



the place
to live

AGENDA OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

To be held on Tuesday 16 June 2026 at 6:00 PM

**This Council Meeting will be held at Council Chamber,
350 High Street, Preston.**

**This meeting will be a scheduled hybrid meeting, at which
both councillors and members of the public may
participate either in person or virtually.**

**This meeting will also be livestreamed and may be
accessed from Councils website www.darebin.vic.gov.au.**

Persons wishing to observe the meeting in person, submit a Question or make a Submission, are required to register by 12pm on the day before the meeting.



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 future leaders.

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

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

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



English

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

Arabic

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

Chinese

这些是市议会会议纪要。如需协助了解任何纪要项目，请致电8470 8888。

Greek

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

Hindi

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

Italian

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

Macedonian

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

Nepali

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

Punjabi

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

Somali

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

Spanish

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

Urdu

یہ کاؤنسل کی میٹنگ کا ایجنڈا ہے۔ ایجنڈے 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.

Table of Contents

Item Number	Page Number
1. OPENING OF MEETING AND MEMBERSHIP	1
2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS	1
3. APOLOGIES.....	1
4. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST	1
5. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS.....	1
6. COUNCIL'S OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES	1
7. QUESTION AND SUBMISSION TIME	2
8. PETITIONS	3
9. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS.....	4
9.1 MUNICIPAL PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN OPTIONS	4
9.2 ADOPTION OF 'COUNCILLOR GUIDELINES - CANDIDATES IN STATE OR FEDERAL ELECTIONS'	17
9.3 INSURANCE RENEWAL FOR FY 2026-27	29
9.4 PROJECT AND INITIATIVE BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS.....	34
9.5 GOVERNANCE REPORT - JUNE 2026.....	41
10. ITEMS TO BE TABLED.....	53
11. NOTICES OF MOTION.....	54
11.1 TRANSPARENT GOVERNANCE OF PROJECT-SPECIFIC GRANT FUNDING	54
11.2 COMMUNITY ORGANISATION REVIEW	56
11.3 LOCAL SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS	58
12. URGENT BUSINESS.....	59
13. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL.....	59
14. CLOSE OF MEETING	59

Agenda

1. OPENING OF MEETING AND MEMBERSHIP

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

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

3. APOLOGIES

4. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

5. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 26 May 2026 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

6. COUNCIL'S OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES

7. QUESTION AND SUBMISSION TIME

Members of the public can lodge questions for Council to answer or make a Comment or Submission prior to a specific item listed on the Agenda of an Ordinary Council meeting.

QUESTIONS

Members of the public wishing to ask questions at an Ordinary Council meeting must submit their question(s) by 12 noon on the day before the meeting. Up to three (3) questions may be submitted.

Questions not lodged by 12 noon on the day before the Council Meeting will not be accepted, and **no questions will be taken from the floor on the night of the Council Meeting.**

In accordance with the Council Governance Rules 2020, the Chairperson may disallow a question if it:

- a) relates to a matter outside the duties, functions or powers of Council;
- b) is defamatory, indecent, abusive, offensive, irrelevant, trivial or objectionable in language or substance;
- c) may lead to a breach of Council's statutory obligations;
- d) relates to a Notice of Motion, Petition or item of urgent business;
- e) deals with a subject matter already answered;
- f) is aimed at embarrassing a Councillor or an Officer; or
- g) deals with a matter that should be, or has been, considered as a confidential matter or relates to any matter in respect of which Council may close the Meeting to the public under section 66 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

No questions directed at an individual Councillor or Officer will be allowed.

SUBMISSIONS

Members of the public wishing to make a 2-minute verbal submission on a report listed on the Council Meeting Agenda (unless not permitted pursuant to the Councils Governance Rules) must register online by 12 noon on the day before the meeting and must be in attendance (in person or virtual) at the meeting to make their submission.

The person making the submission must clearly state their name and their suburb. The name of the submitter will be recorded in the Minutes, as an official record.

No member of the public can make a submission to a Notice of Motion, Petition (unless originator of petition) or item of Urgent Business presented at a Council meeting.

HOW TO REGISTER TO ATTEND THE MEETING, SUBMIT YOUR QUESTION OR MAKE A SUBMISSION

Members of the public who wish to observe the meeting in person, ask a question, or make a submission to an agenda item, at an Ordinary Council Meeting are required to register by 12 noon on the day before the meeting in one of the following ways:

- (a) online at darebin.vic.gov.au;
- (b) by calling the customer service team on 8470 8888, or
- (c) by mail to PO Box 91, Preston 3072

Council meetings can be viewed at the 'Watch Council and Planning Committee' meetings page via Council's website.

Agenda's will be available for viewing on Council's website at the 'Meeting Agendas and Minutes' page up to 6 days prior to the date of the meeting.

8. PETITIONS

9. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

9.1 MUNICIPAL PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN OPTIONS

Author: Coordinator Equity, Inclusion & Wellbeing

Reviewed By: Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is in response to Council resolution 26-066 and provides options for consideration regarding:

- a) A standalone Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and;
- b) Implementation of ideas proposed at Council's inaugural Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum held in April 2026.

Council is required to prepare a Council Plan and a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan within 12 months of a council general election. Darebin City Council integrated the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) into the *Our Darebin Plan 2025-2029* and was granted an exemption from the Secretary of the Department of Health to do so.

At the April 2026 Council meeting, a resolution was passed that options be presented to Council at the June 2026 Council meeting regarding the development and adoption of a standalone Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan and the implementation of key ideas suggested at Council's inaugural Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum.

Five options are presented to Council for consideration.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Notes this report, provided to meet the Council Resolution 26-066 from Council meeting on 28 April 2026, that sought a report from officers in June 2026 that costs at a high level the work, options and timing involved in:
 - a) Developing and adopting a standalone Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan, aligned with but distinct from the Council Plan.
 - b) Implementation of ideas heard from participants at council's inaugural mental health and wellbeing forum in April 2026, being:
 - i) facilitation of regular community consultation and stakeholder engagement, particularly with local service providers.
 - ii) strengthening of council's facilitation role in service connection and navigation.
 - iii) developing a clear, actionable framework focused on prevention and early intervention.'
- (2) Notes the options presented in this report outlined in **Appendix A** including the relative cost, complexity and implementation considerations associated with each option as outlined in **Appendix A**.

BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION

State Policy Context

Health and wellbeing policy in Victoria is guided by a range of state-level frameworks. Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plans are required to have regard to the *Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2023-27*, which establishes overarching priorities for improving population health and reducing inequalities.

This is complemented by *Wellbeing in Victoria: A Strategy to Promote Good Mental Health 2025-35*, a ten-year whole-of-government strategy focused on promoting good mental health and creating the social, economic and environmental conditions that support wellbeing across the life span.

Implementation of *Wellbeing in Victoria* is supported by the *Wellbeing Action Plan 2025/26 – 2026/27*, which sets out initial actions to strengthen coordination across State government, embed a focus on prevention and promotion and establish the foundations for a statewide wellbeing promotion system.

Role of local government in mental health and wellbeing

Council has identified that mental health and wellbeing is important in its *Our Darebin Plan 2025-29*, highlighting a role in promoting social inclusion and connection and in supporting community access to mental health and wellbeing programs and services.

This approach is consistent with the Municipal Association of Victoria's *Belonging Matters – The Social Connection Report*, which highlights the importance of coordinated action across all levels of government, including a focus on prevention through social connection at the local level.

The Report calls for a whole-of-government commitment to place-based strategies that prioritise connection, inclusion, and wellbeing. The role of local government in mental health and wellbeing is clearly articulated in Figure 1 below.

Local government has a significant role at the promotion of wellbeing and primary prevention of ill mental health and wellbeing. This is achieved primarily by providing the physical, environmental and social infrastructure necessary to provide social connection.

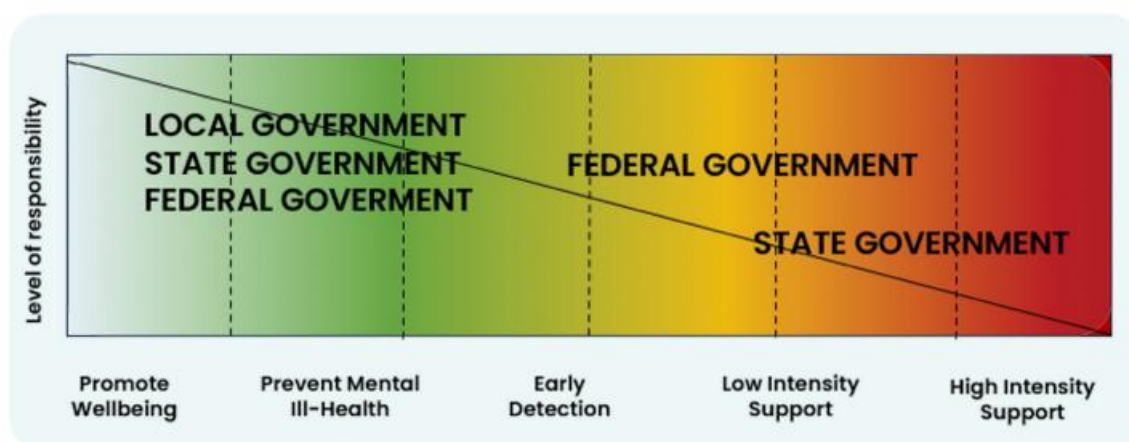


Figure 1: Respective roles of different tiers of government (*Belonging Matters - The Social Connection Report*, MAV, 2026)

Council investment in health and wellbeing

Council's services, activities, facilities and spaces support better mental health and wellbeing and can be leveraged to act as the foundations for social connection and a sense of belonging. Council currently invests in the provision of health and wellbeing-related activities, services and infrastructure to the value of around \$2.62 million annually including the following areas:

- Recreation and culture facilities
- Family and community services
- Aged care services and activities
- Grant programs
- Neighbourhood Houses and community organisations or programs

Our Darebin Plan 2025-2029 health and wellbeing commitments

Council elected to integrate the MPHWP with the Council Plan for the 2025-2029 period and was provided the required exemption from the Secretary of the Department of Health. The *Our Darebin Plan 2025-29* was adopted by Council at the 30 June 2025 Special Council meeting.

