoing global trends affecting the social cohesion of Darebin's multifaith and multicultural communities.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Darebin Interfaith Council Terms Of Reference (TOR) 2023
-

DAREBIN NATURE TRUST – ANNUAL REPORT

1 JANUARY 2024 – 31 DECEMBER 2024

AUTHOR: **Urban Ecology and Biodiversity Officer**

REVIEWED BY: **Manager Natural and Civic Spaces**

COMMITTEE SUMMARY:

The purpose of the Darebin Nature Trust is to provide a sounding board to Council in relation to matters affecting biodiversity and the natural environment in Darebin's open space. This includes:

- Identifying and actioning opportunities to improve biodiversity and urban livability.
- Raising awareness and building community custodianship of our natural environment and biodiversity
- Advocating to protect and enhance Darebin's natural environment for current and future generations.

Committee Members

- 9 community members

Councillor Representative:

- Cr Trent McCarthy (Chair)
- Cr Susanne Newton (Proxy)
- Cr Emily Dimitriadis

From 16 December 2024

- Cr Vasilios Tsalkos
- Cr Julie O'Brien

ANNUAL REPORT

Key Issues and Challenges 2024

- Due to Council elections, Councillors were not present at two of the four meetings (September and December) which were instead held as community engagement sessions.
 - Members identified opportunities to improve their engagement as part of the DNT:
 - To focus on practical actions and clearer policy guidance
 - Timely consultations
 - To have formal responses to DNT's contributions to projects
-

Key Activities / Outcomes for 2024

- Induction of 10 new members which included an overview of:
 - DNT's purpose and guiding principles
 - Terms of Reference
 - Code of conduct
 - Darebin's commitment to our values, equity and diversity, and safety and well-being
 - Council plan and strategies relevant to the DNT
- Climate Emergency Plan consultation focusing on the Caring for Country Pillar.
- Review of natural environment strategies and plans, and discussion about the top priorities for our biodiversity. This work will help guide next renewal proposals.
- Discussion on how to improve our Citizen Science initiatives to:
- Expand network of collaborators and participants.
- Fill knowledge gaps and improve quality of data collected.
- Consultation - Our Vision. Our Plan. Our Darebin. The DNT brought a new perspective by highlighting that Council's current priorities are human-centric, lacking consideration of environmental and other species' health.

FUTURE PLANS

- To incorporate feedback from DNT members into future plans and initiatives, ensuring their insights shape opportunities as they emerge.
- As agreed by members, we will work on creating more opportunities for interaction between meetings.
- The DNT will continue to foster conversations and provide advice around initiatives relating to:
 - The improvement of Darebin's urban ecosystems for the benefit of people and biodiversity.
 - Policies and strategies that contribute to the protection and enhancement of Darebin's natural environment.
 - Advocacy, awareness raising and community engagement to build community custodianship of our natural environment.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Darebin Nature Trust Advisory Committee Terms of Reference (updated in December 2023).
-

**GENDER EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE – ANNUAL REPORT
1 JANUARY 2024 – 31 DECEMBER 2024**

AUTHOR: Gender Equity Officer

REVIEWED BY: General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy

COMMITTEE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this Committee is to provide advice and recommendations (where appropriate) to Council in relation to issues affecting women and gender-diverse communities in the City of Darebin, and to promote and advocate for equality and social inclusion of all women and gender-diverse people in the Darebin community.