Health and wellbeing 4-year strategies in the *Our Darebin Plan 2025-29* are:

- Collaborate and partner with health organisations to deliver positive health and wellbeing opportunities
- Create an enabling environment for positive mental health
- Foster a safe and respectful community environment
- Maintain and improve community facilities, parks and open spaces to support people to stay healthy and active.

The *Our Darebin Plan 2025-29* also states that health and wellbeing data will be reviewed 'each year to consider new data available and assess whether our health and wellbeing priorities need to be updated.'

Previous Council Resolution

At its meeting held on 28 April 2026, Council resolved:

'That Council:

(1) Notes that:

- a) Council is required under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (Vic) to undertake municipal public health and wellbeing planning.*
- b) Council currently integrates health and wellbeing within its Darebin Council Action Plan.*
- c) Emerging data at state and national levels indicates rising concerns regarding loneliness, social isolation, mental health and the need for early intervention approaches.*

(2) Seeks a briefing from officers in May 2026 that reports on the inaugural Darebin Mental Health Forum.

- (3) *Seeks a report from Officers in June 2026 that costs at a high level the work, options and timing involved in:*
- a) *Developing and adopting a standalone Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan, aligned with but distinct from the Council Plan.*
 - b) *Implementation of ideas heard from participants at council's inaugural mental health and wellbeing forum in April 2026, being:*
 - i) *facilitation of regular community consultation and stakeholder engagement, particularly with local service providers.*
 - ii) *strengthening of council's facilitation role in service connection and navigation.*
 - iii) *developing a clear, actionable framework focused on prevention and early intervention.'*

ALIGNMENT TO 2041 DAREBIN COMMUNITY VISION

Pillar 1: Vibrant, Healthy and Connected

ALIGNMENT TO OUR DAREBIN PLAN 2025-29

Strategic Direction 3: Health and Wellbeing - A City where everyone in the community can access the opportunities, infrastructure and services they need to be physically and mentally safe and healthy.

DISCUSSION

The following options are presented for consideration regarding the development of a standalone MPHWP and the implementation of mental health and wellbeing suggestions heard at the April 2026 City of Darebin Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum.

Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan

Five options are presented for Council consideration regarding municipal public health and wellbeing planning:

1. The MPHWP remains integrated within the *Our Darebin Plan* and no additional activities regarding mental health are initiated.
- 2a) The MPHWP remains integrated within the *Our Darebin Plan* and a small number of targeted mental health-focused actions (aligned with Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum feedback) are implemented.
- 2b) The MPHWP remains integrated within the *Our Darebin Plan* but there is a specific commitment to create a Mental Health and Wellbeing Action Plan.
3. Decouple the MPHWP as part of the next round of Integrated Strategic Planning 2029.
4. Decouple the MPHWP now.

Further breakdown of all the options including costs are outlined in **Appendix A**.

Implementation of mental health and wellbeing suggestions from the Darebin Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum

On 23 April 2026 Council delivered the Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum which was developed to explore the role of Council in the mental health context.

The Forum brought together local service providers and organisations working within the local system, to share their perspectives and inform a better understanding of community needs in Darebin. At a high level, the ideas shared at the Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum included:

- Improving collaboration - Opportunities that bring the sector together with Council having a role in facilitating cross-collaboration.
- Community and sector strengthening - Exploring Council's facilitation role in service connection and navigation, opportunities for co-location at provider or council facilities, and use of existing resources / infrastructure for sharing information.

Further detail on proposed actions to address these ideas is shown in **Appendix B**.

Considerations

To support Council consideration of the resolution and the options provided in this report, Officers recommend:

Option 1 – The MPHWP remains integrated within the *Our Darebin Plan* and no additional activities regarding mental health are initiated.

The option above is in line with the Council decision to have the MPHWP integrated with the *Our Darebin Plan* 2025-29. The current Council Plan has mental health strategic initiatives and actions.

Or Option 2a) The MPHWP remains integrated within the *Our Darebin Plan* and a small number of targeted mental health-focused actions (aligned with Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum feedback) are implemented.

The options will directly meet initiative 3.2.1 of the Plan - Support the community's access to mental health and wellbeing programs and services to respond to diverse experiences and needs. There are costs with this option outlined in Appendix A

Or Option 2b) The MPHWP remains integrated within the *Our Darebin Plan* but there is a specific commitment to create a Mental Health and Wellbeing Action Plan.

Noting the operational impacts of the Option 2b, there will need to be a pause for a period of 6 months on the implementation on actions in the Council Plan on the EGM Policy and Action plan. There will be a need to delay the provision of the Health and Wellbeing Forum to enable the plan to be developed. There are costs with this option outlined in Appendix A

CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (2020) PRINCIPLES

Financial Management

There will be financial implications for certain Options and for the implementation of ideas from the Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum. Estimated costs are outlined in **Appendices A and B** and would need to be included in Council's 26-27 budget and subsequent budgets dependent on Council's decision.

Community Engagement

The options presented for municipal public health and wellbeing planning and implementation of mental health and wellbeing ideas have been driven by stakeholder feedback received via Council's Health and Wellbeing Forum (February 2026) and Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum (April 2026).

More broadly, the *Our Darebin Plan* and health priorities were informed by a significant community engagement process undertaken throughout 2024 and 2025. This included a deliberative engagement process involving a community panel.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Operational Impacts

Operational impacts have been outlined in **Appendix A**.

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

Date	Action
16 June 2026	Council Meeting for decision.
July/August 2026	Execution of option/s resolved by Council at the June Council meeting.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Our Darebin Plan 2025-2029
- Darebin Health and Wellbeing Profile Report 2025

Attachments

- Appendix A - Options table (**Appendix A**) [↓](#)
- Appendix B Implementation options for ideas suggested at the Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum (**Appendix B**) [↓](#)

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

Appendix A - Mental Health Plan Options

No	Option	Description	Benefits /Risks	Timeframe and estimated cost
1	No change	Continue to embed the MPHWP within the Council Plan and existing strategies, with no new standalone plan or additional actions. Maintains whole-of-organisation approach.	No additional resourcing required. Enables and continues to promote a cross-organisational approach to mental health promotion across all services, places and programs. Legally compliant without any additional approvals. Health and mental wellbeing remain less visible as a discrete priority although this may be mitigated with communications and call outs about relevant Council, stakeholder and community activities.	26-27 ongoing No additional cost
2	Maintain integration of MPHWP within Our Darebin Plan with increased focus on mental health and wellbeing	2a) Maintain integration and increase focus on mental health and wellbeing through adding a small number of targeted mental health-focused actions aligned with outcomes of the mental health and wellbeing forum. Examples of actions: - Facilitation of regular community consultation and stakeholder engagement, particularly with local service providers – Rebrand the Health and Wellbeing annual Forum to have a strong mental health focus and increase it from an annual forum to a twice annual network with commitment to build collective and collaborative actions. - Hold a Darebin mental health conference that invites key stakeholders to	Responsive without creating structural complexity or administrative load. Builds on commitments already in the MPHWP. Enables and continues to promote a cross-organisational approach to mental health promotion across all services, places and programs. Directly reflects community and stakeholder input from Health and Wellbeing and Mental Health and Wellbeing Forums. Moderate additional resourcing required. Scalable over time. Legally compliant without any additional approvals.	26-27 Moderate cost \$30K-\$60K per year

		present/showcase projects/ programs/ initiatives that promote community mental health and wellbeing. Each annual event to have a call to action on collaborative actions to promote mental health and wellbeing of the community.	Also encompasses or partially encompasses two of three ideas suggested at the Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum: • Facilitation of regular community consultation and stakeholder engagement, particularly with local service providers. • Strengthening of Council's facilitation role in service connection and navigation	
		2b) Maintain integration and increase focus on mental health and wellbeing with a specific commitment to create a mental health and wellbeing plan. Involves the development of a mental health and wellbeing action plan via comprehensive profiling of local mental health and wellbeing needs and engagement with community and other stakeholders, using Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum feedback as a guide.	Visibility - Standalone plan shows that mental health and wellbeing is a clear priority for Council and community. Enables and continues to promote a cross-organisational approach to mental health promotion across all services, places and programs. Responsive to community and stakeholder feedback from Health and Wellbeing and Mental Health and Wellbeing Forums. Provides opportunity for collaborative planning with stakeholders which was strongly supported at the Health and Wellbeing and Mental Health and Wellbeing Forums. Also encompasses all three ideas suggested at the Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum: • Facilitation of regular community consultation and stakeholder engagement, particularly with local service providers. • Strengthening of Council's facilitation role in service connection and navigation • Developing a clear, actionable framework focus on prevention and early intervention.	26-27: \$90K required for development and implementation of plan in 2026-2027.

			Creates some structural complexity as a separate plan and increases administrative and reporting load. Legally compliant without any additional approvals. Involves additional costs for plan development in 2026-2027.	
3.	Decouple the plans as part of the next round of Integrated Strategic Planning (2029)	Develop a standalone MPHWP at the end of the current Council Plan, aligned to the next planning cycle in 2029.	Allows for greater visibility and deeper articulation of Council's health and wellbeing priorities. Cross-organisational buy-in and involvement is required to ensure that health and wellbeing continue to be seen as 'everybody's business.' Creates some structural complexity as a separate plan and increases administrative and reporting load. An annual review of the MPHWP is also required, in addition to the annual review of the Council Plan. Legally compliant without any additional approvals. Involves significant additional cost in 2028-2029 to develop a separate plan.	28-29 \$50K-\$120K
4.	Decouple the plans now	Immediately commence development of a standalone MPHWP, distinct from but aligned to the Council Plan. Informed by the mental health and wellbeing forum and other inputs.	High level of disruption. Reputational risk associated with the overturning of the decision, and incurring subsequent expenses, to integrate the Council and MPHWP only a year after the adoption of the Our Darebin Plan 2025-2029. Significant cost in 2026-2027 to develop standalone plan – even more so considering that a standalone plan would only be live for two years (see below).	FY26-27 \$200K-\$400K

			Approval to de-couple plans and develop a standalone MPHWP must be sought from Secretary of Department of Health. Council Plans and standalone MPHWP must have the same planning cycle. Assuming a separate MPHWP were able to be adopted by June 2027, it would only be a 2-year plan to allow for the 2029 Integrated Strategic Planning cycle to align with Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing planning. Creates some structural complexity as a separate plan and increases administrative and reporting load. An annual review of the MPHWP is also required, in addition to the annual review of the Council Plan. An engagement process will need to be undertaken. A deliberative engagement process is suggested under Council's Community Engagement Policy, although this is not legislatively required.	
--	--	--	--	--

Appendix B - Implementation options for ideas suggested at the Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum

Idea from Mental Health Forum	Implementation via Options presented in Appendix A and indicative cost	Proposed approach
i) Facilitation of regular community consultation and stakeholder engagement, particularly with local service providers.	Can be implemented in Option 2a and 2b: 2a) Increased focus on mental health and wellbeing through adding a small number of targeted mental-health focussed actions aligned with outcomes of the mental health and wellbeing forum such as biannual forums. Cost: \$30K-\$60K per year 2b) Maintain integration and increase focus on mental health and wellbeing with a specific commitment to create a mental health and wellbeing plan. Cost:26-27: \$90K required for development and implementation of plan in 2026-2027.	Implementation of Option 2b regarding MPHWP: Development of Mental Health and Wellbeing Plan. This would respond to all three ideas and provides an alternative to the development of a separate MPHWP.
ii) Strengthening of Council's facilitation role in service connection and navigation.	This action could also be fulfilled in action (i) above through forums or workshops playing a role in the connection between services and resulting improvements in service referral and navigation.	
iii) Developing a clear, actionable framework focused on prevention and early intervention.	Can be implemented in Option 2b: 2b) Maintain integration and increase focus on mental health and wellbeing with a specific commitment to create a mental health and wellbeing plan. Cost:26-27: \$90K required for development of action plan in 2026-2027. 27-29: Some actions will be possible within existing resources. Others may require additional budget	

9.2 ADOPTION OF 'COUNCILLOR GUIDELINES - CANDIDATES IN STATE OR FEDERAL ELECTIONS'

Author: Coordinator Governance Services

Reviewed By: Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In preparation for the upcoming state election, the purpose of this report is to present the Draft 'Councillors Guidelines - Candidates in State and Federal Elections 2026' (the Guidelines) (**Appendix A**).

Officer Recommendation

That Council adopts the 'Councillor Guidelines – Candidates in State or Federal Elections' attached as **Appendix A** to this report.

BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION

The purpose of the Guidelines is to outline the expectations of Councillors who express an intention to run as a candidate, gain pre-selection, or otherwise nominate as a candidate for a seat in a State or Federal Election. The guidelines are intended to assist Councillors in avoiding any actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest in engaging in activities associated with a State or Federal Election.

Previous Council Resolution

At its meeting held on 24 September 2018, Council resolved:

'That Council adopt the Councillor Guidelines for State and Federal Elections (Appendix A)

ALIGNMENT TO 2041 DAREBIN COMMUNITY VISION

Pillar 4: Collaborative, Transparent and Responsible

ALIGNMENT TO OUR DAREBIN PLAN 2025-29

Strategic Direction 6: Decision Making, Community Engagement and Transparency - A City that is well-managed, transparent and trusted by its community and partners, with clear and respectful communication that builds confidence in Council's decisions.

DISCUSSION

In the lead-up to the Victorian State Government election to be held later this year, a review of the previously adopted 'Councillor Guidelines for State and Federal Elections' (**Appendix C**) has been undertaken. The guidelines are designed to assist Councillors in understanding their obligations if they intend to seek to stand as a candidate in state or federal elections.

The Guidelines have been updated to reflect the requirements under the *Local Government*

Act 2020 and are also informed by guidelines developed by the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV). A tracked changes version of the Guidelines is attached as **Appendix B**.

The Guidelines set out the expectations and obligations of Councillors who express an intention to run as a candidate, gain pre-selection, or otherwise nominate as a candidate for a seat in a State or Federal Election and include steps intended to assist Councillors in avoiding any actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest in engaging in activities associated with a State or Federal Election.

CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (2020) PRINCIPLES

Financial Management

Not applicable.

Community Engagement

Not applicable.

Other Principles for consideration

Overarching Governance Principles and Supporting Principles

- (a) Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law;
- (i) the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

Public Transparency Principles

- (a) Council decision making processes must be transparent except when the Council is dealing with information that is confidential by virtue of this Act or any other Act;

Strategic Planning Principles

Not applicable.

Service Performance Principles

Not applicable.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Environmental Sustainability Considerations (including Climate Emergency)

Not applicable.

Equity, Inclusion, Wellbeing and Human Rights Considerations:

Not applicable.

Economic Development and Cultural Considerations

Not applicable.

Operational Impacts

Not applicable.

Legal and Risk Implications

Not applicable.

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

The guidelines are not binding in and of themselves; however, a failure to comply with the guidelines may, in certain circumstances, constitute a breach of the Model Councillor Code of Conduct or the *Local Government Act 2020*.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Model Code of Conduct
- Councillor Interaction Protocol
- Local Government Act 2020
- [MAV Guidelines](#)

Attachments

- Councillors Guidelines - Candidates in State and Federal Elections 2026 (**Appendix A**)
[↓](#)
- Councillors Guidelines - Candidates in State and Federal Elections (tracked changes) (**Appendix B**) [↓](#)

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.



Councillor Guidelines for State and Federal Elections

1. Purpose and Application

- 1.1 The purpose of these guidelines is to outline Council's expectations of a Councillor who expresses an intention to run as a candidate, gains pre-selection, or otherwise nominates as a candidate for a seat in a State or Federal Election.
- 1.2 Councillors who are prospective or nominated candidates for State or Federal elections must ensure that their dual roles of candidate and Councillor are maintained separately, and there is no improper use of the Councillor's position or Council resources to support their candidacy.
- 1.3 Councillors are elected to perform their duties in a lawful manner and must comply with relevant provisions of the Act including the standards of councillor conduct which are prescribed in regulation 12 of the *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020*.
- 1.4 By complying with the guidelines, it is expected that Councillors will avoid the appearance that their position as a Councillor is being used as a platform for their campaign in a State or Federal Election.
- 1.5 These guidelines apply to all Councillors and operate in conjunction with the Model Councillor Code of Conduct.

2. Definitions

- 2.1 **'Election'** refers to a Federal or State election, or a by-election for either parliament.
- 2.2 **'Formal Nomination Date'** refers to the date set by the relevant electoral commission on which nominations to be a candidate in the election close
- 2.3 **'Prospective Candidate'** refers to a Councillor who:
 - nominates for pre-selection as a candidate for election by a political party
 - is endorsed candidate of a registered political party,
 - Or, if not a member of a political party, publicly expresses an intention to nominate as an independent candidate for a State or Federal Election.
- 2.4 **'Nominated Candidate'** refers to a Councillor who nominates as a candidate for a State or Federal Election through the relevant electoral commission.
- 2.5 A distinction is drawn between Prospective and Nominated Candidates as candidates for State and Federal Elections only become Nominated Candidates a few weeks prior to the relevant election date.

3. Notification by Councillor of Candidacy

- 3.1 Prospective Candidates will inform Council by delivering written notice to Council's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), as soon as practicable after nominating to run for pre-selection, becoming an endorsed candidate, or expressing their intention to run as a candidate.
- 3.2 The CEO, upon receipt of the written notice, will advise all Councillors.
- 3.3 Additionally, a Councillor will declare their intended candidacy for a State or Federal election at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council following their notification to the CEO.



4. Leave of Absence

- 4.1 In line with the [MAV Guidelines – Councillors Standing for State or Federal Elections](#), Nominated Candidates should apply for a leave of absence for a period that commences no later than the date of their nomination as a candidate with the relevant electoral commission and concludes no earlier than the close of voting for the election.
- 4.2 Applications for leave of absence will be sought in accordance with the processes ordinarily adopted by Council. Such applications will not be unreasonably refused.
- 4.3 During the approved period of leave, Nominated Councillors should not attend **meetings** of Council or Council committees, or otherwise act as a Councillor.
- 4.4 During a period of leave leading up to a State or Federal election, Councillor candidates must return Council-issued items such as computers and mobile phones. **These** will be returned if the Councillor is not elected and continues to hold office as a Councillor.

5. Conduct of Council business

- 5.1 When undertaking activities in their role as a Councillor, Councillors will take care to ensure that:
- items of business introduced onto the agenda of a Council or Council committee meeting
 - notices of motion
 - communications with people and organisations, both within and external to Council
- relate to the objectives, role, functions and powers of Council and are not designed to further any Councillor's platform as a candidate in, or position with respect to, the relevant election.
- 5.2 Councillors should take particular care when:
- considering planning matters before Council in its role as a responsible authority under the Planning and Environment Act 1987
 - undertaking a consultation or advocacy role on behalf of members of the community, community groups or other interest groups
 - attending Council events
 - representing Council in communications with Federal or State Government entities.
- 5.3 At no point should Prospective or Nominated Candidates use, or appear to use, their position as a Councillor to further their platform as an election candidate.

6. Council Resources

- 6.1 Councillors have access to a wide range of Council resources for use in their role as Councillors, including, but not limited to:
- offices and meeting rooms
 - support staff
 - hospitality services
 - stationery
 - equipment and facilities (such as mobile telephones, iPads and cab charge cards).



- 6.2 Councillors should ensure that Council resources are not used to further their platform as a candidate in, or in any manner connected with, the relevant election.

7. Council Information and Enquiries

- 7.1 Councillors have access to a wide range of information that is necessary for the purposes of fulfilling their role and functions as a Councillor.
- 7.2 Prospective and Nominated Candidates should ensure that information received from Council is used only for the purposes for which it is provided and is not used in a manner that furthers their platform as a candidate in, or in any manner connected with, the relevant election (except to the extent that such information is already in the public domain).
- 7.3 All enquiries or requests for information from Nominated Candidates should be directed through the CEO's Office.