Committee Members

- 15 members
- 14 community members (including 2 young members aged 15)
- 1 organisation representative from Women's Health in the North (WHIN)

Councillor Representative 1 January – 25 October 2024:

- Cr. Susan Rennie (Chair)
- Cr. Emily Dimitriadis (Proxy)

2025 Councillor Representatives appointed 16 December 2024:

- Cr. Kristine Olaris OAM, Mayor (Chair)
 - Cr. Ruth Jelley (Proxy)
-

ANNUAL REPORT

Key Issues and Challenges 2024

- Ensuring advocacy is inclusive of all people experiencing gender-based discrimination and violence including women, trans, non-binary and gender diverse people has been an ongoing focus of this Committee (formerly called the Women's Advisory Committee prior to 2022). While Committee membership is primarily comprised of women, providing advice which considers intersecting forms of privilege and disadvantage across the spectrum of gender, responds to growing community need and aligns with Council responsibilities under the Gender Equality Act 2020, Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006, Sex Discrimination Act 1984.
- Eleven new members were welcomed in March this year. The role of members including their rights and responsibilities, group culture and ability to meaningfully advocate for gender equality on Council projects can be challenging to achieve in the time frame available for Officers to support and facilitate Committee meetings.
- While meeting four times per year aligns with (and sometimes exceeds) Officer resources available to support and facilitate Committees, infrequent meetings can result in challenges for members including 'closing the loop' on projects; competing demand for guest presenters to attend who are seeking input prior to submitting projects to ELT or Council, resulting 'packed' agendas - not conducive to meaningful discussion and provision of advice.

Key Activities / Outcomes for 2024

Four meetings were held during 1 March 2024 up to and including 3 December 2024.

The committee provided advice and/or feedback on the following Council projects and initiatives:

- Molly Hadfield Social Justice Oration for International Women's Day
 - LGBTQIA+ Action Plan Development
 - New draft Climate Emergency Plan – presentation.
 - Local Laws Review
 - Free from Violence whole of Council Program, Health Check review
 - Darebin Community Vision and Council Plan consultation
 - Awareness raising campaigns including Week without Violence October and 16 days of Activism against gender-Based Violence
 - Overview of State Government's Fair Access Policy at Darebin
-

Recruitment and member support:

- Eleven new members were recruited in March. New administrative supports were developed including member volunteer position descriptions to provide greater clarity to members about their role and responsibilities.
- Two young people (14-15 years) have joined the Committee. Subsequently a new Child Safe procedure was developed to support young members on the Committee, and all other members were required to obtain Working with Children Checks for the first time. Having a youth perspective on the Committee has enriched the advice the Committee has been providing this year.

FUTURE PLANS

- Review membership tenure in line with Terms of Reference and new Council term.
- Provide advice to inform the implementation of Darebin's new whole of Council Free from Violence Local Government program.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Gender Equity Committee Terms of Reference
-

LGBTIQA+ ADVISORY COMMITTEE – ANNUAL REPORT

1 JANUARY 2024 – 31 DECEMBER 2024

AUTHOR: Equity & Human Rights Partnerships Lead

REVIEWED BY: General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

COMMITTEE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this Committee is to provide advice and recommendations (where appropriate) to Council in relation to issues and barriers to equality affecting people in the City of Darebin who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender diverse, intersex and/or queer (LGBTIQA+) and their families.

The Committee also has a role to Promote and advocate for equality and social inclusion of LGBTIQA + communities within the wider context of the Darebin community, and raise awareness and promote understanding of diverse sexualities, genders and sex characteristics as facets of diversity in the broader Darebin community.

Committee Members

- 10 community members.

Councillor Representative 1 January – 25 October 2024:

- Cr. Susanne Newton (Chair)
- Cr. Susan Rennie (Proxy)

2025 Councillor Representatives appointed 16 December 2024:

- Cr. Julie O'Brien (Chair)
- Cr. Kristine Olaris OAM, Mayor (Proxy)

ANNUAL REPORT

Key Issues and Challenges 2024

- Ongoing discussion of evidence that points to an increase in transphobia in the broader community and what Council can do within Darebin and elsewhere to counter this rise and to protect transgender people and communities, and LGBTIQA+ people more broadly.
-

-
- The urgent need for facilitation of community connections for LGBTIQ+ people – including across generations and across sub-communities – to support good health and wellbeing, as an antidote to isolation and loneliness, as a protective measure against hate and vilification (& their consequences for mental health and wellbeing in particular) and to address bias and discriminatory behaviour within the community.
 - Ensuring LGBTIQ+ events & activities are fully accessible to all, noting the reality and impacts of intersectional identities in LGBTIQ+ communities – such as disability.