8. Councillor Media and Social Media Engagement

- 8.1 Councillors must comply with the provisions of the [Councillor Media and Social Media Policy](#), noting that the Mayor is the official spokesperson for Darebin City Council and the decisions of Council.
- 8.2 A Councillor who is a Prospective Candidate or a Nominated Candidate in a Federal or State election must differentiate between their role as a state or federal candidate and role as a Councillor when making public or social media comment, and must ensure that they do not use a Council media opportunity, events, council meetings, network meetings and council-related external activities to further their platform as a candidate in, or in any manner connected with, the relevant election.
- 8.3 Nominated Candidates who are on leave of absence should not make any public comment on Council business or any matters relating to their role as a Councillor.

9. Review

These guidelines will be reviewed in advance of a State or Federal Election, when there is a change in the Municipal Association of Victoria policy position on the candidature of Councillors in State or Federal Elections, or as otherwise required.

10. References

- *Local Government Act 2020*
- *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020*
- [Councillor Media and Social Media Policy](#)
- [MAV Guidelines – Councillors Standing for State or Federal Elections](#)
- 2026 Victorian State Election Information (**Appendix A**)



Appendix A

2026 Victoria State Election Information

The 2026 Victorian state election is scheduled for Saturday, **28 November 2026**.

November 2026: Writ to Election Day (Election Period)

- Around 3 November 2026: The Legislative Assembly expires, and the Governor issues the writ, starting the formal 28-day election period (close of nominations expected around 13 November 2026).
- The VEC publicly confirms the final list of candidates and ballot structure after nominations close.

Nominated Candidate Notification

- Councillors become Nominated Candidates upon formally nominating with the VEC and must apply for leave of absence from Council.
- Leave should commence no later than the nomination date* and conclude no earlier than the close of voting (expected late on Saturday, 28 November 2026).
- Nominations open - 4 November 2026
- Nominations close for political party candidates - 12 November 2026
- Nominations close for independent candidates - 13 November 2026

Candidates can nominate until 12 noon on close of nomination day.

Council Meetings impacted during Election Period (3 November – 28 November)

- 19 November 2026 - Mayoral Election
- 24 November 2026



the place
to live

Councillor Guidelines for State and Federal Elections

1. Purpose and application

1.1 The purpose of these guidelines is to outline Council's expectations of a Councillor who expresses an intention to run as a candidate, gains pre-selection, or otherwise nominates as a candidate for a seat in a State or Federal Election.

1.2 Councillors who are prospective or nominated candidates for State or Federal elections must ensure that their dual roles of candidate and Councillor are maintained separately, and there is no improper use of the Councillor's position or Council resources to support their candidacy.

1.3 Councillors are elected to perform their duties in a lawful manner and must comply with relevant provisions of the Act including the standards of councillor conduct which are prescribed in regulation 12 of the *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020*.

4.21.4 By complying with the guidelines, it is expected that Councillors will avoid the appearance that their position as a Councillor is being used as a platform for their campaign in a State or Federal Election.

4.31.5 These guidelines apply to all Councillors and operate in conjunction with the Model Council's Councillor Code of Conduct.

2. Definitions

2.1 'Election' refers to a Federal or State election, or a by-election for either parliament.

2.2 'Formal Nomination Date' refers to the date set by the relevant electoral commission on which nominations to be a candidate in the election close

2.3 'Prospective Candidate' refers to a Councillor who:

- -nominates for pre-selection as a candidate for election by a political party
- , becomes an endorsed candidate of a registered political party,

2.4 Or, if not a member of a political party, publicly expresses an intention to run-nominate as an independent candidate for a State or Federal Election.

2.22.4 'Nominated Candidate' refers to a Councillor who nominates as a candidate for a State or Federal Election through the relevant electoral commission.

2.32.5 A distinction is drawn between Prospective and Nominated Candidates as candidates for State and Federal Elections only become Nominated Candidates a few weeks prior to the relevant election date.

3. Notification by Councillor of candidacy

3.1 Prospective Candidates will inform Council by delivering written notice to Council's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), as soon as practicable after nominating to run for pre-selection, becoming an endorsed candidate, or expressing their intention to run as a candidate. ~~inform Council by delivering written notice to Council's Chief Executive Officer (CEO).~~

3.2 The CEO, upon receipt of such the written notice, will advise all Councillors.



the place
to live

~~3.2~~

- 3.3 ~~Additionally, a Councillor will declare their intended candidacy for a State or Federal election at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council following their notification to the CEO. Prospective Candidates will declare their intended candidacy at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council following their notification to the CEO.~~

4. Leave of absence

- 4.1 ~~In line with the 'MAV Guidelines – Councillors Standing for State or Federal Elections', Councillors who are~~ Nominated Candidates should apply for a leave of absence ~~from Council~~ for a period that commences no later than the date of their nomination as a candidate with the relevant electoral commission and concludes no earlier than the close of voting for the election.

- ~~4.14.2~~ Applications for leave of absence will be sought in accordance with the processes ordinarily adopted by Council. Such applications will not be unreasonably refused.

- ~~4.24.3~~ During the approved period of leave, Nominated Councillors should not attend meetings of Council or Council committees, or otherwise act as a Councillor.

- 4.4 ~~During a period of leave leading up to a State or Federal election, Councillor candidates must return Council-issued items such as computers and mobile phones. These will be returned if the Councillor is not elected and continues to hold office as a Councillor. All Council equipment and materials must be returned to Council for the approved period of leave.~~

5. Conduct of Council business

- 5.1 When undertaking activities in their role as a Councillor, Councillors will take care to ensure that:

- items of business introduced onto the agenda of a Council or Council committee meeting
- notices of motion
- communications with people and organisations, both within and external to Council

relate to the objectives, role, functions and powers of Council and are not designed to further any Councillor's platform as a candidate in, or position with respect to, the relevant election.

- 5.2 Councillors should take particular care when:

- considering planning matters before Council in its role as a responsible authority under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*
- undertaking a consultation or advocacy role on behalf of members of the community, community groups or other interest groups
- attending Council events
- representing Council in communications with Federal or State Government entities.

- 5.3 At no point should Prospective or Nominated Candidates use, or appear to use, their position as a Councillor to further their platform as an election candidate.



6. Council resources

- 6.1 Councillors have access to a wide range of Council resources for use in their role as Councillors, including, but not limited to:
- offices and meeting rooms
 - support staff
 - hospitality services
 - stationery
 - equipment and facilities (such as mobile telephones, iPads and cab charge cards).
- 6.2 Councillors should ensure that Council resources are not used to further their platform as a candidate in, or in any manner connected with, the relevant election.

7. Council information and enquiries

- 7.1 Councillors have access to a wide range of information that is necessary for the purposes of fulfilling their role and functions as a Councillor.
- 7.2 Prospective and Nominated Candidates should ensure that information received from Council is used only for the purposes for which it is provided and is not used in a manner that furthers their platform as a candidate in, or in any manner connected with, the relevant election (except to the extent that such information is already in the public domain).
- 7.3 All enquiries or requests for information from Nominated Candidates should be directed through the CEO's Office.

8. Councillor Media and Social Media engagement

- ~~8.1 Councillors may engage with the media in relation to Council business as a result of direct approaches, or through opportunities arranged by Council.~~
- 8.1 Councillors must comply with the provisions of the Councillor Media and Social Media Policy, noting that the Mayor is the official spokesperson for Darebin City Council and the decisions of Council.
- 8.2 A Councillor who is a Prospective Candidate or a Nominated Candidate in a Federal or State election must differentiate between their role as a state or federal candidate and role as a Councillor when making public or social media comment, and must ensure that they do not use a Council media opportunity, events, council meetings, network meetings and council-related external activities to further their platform as a candidate in, or in any manner connected with, the relevant election.
- ~~8.2 Prospective Candidates should ensure that any comment made to the media in their capacity as a Councillor is limited to matters concerning Council. When making public comments, they should take care to differentiate between their role as a candidate and their role as a Councillor.~~
- 8.3 Nominated Candidates who are on leave of absence should not make any public comment on Council business or any matters relating to their role as a Councillor.



9. Review

These guidelines will be reviewed in advance of a State or Federal Election, when there is a change in the Municipal Association of Victoria policy position on the candidature of Councillors in State or Federal Elections, or as otherwise required.

10. References

- [Local Government Act 2020](#)
- [Local Government \(Governance and Integrity\) Regulations 2020](#)
- [MAV Guidelines – Councillors Standing for State or Federal Elections](#)
- [2026 Victorian State Election information \(Appendix A\)](#)



Appendix A

2026 Victoria State Election Information

The 2026 Victorian state election is scheduled for Saturday, **28 November 2026**.

November 2026: Writ to Election Day (Election Period)

- Around 3 November 2026: The Legislative Assembly expires, and the Governor issues the writ, starting the formal 28-day election period (close of nominations expected around 13 November 2026).
- The VEC publicly confirms the final list of candidates and ballot structure after nominations close.

Nominated Candidate Notification

- Councillors become nominated candidates upon formally nominating with the VEC and must apply for leave of absence from Council.
- Leave should commence no later than the nomination date* and conclude no earlier than the close of voting (expected late on Saturday, 28 November 2026).
- Nominations open - 4 November 2026
- Nominations close for political party candidates - 12 November 2026
- Nominations close for independent candidates - 13 November 2026

Candidates can nominate until 12 noon on close of nomination day.

Council Meetings impacted during Election Period (3 November - 28 November)

- 19 November 2026 - Mayoral Election
- 24 November 2026

9.3 INSURANCE RENEWAL FOR FY 2026-27

Author: Coordinator Audit and Risk
Head of Governance and Risk

Reviewed By: Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council's insurance coverage across all insurance policies will expire on 30 June 2026.

Council's Audit and Risk team have undertaken a comprehensive review of Councils insurance coverage to inform 2026-27 insurance renewal recommendations. The review, managed in conjunction with Council's appointed insurance broker, involved a detailed assessment of existing Council policies to ensure that policy limits, exclusions, and overall coverage are aligned with the organisation's evolving risk profile and operational requirements.

JLT Public Sector (a division of JLT Risk Solutions Pty Ltd) was appointed as Council's insurance broker in June 2025 and has prepared an insurance renewal report containing recommendations for Council. A summary of the recommendations is set out in confidential **Appendix A**.

Council's insurance falls into two main categories; policies procured on the open insurance market by Council's broker and policies procured through captive insurance schemes.

Premium pricing increases across most classes of insurance reflect inflationary pressures rather than any significant changes in Council's risk profile or exposure. Council has also realised cost efficiencies through the procurement of several policies at a state or national level, which has increased market competition. Further detail is provided below regarding the more substantial premium increases anticipated for the Public Liability and Professional Indemnity policy (a combined policy). These price increases have already been built into 2026-27 budget assumptions.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Approves the placement of Public and Products Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance cover with the Municipal Association of Victoria through the Liability Mutual Insurance Scheme based on the premium pricing as provided by JLT Public Sector (confidential **Appendix A**).
 - (2) Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve the annual insurance renewals for all insurance classes, noting the estimated aggregated total value is \$3.2M (including GST and Stamp duty) and with the final value reported through the Governance Report at a future Council Meeting.
 - (3) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to finalise placement of general insurances.
-

BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION**Current Insurance Arrangements**

Council's insurance arrangements are split between two categories: placement on the open insurance market via broking services or those insurances provided through insurance member schemes or mutuals.

MAV Insurance

MAV Insurance is not-for-profit member scheme and operates solely for the benefit of members. The not-for-profit structure of the LMI scheme means any excess revenue is kept in the fund to help keep premiums down rather than to pay dividends to shareholders.

Council currently holds a member policy for the scheme and Council is included in the negotiations for the 2026-27 placement for Public and Products Liability and Professional Indemnity, along with Commercial Crime. Participation in this scheme is necessary for Council as there are no other viable providers of this cover to local government.

Council expects to receive renewal final contribution pricing from MAV within the next two weeks and payment of insurances in line with the renewal term commencing July 2026 will be required. Last financial year, the insurance contribution for this policy was \$1.5M (incl GST).

MAV Insurance continues to experience high public liability and professional indemnity claim volumes generated by members across the state and increasing cost pressures. As a result, a premium increase of 15% has been forecast for local government members in Victoria making City of Darebin's estimated contribution for FY 2026-27 \$1.73M incl GST.

The Commercial Crime policy is also procured through MAV Insurance. This policy indemnifies members against any fraudulent or dishonest act committed by an employee acting alone or in collusion with others. The expiring contribution for this policy was \$31,286 and only a minimum increase is expected.

In accordance with Council's delegation limits, Council will be asked to delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve the insurance renewals.

General Insurance Lines – Aggregated Premiums

Darebin procures the majority of its insurance policies on the open insurance market using the brokerage services of JLT to seek the best pricing and terms on Council's behalf. These various insurance policies include motor vehicle, travel, artwork, cyber and asset replacement. Coverage has been sought on roll-over terms and only inflation cost increases across all classes are expected.

For the 2025-26 financial year, the total premium cost for these combined policies was \$1.29M. Using a 5% increase as a baseline, the estimated renewal contribution is approximately \$1.36 million, reflecting a modest uplift on the current total cost.

In accordance with Council's delegation limits, Council will be asked to delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve the insurance renewals.

Previous Council Resolution

At its meeting held on 23 June 2025, it was resolved that Council:

- (1) *Notes the update on the tender process for general insurance and brokerage services.*
- (2) *Approves the appointment of JLT Risk Services Pty Ltd as the broker for brokerage services including placement of general insurances at a cost of up to \$32,000 per annum for a fixed period of 2 years.*
- (3) *Approves the appointment of JLT Risk Services Pty Ltd for placement of general and industrial special risks insurances.*
- (4) *Approves the placement of Public and Products Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance cover with the Municipal Association of Victoria through the Liability Mutual Insurance Scheme with risk services provided by JLT Risk Services Pty Ltd.*
- (5) *Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve annual general insurance renewals, to an aggregated total value of up to \$2.5 million (including GST and Stamp duty) for a fixed term of 2 years, and public and products liability and professional indemnity insurance renewal cover referred to at point 4 above, to a value of up to \$1.6million (including GST and Stamp Duty) for 1 (one) year commencing 1 July 2025, in accordance with the allowance and provision for insurances made in Council's budget.*
- (6) *Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to finalise and execute the contract documentation for the brokerage services including placement of general insurances.*
- (7) *Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to review and approve a maximum one-year extension for brokerage service and general insurance renewals, subject to service and performance indicators.*

ALIGNMENT TO 2041 DAREBIN COMMUNITY VISION

Strategic Direction 2: Prosperous, Liveable and Flourishing

ALIGNMENT TO 2021-25 COUNCIL PLAN

Strategic Direction 4 Responsible, Transparent and Responsive

ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

4.1 We will ensure balanced and responsible financial decision making that meets the needs of our community now and into the future

Procurement of the appropriate insurances for Council ensures protection of Council's financial and non-financial assets.

CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (2020) PRINCIPLES**Financial Management**

The renewal premiums for 2026-27 have been provided for within the existing budgets.

Community Engagement

Specific engagement with the community is not required for this decision or the outcome of this report. Community will be informed of the outcome of this report via the publication of the minutes of this Council meeting.

Other Principles for consideration

Overarching Governance Principles and Supporting Principles

- (e) innovation and continuous improvement is to be pursued;
- (f) collaboration with other Councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought;

Public Transparency Principles

- (a) Council decision making processes must be transparent except when the Council is dealing with information that is confidential by virtue of this Act or any other Act;

Strategic Planning Principles

- (e) strategic planning must provide for ongoing monitoring of progress and regular reviews to identify and address changing circumstances;

Service Performance Principles

- (d) a Council should seek to continuously improve service delivery to the municipal community in response to performance monitoring;

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Environmental Sustainability Considerations (including Climate Emergency)

There are no environmental sustainability considerations associated with this report.

Equity, Inclusion, Wellbeing and Human Rights Considerations:

There are no equity, inclusion and wellbeing considerations associated with this report.

Economic Development and Cultural Considerations

There are no economic development or cultural considerations associated with this report.

Operational Impacts

The procurement of insurance is a key (but not the only) element of Council's risk management program.

Legal and Risk Implications

It is vital that insurance placement for all policies is bound before 30 June 2026 to ensure continuity of cover.

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

If Council resolves to support the delegation to the Chief Executive Officer for the financial expenditure and approval of insurance renewals, approval will be provided to Council's insurance broker JLT to bind cover across all classes of insurance before 30 June 2026 to ensure that there is continuity of cover.

Attachments

- Insurance Premium Summary 2025-26 (**Appendix A**) Confidential - enclosed under separate cover

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

9.4 PROJECT AND INITIATIVE BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Author: Capital Delivery Coordinator
Project Performance & Reporting Officer

Reviewed By: Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Every year Council delivers capital works projects, operating projects and other initiatives to support community, reform policy, renew and improve a wide range of community assets such as drainage, buildings, roads, footpaths, cycle lanes, parks, and more.

Occasionally, it becomes necessary to revisit initial project budget allocations to ensure projects remain aligned with their intended scope and objectives. In keeping with Council's commitment to transparency and responsible financial stewardship, any recommended adjustments to project budgets are outlined in Table 1 and Table 2 of this document.

To enable Council's consideration of project budget adjustments each month, two 'project accounts' (within the financial system) have been established that have the effect of quarantining returned or unallocated program budget funds – one for Capital Works Program funds and one for unallocated Operating Projects and Special Initiatives funds. A key purpose of quarantining these funds is to enable Council to respond should projects encounter budget challenges or unplanned needs or to consider time critical initiatives that may arise outside of the annual budget cycle.

If Council approves all the recommended adjustments in Table 1 and 2, the quarantined funds would be:

- Unallocated Capital Works Program Account: **\$317,706**
- Unallocated Operating Projects and Special Initiatives Program Account: **\$135,000**

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Notes the Project Budget updates and **approves** adjustments for the Capital Works Program as per Table 1 of this report.
 - (2) Notes the Project Budget updates and **approves** adjustments for the Operating Projects as per Table 2 of this report.
-

BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION

Council's adopted 2025-26 budget includes an operating projects program budget of \$2.4M and a Capital Works Program budget of \$38.5 million (comprising 179 individual projects).

This report seeks Council endorsement to reserve identified project savings for the purposes of reallocating them to other projects if necessary, and, where appropriate, to authorise additional expenditure. This approach reinforces good project management practice, sound financial management and the organisation's dedication to open governance. It ensures transparency with community.

Previous Council Resolution

This report has become a standing item at Council's regular meetings. Each report stands alone and previous resolutions are not relevant to this report.

ALIGNMENT TO 2041 DAREBIN COMMUNITY VISION

Pillar 4: Collaborative, Transparent and Responsible

ALIGNMENT TO OUR DAREBIN PLAN 2025-29

Strategic Direction 6: Decision Making, Community Engagement and Transparency - A City that is well-managed, transparent and trusted by its community and partners, with clear and respectful communication that builds confidence in Council's decisions.

DISCUSSION

The following project budget adjustments are presented for Council consideration and transparency to the community. Amounts are presented as exclusive of GST as per Council's adopted budget and financial reporting.