Key Activities / Outcomes for 2024

- Discussion and analysis of the complete community engagement findings from the stage 1 community engagement on the new LGBTIQ+ Action Plan.
- Identification of the most critical themes and opportunities within the community feedback on the new Action Plan as well as distillation of guiding principles and priorities to guide the next development stage.
- Presentation by Justine Dalla Riva, CEO – Victorian Pride Centre on planning for accessibility and inclusion – what she has learned through her time at VPC.
- Receipt of updates on work towards achieving Rainbow Tick Accreditation for three services / units in the Community Services and Development department.

FUTURE PLANS

- Ongoing participation in, including provision of advice on the development of the LGBTIQ+ Action Plan.
- Identification of potential actions where the Committee can directly contribute to the planning / delivery / progress over time
- Provision of expertise on opportunities for council to address and explicitly counter transphobia – and by extension, homophobia, biphobia and intersex discrimination – in our work with the broader community including within Darebin.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee Terms of Reference
-

DAREBIN WELCOMING CITITES COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP – ANNUAL REPORT

1 JANUARY 2024 – 31 DECEMBER 2024

AUTHOR: MULTICULTURAL & DIVERSITY PROJECT OFFICER

REVIEWED BY: GENERAL MANAGER CITY SUSTAINABILITY & STRATEGY

COMMITTEE SUMMARY:

Darebin Welcoming Cities Community Reference Group (the Reference Group) seeks to ensure that Council meets its commitment to be a welcoming and inclusive city through providing advice and recommendations (where appropriate) to Council on Council's strategies, programs and services with focus on culturally diverse and migrant communities, as well as through identifying opportunities for collaboration and partnership development.

Committee Members

- 6 community members.
- Darebin Ethnic Communities Council x 1
- Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee x1
- Darebin Interfaith Council x1
- AMES x1
- Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission x1
- Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre x1

Councillor Representative:

January-December 2024:

- Cr Tom Hannan
- Cr Gaetano Greco (proxy)

2025 Councillor representatives appointed on 16 December 2024:

- Cr. Gaetano Greco (Chair)
 - Cr. Ruth Jelley (Proxy)
-

ANNUAL REPORT

Key Issues and Challenges 2024

- Managing the competing demands and volume of agenda items in response to various requests for consultation with the group and or requests for bringing emerging subjects into the attention of the group.
- Hybrid meeting arrangement that sometimes limits the amount of engagement for those members who attend online.

Key Activities / Outcomes for 2024

- **Meetings:** During January to December 2024, three meetings were held (on 27 Feb., 28 May & 27 Nov.) and the Reference Group members were updated, and they provided feedback on the following Council actions and initiatives:
 - Migration Public Artwork
 - Council resolution in Feb. 2024 on 'Reviews and updates Council's Social and Sustainable Procurement Policy'.
 - Council's resolution in April 2024 on conflict in Gaza.
 - Darebin 2041 Community Vision and the new Council Plan 2025-2029.
- **Mid-term Recruitment:** A mid-term recruitment for the group's membership conducted during Feb. to April 2024. As a result, four new members joined the group and replaced the members who discontinued their membership in the group for the second half of the term.
- **'Cultural Diversity Employment Data' motion:** The group, through advice and advocacy, supported Council's motion for considering the establishment of the baseline data for the Council's internal Workforce Diversity with focus on staff from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- **Welcoming Cities Accreditation:** In 2024, the reference group provided significant support to the Council's accreditation with Welcoming Cities. This included the accreditors in person consultation with the group and active participation in the accreditation celebration in Shire Hall.