Table 1: Project Budgets requiring adjustment - Capital Works Program

Transfer From (funding source)	Transfer to (receiving project budget account)	Reason for adjustment	Amount (ex GST)
Reservoir Leisure Centre Gym & Fitness Equipment Renewal (CW-1501)	Unallocated Capital Works Program funds	The project was successfully delivered under budget.	\$157 (savings)
Drainage Design - 16 and 18 Clements Grove Drainage upgrade (CW- 300106)	Unallocated Capital Works Program funds	The feasibility assessment found that all investigated drainage upgrade options are constrained by the capacity of downstream council drains. As a result, none of the options provide a fully effective or low-risk flood mitigation outcome. Given these limitations, further investment is not considered justified at this stage, and the remaining budget can be returned to Council.	\$ 52,018 (savings)
Duck Pond viewing platform renewal - Darebin Parklands (CW-300118)	Unallocated Capital Works Program funds	The deck inspection found no structural issues after removing the surface, eliminating the need for additional works and reducing overall project costs.	\$ 9,392 (savings)

Transfer From (funding source)	Transfer to (receiving project budget account)	Reason for adjustment	Amount (ex GST)
BRP-2 Wingrove Street - Precinct Renewal Works (CW-166970)	Unallocated Capital Works Program funds	The project was successfully delivered under budget.	\$ 785 (savings)
BRP-Leinster Grove - Security system renewal (CW-167006)	Unallocated Capital Works Program funds	The project was successfully delivered under budget.	\$ 920 (savings)
BRP-East Preston Community Centre - Appliance renewal (Gas removal) (CW-166995)	Unallocated Capital Works Program funds	The project was successfully delivered under budget.	\$ 2,760 (savings)
Drainage Design - 59 Flag Street, Kingsbury (CW-300109)	Unallocated Capital Works Program funds	Feasibility investigations confirmed that the existing council drain is significantly under capacity, and all upgrade options are subject to substantial constructability and property constraints. As a result, the preferred upstream solution cannot proceed at this time, and the remaining budget can be returned to Council.	\$ 41,995 (savings)
RRP-Road Design & Construction - Hickford St. / Darebin Blvd Intersection - Preston (CW-300064)	Unallocated Capital Works Program funds	The project was successfully delivered under budget.	\$ 6,682 (savings)
Road Rehabilitation - Wilmoth from Speight to Clarendon (CW-300081)	Unallocated Capital Works Program funds	A geotechnical assessment confirmed the lower pavement layers were sound, allowing an optimised design using geogrid reinforcement and improved drainage. This reduced the scope of works and costs while still meeting required performance and durability outcomes.	\$ 160,000 (savings)
Synthetic Cricket Wicket Renewal - CH Sullivan East (CW-116139)	Unallocated Capital Works Program funds	The project was successfully delivered under budget.	\$ 336 (savings)
Upgrade of street lighting to improve safety (design and construct) (CW-300116)	Unallocated Capital Works Program funds	The underspend resulted from lower procurement costs, efficient installation, minimal unforeseen issues, and optimised design, while still fully delivering all project objectives without	\$ 45,064 (savings)

Transfer From (funding source)	Transfer to (receiving project budget account)	Reason for adjustment	Amount (ex GST)
		compromising quality or safety.	
BRP-East Reservoir Neighbourhood House - Security system renewal (CW- 166997)	Unallocated Capital Works Program funds	The project was successfully delivered under budget.	\$ 4,216 (savings)
Unallocated Capital Works Program funds	Workplace office accommodation (CW-166969)	The additional costs are attributed to essential scope additions required to meet accessibility, circulation and OHS compliance needs. Additional smaller-length desks were procured to improve safe movement and address accessibility concerns, and lighting upgrades were undertaken in response to OHS needs that were not part of the original scope. These works were necessary to deliver a safe, functional and compliant workplace environment.	\$65,000 (increased costs)
Unallocated Capital Works Program funds	BRP-Darebin North-East Community Hub - Security system renewal (CW-166991)	The additional costs relate to replacing unreliable wireless equipment with hard-wired systems. The wireless units have proven problematic and require frequent battery replacements, resulting in ongoing maintenance costs. Transitioning to wired equipment provides a more reliable and cost-effective long-term solution.	\$7,000 (increased costs)
Unallocated Capital Works Program funds	Road Resurfacing Program (CW- 1512)	The overspend is due to unforeseen road subsidence caused by an underlying water source. Subsequent investigations confirmed that drainage failures and subsurface instability required additional remedial works to stabilise the pavement structure. These works were essential to ensure the road could be safely reconstructed and to prevent further deterioration.	\$33,000 (increased costs)

Transfer From (funding source)	Transfer to (receiving project budget account)	Reason for adjustment	Amount (ex GST)
Unallocated Capital Works Program funds	Darebin Libraries Customer Technology Renewal (CW- 300100)	The quotation for the procurement of six desktop PCs has exceeded the allocated budget. Approval is requesting to increase the budget to enable the purchase.	\$1,000 (increased costs)
Unallocated Capital Works Program funds	Blackspot: Victoria Road / Mitchell Street intersection safety improvements (CW-300067)	Prolonged delays and repeated design revisions required by the Department of Transport and Planning have pushed approvals into late 2025/26. During this period, construction costs have escalated, resulting in tender pricing \$55K above the grant allocation. Scope reductions are not feasible without compromising required collision-reduction outcomes. A formal variation request to the Federal Black Spot Program would take 18–24 months with no guarantee of success. Given the high-risk nature of the intersection and alignment with Council's safety-based investment priorities, a Council contribution is justified to enable timely delivery and address ongoing community safety risks.	\$55,000 (increased costs)

Balance of unallocated Capital Works Program account (Table 1)

The balance of unallocated Capital works Program account would be **\$317,706** up from the balance at end May 2026 of \$196,376.

Table 3: Operating Projects and Special Initiatives budget adjustments

Transfer From (funding source)	Transfer to (receiving account)	Reason for adjustment	Amount
Nil			

Balance of unallocated Operating Projects and Special Initiatives Program account

The balance of the 2025/2026 Unallocated Operating Projects and Special Initiatives Program fund is **\$135,000**.

CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (2020) PRINCIPLES

Financial Management

This report contributes to financial management principles by recording the allocation and movement of project funds that may impact on the budget, current and future.

Given the favourable financial result, there are no material risks associated with this adjustment.

Community Engagement

Community engagement was a critical part of developing the 2025-26 Budget. This report aims to transparently report progress and challenges with implementation of the Budget to ensure accountability with community.

Other Principles for consideration

Overarching Governance Principles and Supporting Principles

- (i) the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.
- (g) the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured;

Public Transparency Principles

- (a) Council decision making processes must be transparent except when the Council is dealing with information that is confidential by virtue of this Act or any other Act;

Strategic Planning Principles

- (a) an integrated approach to planning, monitoring and performance reporting is to be adopted;
- (c) Strategic planning must take into account the resources needed for effective implementation;
- (d) strategic planning must identify and address the risks to effective implementation;
- (e) strategic planning must provide for ongoing monitoring of progress and regular reviews to identify and address changing circumstances;

Service Performance Principles

- (a) services should be provided in an equitable manner and be responsive to the diverse needs of the municipal community;
- (c) quality and costs standards for services set by the Council should provide good value to the municipal community;

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Environmental Sustainability Considerations (including Climate Emergency)

Projects address Council's ESD policy in planning, design and construction phases.

Equity, Inclusion, Wellbeing and Human Rights Considerations:

An Equity and Gender Impact Assessment are applied to individual projects during the planning and design development stage.

Some renewal projects given their scope and nature do not require an EIA/GIA. Although compliance with federal and state anti-discrimination legislation, accessibility standards and NCA standards are applicable.

Economic Development and Cultural Considerations

Construction projects generally contribute to employment and local economic development opportunities.

Operational Impacts

None identified at this point.

Legal and Risk Implications

This report enables management of project budget and timeline risk. There are no legal risks associated with this report.

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

Implementation of Council's decision will be undertaken by the responsible officers within Council. Project partners and stakeholders will be notified of Council's decision where relevant by the Project Sponsor or Project Manager.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- 2041 Darebin Community Vision
- Our Darebin Plan 2025-29
- 2025-26 Council Plan Action Plan
- Annual Budget 2025-26
- Financial Plan 2025-26 to 2034-35
- 2024-25 Annual Report

Attachments

Nil

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

9.5 GOVERNANCE REPORT - JUNE 2026**Author:** Team Leader Governance Services**Reviewed By:** Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Summary of Councillor attendance at Advisory Committee Meetings, Councillor Briefings, and other informal meetings of Councillors (**Appendix A**)
- Activity Reports by Mayor and Councillors
- Status of Petitions tabled during the current Council Term (November 2024 to 31 May 2026) (**Table A**)
- Biannual Confidential Resolutions Review for the period of 1 December 2025 to 1 June 2026 (**Table B** and **Confidential Appendix B**)

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Notes the Governance Report – June 2026.
 - (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 status of petitions tabled during the current Council term (November 2024 to 31 May 2026 (**Table A**))
 - (5) Notes the confidential items considered by Council from 1 December 2025 to 1 June 2026 (**Table B**) that have been reviewed are required to remain confidential.
 - (6) Resolves to make public the confidential council resolution for Item 13.1 Change of Workcover Insurer (Minute No:26-001) of the Confidential Council Meeting held on 28 April 2026.
-

BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION

Pursuant to Council's Governance Rules 2020, the agenda for each Ordinary Meeting is required to list certain governance/administrative matters in addition to other specified items.

These include Reports of Standing Committees i.e. Hearing of Submissions Committee, Summary of Meetings i.e. Briefings, Advisory Committee, responses to Public Questions taken on notice, reports by Mayor and Councillors, Councillor expenses and a range of other governance matters.

In accordance with best practice, good governance principles, transparent and accountable reporting, officers deem it appropriate to consolidate governance/administrative reports into one standing report to provide a single reporting mechanism for a range of statutory compliance, transparency, and governance matters. This also ensure compliance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* ('the Act'), Council's Governance Rules and related regulations.

Previous Council Resolution

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

ALIGNMENT TO 2041 DAREBIN COMMUNITY VISION

Pillar 4: Collaborative, Transparent and Responsible

ALIGNMENT TO OUR DAREBIN PLAN 2025-29

Strategic Direction 6: Decision Making, Community Engagement and Transparency - A City that is well-managed, transparent and trusted by its community and partners, with clear and respectful communication that builds confidence in Council's decisions.

DISCUSSION

Matters covered in this report are:

Summary of Advisory Committees, Councillor Briefing and other informal meetings of Councillors

Pursuant to Council's Governance Rules 2020, a summary of any meeting of an Advisory Committee, as established by Council and attended by at least one Councillor, or a scheduled or planned meeting to discuss the business of Council, including briefing Councillors, and which is attended by at least half of the Councillors and one member of Council staff (excluding Council, Delegated Committee or Community Asset Committee meetings) must be tabled at the next convenient Council meeting.

The Summary of Advisory Committees, Councillor Briefing and other informal meetings of Councillors is provided at **Appendix A**.

Activity Reports by Mayor and Councillors

By 4.00pm on the day of each Ordinary Council Meeting, the Mayor and Councillors are required to submit a report detailing their attendance at various functions and activities since the last Council Meeting. These reports will be recorded in the minutes of this meeting.

Status of Petitions tabled during the current Council Term (November 2024 to 31 May 2026)

Petitioning is a long-established process for members of the community to demonstrate community support for a request or views on a matter, and for that request or view to be presented directly to Council.

During the current Council Term, there have been 26 petitions tabled, there are currently 8 petitions in progress, shown in **Table A** below.

Table A

	Date Tabled	Petition	Status
1	24 February 2026	Request for City of Darebin construct a toilet block in Johnson Street, Keon Park	In Progress - Officers are assessing the petition, and a response will be provided to the petitioner via letter.
2	24 March 2026	Oppose the proposed bike lane and parking changes for Gower Street from High Street to Plenty Road	In Progress - Officers are assessing the petition, and a response will be provided to the petitioner via letter.
3	24 March 2026	Hold a public, in-person information and consultation session for the ratepayers, residents, and community members of Kingsbury	In Progress - Officers are assessing the petition, and a response will be provided to the petitioner via letter.
4	28 April 2026	Traffic Calming Feature on Clough Parade	In Progress - Officers are assessing the petition, and a response will be provided to the petitioner via letter.
5	28 April 2026	Fix Legs Lane	In Progress - Officers are assessing the petition, and a response will be provided to the petitioner via letter.
6	26 May 2026	Upgrade of School Crossing for Reservoir East Primary School on Yarra Ave, Reservoir	In progress - Officers are assessing the petition, and a response will be provided to the petitioner via letter.
7	26 May 2026	West Preston Football Netball Club Petition to improve facilities	In Progress - Officers are assessing the petition, and a response will be provided to the petitioner via letter.
8	26 May 2026	Proposed Permanent Removal of On-Street Parking – Arthurton Road, Northcote (Merri Creek to Herbert Street) for Protected Bike Lanes	In Progress - Officers are assessing the petition, and a response will be provided to the petitioner via letter.

Bi-annual confidential resolutions review & confidential information to be made public.

At the Special Council Meeting 12 February 2024, Council resolved:

‘That Council:

- (1) Notes that section 58 of the Local Government Act states that the “Council decision making processes must be transparent” except if dealing with information that is confidential.*
- (2) Notes Darebin’s Public Transparency Policy that council has “committed to being accountable to the community through transparency” and “may decide, in the interests of transparency, to release information to the public, if it is in the public’s interest” and when the decision is no longer required to be confidential.*

and

- (7) Pursuant to s 125(2) of the Local Government Act 2020, requests the Chief Executive Officer to undertake a review of reports deemed to be confidential on a six-monthly basis and makes a recommendation to Council for reports to be released to the public domain, commencing with the first recommendation to be made to Council at the Ordinary Council meeting to be held Monday, 27 May 2024.’*

Table B - Confidential items considered by Council during the period of 1 December 2025 – 1 June 2026

#	Confidential Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Resolution to be made public / date made public / OR required to remain confidential
1	24 February 2026	Digital Darebin Procurement Decision	This report is to remain confidential pursuant to Section 3(1) (g(i)) of the Act. This item is confidential because it is private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that relates to trade secrets, pursuant to Section 3(1) (g(i)) of the Act.
2	24 March 2026	Proposed Asset Deal for Bell-Preston Level Crossing Removal Project	This report is to remain confidential pursuant to Section 3(1) (a) of the Act. This item is confidential d because it is Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released, pursuant to Section 3(1) (a) of the Act.
3	24 March 2026	IT Contracts Review and Extensions	This report is to remain confidential pursuant to Section 3(1) (a) of the Act. This item is confidential because it is Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released, pursuant to Section 3(1) (a) of the Act.
4	28 April 2026	Change of WorkCover Insurer	This item was designated confidential because it is Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released, pursuant to Section 3(1) (a) of the Act. The officer recommendation is for the confidential council resolution of this item (Confidential Appendix B) to be made public on Council's website with publication of the minutes of this Council Meeting, 16 June 2026.
5	26 May 2026	Strategic Biodiversity Corridor Opportunity	This report is to remain confidential pursuant to Section 3(1) (a) of the Act. This item is confidential because it is Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released, pursuant to Section 3(1) (a) of the Act.
6	26 May 2026	CEO Mid-Year Performance Review	This report is to remain confidential pursuant to Section 3(1) (f) of the Act. This item is confidential because it is personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs, pursuant to Section 3(1) (f) of the Act.

CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (2020) PRINCIPLES**Financial Management**

Not Applicable.

Community Engagement

Not Applicable.

Other Principles for consideration**Overarching Governance Principles and Supporting Principles**

- (a) Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law;
- (i) the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

Public Transparency Principles

- (a) Council decision making processes must be transparent except when the Council is dealing with information that is confidential by virtue of this Act or any other Act;
- (b) Council information must be publicly available unless (i) the information is confidential by virtue of this Act or any other Act; or (ii) public availability of the information would be contrary to the public interest;
- (c) Council information must be understandable and accessible to members of the municipal community;
- (d) Public awareness of the availability of Council information must be facilitated

Strategic Planning Principles

- (d) strategic planning must identify and address the risks to effective implementation;

Service Performance Principles

- (e) service delivery must include a fair and effective process for considering and responding to complaints about service provision.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**Environmental Sustainability Considerations (including Climate Emergency)**

Not applicable.

Equity, Inclusion, Wellbeing and Human Rights Considerations:

Not applicable.

Economic Development and Cultural Considerations

Not applicable.

Operational Impacts

Not applicable.

Legal and Risk Implications

Not applicable.

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

- The Councillor expenses will be published on the Council website.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- *Local Government Act 2020*
- Governance Rules

Attachments

- Summary of Councillor Attendance Records (**Appendix A**) [↓](#)
- Confidential Council Resolution to be made Public (**Appendix B**) Confidential - enclosed under separate cover

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.



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

MEETING DETAILS:	Title:	Councillor Briefing Session
	Date:	5 May 2026
	Location:	Council Chamber (Hybrid Meeting)
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr. Emily Dimitriadis (Mayor) (Chairperson) Cr. Matt Arturi (Deputy Mayor), until 6.09pm Cr. Connie Boglis OAM (online) Cr. Ruth Jelley Cr Julie O'Brien Cr. Kristine Olaris OAM Cr. Alexandra Sangster Cr. Vasilios Tsalkos (online), until 6.20pm Cr. Angela Villella
	Council Staff:	Anne Howard, CEO Caroline Buisson, General Manager Customer & Corporate Nina Cullen, General Manager Community (Items 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.7), Rachel Ollivier, General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance Vanessa Petrie, General Manager, City Strategy & Sustainability (Items 4.5 and 4.6) Enna Giampiccolo, Executive Manager Governance & Communications Leah Crossman, Acting Manager Creative Culture & Economic Development (Items 4.1 and 4.2) Cam Perkins, Head of Economic Development & Activation (Item 4.2) Melanie McCarten, Manager Recreation & Libraries (Item 4.3) Suranga Dissakarunaratne Senior Coordinator Recreation & Leisure (Item 4.3) Marisa Uwarow, Acting Manager Supported & Connected Living (Item 4.4) Anja Hauenschild, Coordinator Ageing Well (Item 4.4) Michele Burton, Manager Equity & Climate (Items 4.5 and 4.6) Ilz Aslan, Senior Coordinator Equity, Inclusion & Wellbeing and Partnerships (Items 4.5 and 4.6)

	External Attendees:	Nil.
APOLOGIES:		Nil.

The Meeting commenced at 4.30pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
4.1	Proposed Deaccessioning of Fairfield Pavement Mosaics	No disclosures were made
4.2	Engagement Plan for Activity Centre Place Visions	No disclosures were made
4.3	Northcote Tennis Courts Licence Agreement	No disclosures were made
4.4	Proposed Awarding of Delivered Meals Contracts	No disclosures were made
4.5	Community Grants Program 2026-27 proposed approach	No disclosures were made
4.6	Community Advisory Committees – <i>No report discussion only</i>	No disclosures were made
4.7	Cr Gaetano Greco Memorial - <i>No report discussion only</i>	No disclosures were made

The Meeting concluded at 8.24 pm

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



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

MEETING DETAILS:	Title:	Councillor Briefing Session
	Date:	12 May 2026
	Location:	Council Chamber (Hybrid Meeting)
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr. Emily Dimitriadis (Mayor) (online) Cr. Matt Arturi (Deputy Mayor) (Chairperson) Cr. Connie Boglis OAM (online) Cr. Ruth Jelley Cr. Kristine Olaris OAM Cr. Alexandra Sangster Cr. Vasilios Tsalkos Cr. Angela Villella (online)
	Council Staff:	Anne Howard, CEO Caroline Buisson, General Manager Customer & Corporate (item 4.1) Nina Cullen, General Manager Community (item 4.2) Rachel Ollivier, General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance (item 4.1) Vanessa Petrie, General Manager, City Strategy & Sustainability (item 4.3, 4.5) Enna Giampiccolo, Executive Manager Governance & Communications (item 4.6) Srini Krishnan, Chief Financial Officer (item 4.1) Lisa Wheelhouse, Manager Customer and Corporate Performance (item 4.1) Dean Gibbons, Head of Financial Planning & Analysis (item 4.1) Lee McKenzie, Manager Buildings, Property & Capital (item 4.1) Julie Wyndam, Coordinator Corporate Strategy & Performance (item 4.1) Melanie McCarten, Manager Recreation & Libraries (item 4.2) Meagan Merritt, Manager City Futures (item 4.3 and item 4.4) Allan Middlemast, Coordinator Sustainable Transport (item 4.3 and item 4.4) Kevin De Leeuw, Team Leader Transport Strategy & Programs (item 4.3 and item 4.4) Jody Brodribb, Coordinator Governance Services (item 4.6)

	External Attendees:	
APOLOGIES:		Cr. Julie O'Brien

The Meeting commenced at 5.05 pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
4.1	2025-26 Q3 Performance Report (Financial & Non-Financial) ending 31 March 2026	No disclosures were made.
4.2	2026 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund Grant Applications	No disclosures were made
4.3	Your Street, Your Say Group C Round 2 Consultation Results and Proposed Concept Plans	No disclosures were made
4.4	Approach to Managing Transport Services	No disclosures were made
4.5	Climate Emergency Australia Proposal	No disclosures were made
4.6	Councillor Professional Development Session	No disclosures were made
4.7	General Business	No disclosures were made