FUTURE PLANS

- In 2025, the main focus of the group will be advising and supporting the Council with the development of the new Cultural Diversity & Inclusion Action Plan.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- [Darebin Welcoming Cities Community Reference Group Terms of Reference](#)
-

EDGARS CREEK AND EDWARDES LAKE TASK FORCE – ANNUAL REPORT

1 JANUARY 2024 – 31 DECEMBER 2024

AUTHOR: **Principal Environment and Conservation**

REVIEWED BY: **General Manager Infrastructure, Operations and Finance**

COMMITTEE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this Committee is to provide advice and recommendations (where appropriate) to Council in relation to initiatives that significantly improve the environmental health of Edgars Creek and Edwardes Lake with the purpose to improve water quality, build flood resilience, and enhance the natural environment.

Committee Members

There are 11 committee members, with representatives from:

- Friends of Edwardes Lake x1
- Friends of Merri Creek x1
- Friends of Edgars Creek x1
- Merri Creek Management Committee x1
- Reservoir Frogs Water Watch Group x1
- Yarra Valley Water x1
- Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Corporation x1
- Melbourne Water x1
- Environment Protection Authority (EPA) x1
- Merribek City Council x1
- Darebin City Council x1

Councillor Representative:

- Cr. Gaetano Greco
- Cr. Susanne Newton (proxy)
- Cr. Line Messina (proxy)

From 16 December 2024

- Cr Gaetano Greco (Chair)
 - Cr Vasilios Tsalkos (Proxy)
-

ANNUAL REPORT

Key Issues and Challenges 2024

- Non-compliance with dog on-leash regulations at the park.
- Fishing at the Edwardes Lake.
- Plans and progress towards Edwardes Lake Boathouse redevelopment.
- Growing Australian White Ibis population at the lake (under monitoring).
- Ongoing poor water quality and pollution events, including significant spills that have greatly impacted the environment and local wildlife from August 2024.
- Challenges in responding to pollution events, such as accountability between agencies and enforcement and compliance actions.

Key Activities / Outcomes for 2024

- New planting areas to improve habitat and riparian vegetation supported by Darebin City Council and Friends of Edwardes Lake.
- Successful Green Links Grant (DEECA) application by Friends of Edwardes Lake, with extensive revegetation areas.
- Active monthly WaterWatch volunteering group for water monitoring.
- Active weekly Litter Watch/Litter Collection and Reduction and Weeding volunteering groups, contributing to habitat management and pollution prevention.
- Dogs on leash and No Fishing patrols in partnership with Local Laws (Darebin City Council).
- Installation of a water sensor to better monitor water quality at Edgars Creek and Edwardes Lake, installed near the Merri drains outlet.
- Initial consultations and assessments for works at the Gross Pollutant Trap (north of Leamington Street Wetlands).
- Consultation in the “Our Darebin” (Community Vision and new Council Plan) project.
- Strengthening partnerships with Hume and Whittlesea City Councils.

FUTURE PLANS

- Review of Terms of Reference and Committee.
 - 15 new sites inspections as part of EPA Waterway Harm Prevention Program in partnership with Council officers, to improve business practices and compliance with environmental laws.
 - Progress with Gross Pollutant Trap decommission and/or stormwater design project.
 - Signage Plan update aiming to review and better integrate communications regarding activities at the park and surrounds (e.g., fishing not permitted, dogs on leash, educational content).
-

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Edgars Creek and Edwardes Lake Task Force Terms of Reference (September 2023)

YOUNG CITIZEN JURY – ANNUAL REPORT

1 JANUARY 2024 – 31 DECEMBER 2024

AUTHOR: Coordinator Youth services

REVIEWED BY: General Manager Community

COMMITTEE SUMMARY:

The Darebin Young Citizen Jury enables young people to participate in civic life, develop leadership skills, contribute to Council, and other relevant bodies, decision making about issues that are important to them and have a voice about possible solutions.

The Jury provides a space that enables discussion and allows for diverse views to be shared. It also provides opportunities for young people to give feedback on, and co-design, policy and projects relevant to young people and the broader community.