The Meeting concluded at 8.02pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name:	Jody Brodribb
	Officer Title:	Coordinator Governance Services



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

MEETING DETAILS:	Title:	Councillor Briefing Session
	Date:	19 May 2026
	Location:	Council Chamber (Hybrid Meeting)
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr. Emily Dimitriadis (Mayor) Cr. Matt Arturi (Deputy Mayor) Cr. Connie Boglis OAM (in person until 7.52pm, then online from 8.12pm until 8.49pm) Cr. Ruth Jelley Cr. Julie O'Brien Cr. Kristine Olaris OAM Cr. Alexandra Sangster (online until 8.52pm) Cr. Vasilios Tsalkos Cr. Angela Villella
	Council Staff:	Anne Howard, CEO Caroline Buisson, General Manager Customer & Corporate (item 4.1) Nina Cullen, General Manager Community (item 4.2 & 4.3) Rachel Ollivier, General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance (item 4.3) Vanessa Petrie, General Manager, City Strategy & Sustainability (item 4.1 & 4.3) Enna Giampiccolo, Executive Manager Governance & Communications Michele Burton, Manager Equity & Climate (item 4.1) Ilz Aslan, Senior Coordinator Equity, Inclusion & Wellbeing and Partnerships (item 4.1) Srini Krishnan, Chief Financial Officer (item 4.3)
	External Attendees:	N/A
APOLOGIES:		N/A

The Meeting commenced at 4.54 pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
4.1	Equity and Gender Impact Assessment Process	No disclosures were made.

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
4.2	Darebin Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum	No disclosures were made
4.3	Budget Hot Topics	No disclosures were made
4.4	Council Meeting Agenda Review and Councillor Questions	Cr Tsalkos declared a conflict in relation to the Council Meeting agenda item relating to Darebin Neighbourhood Houses Funding and Lease Agreements and left the briefing for the conversation.
4.5	General Business	No disclosures were made

The Meeting concluded at 9.16pm

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

10. ITEMS TO BE TABLED

Nil

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

11.1 TRANSPARENT GOVERNANCE OF PROJECT-SPECIFIC GRANT FUNDING

Councillor: Ruth JELLEY

NoM No.: 40/24-28

Take notice that at the Council Meeting to be held on 16 June 2026, it is my intention to move:

That Council:

- (1) *Confirms its commitment to delivering projects that enhance the quality of life for Darebin residents and the natural environment.*
 - (2) *Recognises the importance of external funding for achieving Council's strategic goals, which assists in offsetting project delivery costs and maximising the value of Council's investment.*
 - (3) *Notes the issues addressed in the MAV report The Future is Local; Financial Sustainability, those issues being subsidiarity, fiscal autonomy and democratic accountability.*
 - (4) *Commits to being strategic and transparent when seeking or accepting grants, particularly for capital works projects.*
 - (5) *Develops a framework or policy by June 2027 to ensure that Council has a strategic approach to seeking or accepting grants that are tied for specific purposes, and that the framework or policy considers how to ensure that grants will align with Council's strategic goals and contribute to its financial sustainability.*
-

Rationale

Having a framework or policy to guide decisions about accepting project-specific or 'tied' grant-funded projects would support Council to assess funding opportunities against its strategic objectives and broader financial management strategy. It would also help Council clearly communicate its strategic priorities and fiscal constraints to external funders, helping ensure funding is directed where it can deliver the greatest benefit to the Darebin community.

This framework or policy would support Council to achieve Pillar 4 of the Darebin 2041 Community Vision: collaborative, transparent and responsible. Council's budget pressures limit its ability to invest in asset upgrades and new assets, including maintenance. Grant funding offered by state and federal governments that is tied to specific projects – often unexpectedly and outside of ordinary grant processes applied for by council – can risk placing additional pressure on Council's budget. This can occur where the conditions of grants require monetary co-contributions or other Council resources in to deliver the grant's objectives. Financial sustainability issues make it more challenging to meet those grant conditions now and in the future.

The Municipal Association of Victoria has raised similar concerns in its report on local government financial sustainability, which notes that ‘tied’ grant programs can undermine councils’ fiscal autonomy and divert effort and resources away from higher priority community needs:

“Tied grant programs are often opportunistic and fail to credibly demonstrate the regional, State or national objectives which are being served... Councils chasing tied grants may divert effort and resources away from what might otherwise be higher priority services for local communities.” (p.17)

The report also highlights that increasing reliance on tied grants may weaken local democratic decision-making by shifting resource allocation toward externally driven priorities rather than locally determined strategic objectives:

“On the face of things, the changing revenue mix for local government is undermining fiscal autonomy of Councils and, by extension, local democracy.” (p.17).

Reference - MAV report [The Future is Local; Financial Sustainability](#), November 2025

Notice Received: 21 May 2026

Notice Given to Councillors 21 May 2026

Date of Meeting: 16 June 2026

Attachments

Nil

11.2 COMMUNITY ORGANISATION REVIEW**Councillor: Connie BOGLIS OAM****NoM No.: 41/24-28**

Take notice that at the Council Meeting to be held on 16 June 2026, it is my intention to move:

That Council:

- (1) Requests officers prepare a report to Council by the September meeting, using existing Council records and information, outlining:*
 - a) current operational funding arrangements for neighbourhood houses, DIVRS and other not for profit organisations receiving recurring Council funding (not including community grants);*
 - b) current lease, licence, occupancy and other property arrangements applicable to Council-supported community organisations; and*
 - c) any existing Council policies or frameworks relevant to the provision of financial, in-kind or property support to community organisations.*
 - (2) Notes that the report is not intended to include external consultation, benchmarking, service reviews, community needs analysis or engagement processes.*
 - (3) Requests officers identify any areas where further review may be warranted and provide an indicative estimate of resources required should Council wish to pursue further work.*
 - (4) Notes that no additional budget allocation is sought through this Motion.*
-

Rationale:

The purpose of this motion is to ensure Council's support for community organisations remains fair, transparent, sustainable and responsive to current and future community need. Darebin's neighbourhood houses, emergency relief providers, volunteer-led organisations and community support agencies play a critical role in supporting vulnerable residents through food relief, advocacy, social connection, housing assistance and community wellbeing programs. Many of these organisations operate under longstanding funding, lease or occupancy arrangements established over many years and often under different policy and financial contexts.

While these partnerships have delivered significant community benefit, Council has not undertaken a comprehensive municipality-wide review of operational funding arrangements, subsidised tenancy agreements or in-kind support structures across the sector. As community needs, financial pressures and service delivery expectations continue to evolve, it is appropriate that Council reviews whether existing arrangements remain equitable, strategically aligned and financially sustainable.

This review is not intended to diminish the important contribution of community organisations. Rather, it is intended to strengthen the long-term viability and effectiveness of the sector by identifying opportunities for greater consistency, transparency and collaboration. It will also allow Council to better understand where service gaps, duplication or unmet demand may exist across the municipality and how limited resources can be directed to achieve the greatest community benefit.

The motion also recognises the increasing financial pressures facing both Council and community organisations, including rising operational costs, ageing infrastructure and growing demand for support services. Investigating options such as co-location, shared facilities and alternative tenancy models may help reduce costs while improving service integration and accessibility for residents.

Importantly, the review process will provide Council with an evidence base to inform future decision-making and ensure that funding and support arrangements are aligned with Council's strategic priorities, community wellbeing objectives and principles of good governance.

Notice Received: 26 May 2026

Notice Given to Councillors 26 May 2026

Date of Meeting: 16 June 2026

Attachments

Nil

11.3 LOCAL SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS**Councillor:** **Connie BOGLIS OAM****NoM No.:** 42/24-28

Take notice that at the Council Meeting to be held on 16 June 2026, it is my intention to move:

That Council:

- (1) Notes the significant community interest in the prioritisation and selection of sporting infrastructure projects.*
 - (2) Notes that while external sporting grants are highly competitive and often subject to strict application timelines, Council supports improved transparency and early engagement with Councillors regarding major sporting infrastructure priorities before final recommendations are presented for Council decision.*
 - (3) Requests officers provide a future report to Council outlining options for a forward pipeline and prioritisation process for sports infrastructure projects seeking external funding support within the next year.*
-

Rationale:

Sporting infrastructure projects often attract strong community interest and can have significant long-term impacts on participation, health outcomes, local clubs, and community wellbeing. Given the limited availability of grant funding and the highly competitive nature of State and Federal sports infrastructure programs, Councils are frequently required to prepare and submit applications within short timeframes.

While these timelines can make early consultation challenging, there is value in establishing a clearer and more transparent process for identifying and prioritising projects before funding opportunities arise. Early engagement with Councillors can help ensure that proposed projects align with Council's strategic priorities, reflect community needs, and provide greater confidence and transparency around decision-making.

Developing a forward pipeline and prioritisation framework would also assist Council to be better prepared for future grant opportunities, strengthen advocacy efforts, and improve the quality and readiness of applications. A structured process would support more consistent assessment of projects based on factors such as community benefit, strategic alignment, participation demand, asset condition, co-contributions, and deliverability.

This motion does not seek to delay or compromise Council's ability to respond quickly to grant opportunities. Rather, it aims to improve forward planning and governance so that Council is better positioned to pursue external funding opportunities in a transparent, strategic, and coordinated manner.

Notice Received: **26 May 2026****Notice Given to Councillors** **26 May 2026****Date of Meeting:** **16 June 2026****Attachments**

Nil

12. URGENT BUSINESS

13. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL

Nil.

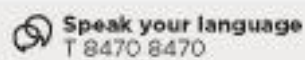
14. CLOSE OF MEETING

CITY OF DAREBIN

274 Gower Street, Preston
PO Box 91, Preston, Vic 3072
T 8470 8888 F 8470 8877
E mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au
darebin.vic.gov.au



If you are deaf, or have
a hearing or speech
impairment, contact
us through the
National Relay Service.



العربية	Italiano	Soomalii
繁體中文	Македонски	Español
Ελληνικά	नेपाली	اردو
हिंदी	ਪੰਜਾਬੀ	Tiếng Việt