Committee Members

The Young Citizen Jury included 10 active members plus 4 co-opted members that supported projects and activities.

Councillor Representative:

Not Applicable – Councillors are not represented on this advisory committee.

ANNUAL REPORT

Key Issues and Challenges 2024

- At the start of each year members share what they are passionate about. These issues form the key topics and projects that the Jury will focus on over the year. Key issues identified for 2024 included: Cost of Living, Housing, Mental Health, Equity, Employment Rights, Sustainable Transport and Liveable Communities.
-

-
- Jury members have continued to form small groups to lead projects, activities and discussions regarding these key issues and challenges. These issues have also been reflected in Council's Families, Youth and Children Strategy.

Key Activities / Outcomes for 2024

- Provided input to Youth Services Hey Grant and FReeZA funding applications, both of which have been successful.
- Co-designed engagement activities, and the Youth Round Table, as part of the Darebin Families, Youth and Children Strategy community engagement and consultation process.
- Provided feedback on the content and design of the new 'Darebin Families, Youth and Children Strategy: A Framework for Collective Action'
- Participated in Council's Rainbow Tick Accreditation process (Youth Services one of three in-scope services) by providing feedback on LGBTIQA+ safe, inclusive and welcoming service delivery and sharing their lived experiences.
- Undertook 'inclusive spaces' audits on key Youth Services facilities (The Hub and Decibels Youth Music and Arts Centre)
- Provided input to, and feedback on, 'Darebin's Community Vision and Council Plan 2025-2029'
- Attended the Deliberative Panel and delivered a presentation on Darebin's young people and key issues that are important to them.
- Celebrated the contribution of young people by attending YouthFeast activities and events
- Panel members for the Darebin Community Grants Program that assessed and provided funding recommendations for the Youth Grant category
- Provided input and feedback as part of the Young Citizen Jury Review to ensure members experiences will inform the ongoing purpose and delivery of the Jury.
- Prepared and shared information with a Local MP and the Victorian Government's Minister of Youth regarding key issues that are important to Darebin's young people,
- Connected with other youth leadership and advisory groups across Melbourne to connect, share and discuss topics of importance with other young leaders.
- Provided input into the design and development of a number of new programs and events delivered by Council's Youth Services team.

FUTURE PLANS

- Continue to meet and collaborate with other youth leadership and advisory groups across Melbourne.
 - Continue to be involved and provide input into the development of the Darebin Families, Youth and Children Strategy Collaborative Action Plan.
-

-
- Collaboration with other Council Advisory Committees.
 - Continue to provide input and feedback to Council's key policies and projects.
 - Support a recruitment process to identify, appoint and induct new Young Citizen Jury members.
 - Continue to advocate and elevate the voices of young people across community, and within Council, to inform the planning, delivery and evaluation of youth related activities, services and decisions.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Young Citizen Jury Terms of Reference (2023)

9.9

RESPONSE TO NOM - DIVRS COMPLEX SUPPORT PROGRAM

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides Councillors with advice on whether there is an appropriate process, and potentially the midyear budget review process, to provide options to extend short term funding for the Darebin Information Volunteers Resource Services (DIVRS) Complex Case Support Program to end June 2025.

The Complex Case Support Program is funded by Darebin Council as an initiative that delivers on Council's 2021/2025 strategic objectives. It has supported over 1500 people during its existence. Current funding is due to expire 28 February 2025. DIVRS has requested that Council consider whether funding can be extended so that the program can continue to operate for a further four months (until 30 June). The budget that would be required is \$35,000.

The Community Services and Development team in Community Division have identified within its program budgeting envelope, the opportunity to extend the funding of this program for the short period to the end of June 2025.

Any further funding for this initiative will need to be considered as part of Council's 2025/2026 budget planning process.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-028

MOVED: Cr. G Greco
SECONDED: Cr. Boglis OAM

That Council approves the repurposing of existing related program budgeting to support a short term extension of funding for the DIVRS Complex Case Support Program.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.11

**CONTRACT AWARD - CT202439 MARYBOROUGH AVENUE
KINDERGARTEN EXPANSION****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Maryborough Avenue Kindergarten Expansion Project (The Project) was established to ensure there is community-managed kindergarten available in the Kingsbury area. Council has prioritised expansion of kindergarten capacity to meet community demand in the Council Plan 2021-2025.

This report recommends Council enter a contract for construction of the Project. It outlines the tender process Council has undertaken to identify the best value contractor, reports on the tenders received and the assessment against the evaluation criteria and outlines the Tender Evaluation Panel's recommendation.

If endorsed, the contract will be effective beginning in March 2025 enabling construction to commence and conclude in December 2025.

In November 2024, officers tendered a construction contract to build the new facility through a public open tender process in accordance with Council's Social and Sustainable Procurement Policy and procurement guidelines. A successful tender evaluation, supported by the project's probity advisor, was completed through a detailed evaluation process comprising of a panel of council officers and technical experts, undertaking financial and reference checks also. The proposed contract price is within the project budget.

Maryborough Avenue was identified through a feasibility study as a site with great development potential to maximise and increase capacity of children to address community needs. Documentation was endorsed to progress beyond the feasibility stage and was finalised in 2023.

A budget of \$3.06M (ex GST) was established in 2024 comprising of State Government grant funding and Council funding. The Project is expected to remain within budget considering the tendered price, contingency allowance, project management, costs, permits and other normal components of this capital project budget.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Awards contract No. CT202439 Maryborough Avenue Kindergarten Redevelopment to _____ for the contract sum of \$ _____
- (2) Confirms the contingency budget for the project as outlined in the confidential report to cover variations and unforeseen items under contract No. CT202439 and authorises the Chief Executive Officer to vary the contract;
- (3) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to finalise and execute the contract documents on behalf of the Council.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. Arturi
SECONDED: Cr. G Greco

That Council:

- (1) Awards contract No. CT202439 Maryborough Avenue Kindergarten Redevelopment to **Constructive Group Pty Ltd** for the contract sum of **\$2,320,510.00 (exclusive of GST)**
- (2) Confirms the contingency budget for the project as outlined in the confidential report to cover variations and unforeseen items under contract No. CT202439 and authorises the Chief Executive Officer to vary the contract;
- (3) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to finalise and execute the contract documents on behalf of the Council.

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

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-029

MOVED: Cr. Arturi
SECONDED: Cr. G Greco

That Council:

- (1) Awards contract No. CT202439 Maryborough Avenue Kindergarten Redevelopment to **Constructive Group Pty Ltd** for the contract sum of **\$2,320,510.00 (exclusive of GST)**
- (2) Confirms the contingency budget for the project as outlined in the confidential report to cover variations and unforeseen items under contract No. CT202439 and authorises the Chief Executive Officer to vary the contract;
- (3) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to finalise and execute the contract documents on behalf of the Council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. ITEMS TO BE TABLED

Nil

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

12. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

13. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL**CLOSE OF MEETING**

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-030

MOVED: Cr. Arturi
SECONDED: Cr. G Greco

That in accordance with section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, 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 Closed landfill aftercare

This item is confidential because it is legal privileged information, being information to which legal professional privilege or client legal privilege applies, pursuant to Section 3(1) (e) of the Act.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting was closed to the members of the public at 8.53pm.

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

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 25-032

MOVED: Cr. O'Brien
SECONDED: Cr. Boglis OAM

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting was re-opened to the members of the public at 9.20pm.

14. CLOSE OF MEETING

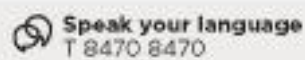
The Chairperson, Mayor Olaris OAM declared the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

CITY OF DAREBIN

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If you are deaf, or have
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