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MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 26 June 2023

Released to the public on 4 July 2023

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



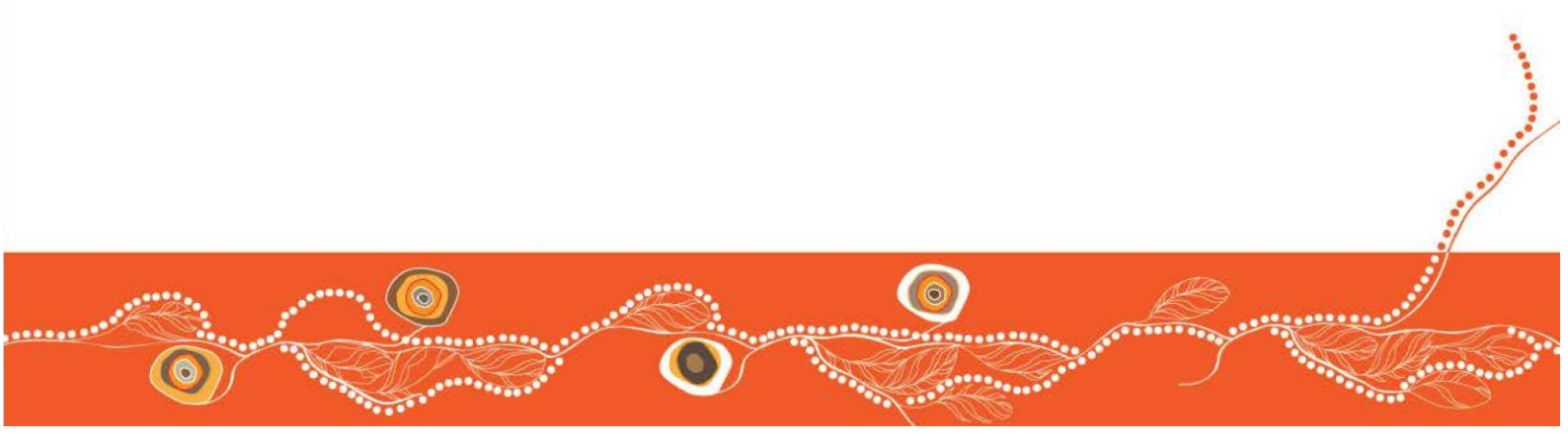
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITIES IN DAREBIN

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

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

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

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



English

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

Arabic

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

Chinese

这些是市议会会议纪要。如需协助了解任何纪要项目，请致电8470 8888。

Greek

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

Hindi

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

Italian

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

Macedonian

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

Nepali

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

Punjabi

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

Somali

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

Spanish

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

Urdu

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

Vietnamese

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

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MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL, MONDAY 26 JUNE 2023

THE MEETING OPENED AT 6.03PM

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

1. OPENING OF MEETING

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

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

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

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

Cr. Julie Williams (Mayor) (Chairperson)
Cr. Susanne Newton (Deputy Mayor)
Cr. Emily Dimitriadis – arrived at 6.05pm
Cr. Gaetano Greco
Cr. Tom Hannan
Cr. Tim Laurence
Cr. Trent McCarthy
Cr. Lina Messina
Cr. Susan Rennie

Council Officers

Peter Smith - Chief Executive Officer
Jodie Watson - General Manager Governance and Engagement
Rachel Ollivier - General Manager Operations and Capital
Kylie Bennetts - General Manager Community
Vanessa Petrie - General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy
Jacinta Stevens - Manager Corporate Governance

The Mayor made the following statement:

This is Jacinta Stevens' last meeting and on behalf of Darebin Council, I would like to express our appreciation. Jacinta has been an integral part of Darebin Council as our Governance Officer. Her meticulous attention to detail and impeccable organisational abilities have been invaluable in guiding our Council through numerous challenges and ensuring that decisions are made in the best interest of our community. Thank you, Jacinta, for your service and commitment. Whittlesea Council is gaining an exceptional professional and I know that you will have a significant impact on their community just as you have here. As you embark on your new journey at Whittlesea Council, we wish you every success in your new role.

3. APOLOGIES

Nil

4. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr. Lina Messina declared a conflict of interest in relation to Item 9.1 and any matters relating to Council becoming a Home Care Provider.

Cr. Susan Rennie declared a conflict of interest in Item 9.1 relating to the capital works at Jika Jika Community Centre, due to this being her place of employment.

Cr. Tom Hannan declared conflict in Item 9.4 Gladstone Ave in relation to Energy Safe Victoria as this relates to his area of employment.

Cr. Laurence declared general conflict of interest in relation to the Northcote Golf Course, due to a family residential amenity located in close proximity to the Northcote Golf Course.

Peter Smith, CEO, declared a conflict of interest in Confidential Item 13.1 CEO Contractual Matters, and declared an interest in Placemaking X, as he is the Chair of an Advisory Board and is interested in attending a development activity run by that organisation.

The Mayor made the following statement:

I am also pleased to inform you that for the first two items on this evening's agenda – these being the Adoption of the Budget and the Revised Council Plan Action Plan, we will have the services of Auslan Interpreters, and I'd like to welcome them both to the meeting this evening.

5. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy

SECONDED: Cr. L Messina

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 22 May 2023 and the Special Meeting of Council held on 29 May 2023 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. COUNCIL'S OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES

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

7. QUESTION AND SUBMISSION TIME

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

- Ben Hayward of Northcote

Q1. How will Council consider the implications of the recommendations from the Final Report of the Independent Expert Panel for the Victorian 2035 emissions reduction target?

Q2. Will the council consider health impacts from the likely increase in wood fire air pollution as all residential gas appliances are phased out by 2035?

Response from General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

Thank you for your questions. Officers have reviewed the Final Report of the Independent Expert Panel for the Victorian 2035 emissions reduction target.

Council is committed to acting on the climate emergency. The electricity we use for our operations is renewable, and we are carbon neutral.

Council is working towards a new Climate Emergency Plan with a focus on emissions reduction. We will be asking for feedback on a draft plan later this year.

The Victorian Government's Gas Substitution Roadmap highlights energy efficiency, electrification, hydrogen and biogas as the main replacements of gas.

Council is committed to helping our community switch to zero emissions, renewable energy. The Solar Saver program helps people access solar. We are also running a Go Electric campaign to encourage and support people switching to renewable electricity.

If you are concerned about one of your neighbours polluting the air by not having an appropriate wood burner, please provide a 14-day Wood Heater Log to Council and we will investigate.

- Mark Barnewall of Thornbury

I am a resident of Strettle Street Thornbury, a single father with one child who has been evacuated from the property since April 19th. I have been commuting 50km day for 8 weeks to take my son to school while I stay in temporary accommodation in east Burwood.

Q1. When is a reasonable timeframe for council to deem a tenancy to be liveable again while a tenant is not visible to timelines on the apartment complex being deemed liveable or not liveable?

Q2. Can the Council foresee an outcome on the timelines around apartments in Strettle street Thornbury, being outlined in the next two weeks to provide timelines and clarity for landlords and tenants?

Response from General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

Thank you for the questions, Mark. I am very sorry to hear that this has occurred for you.

Occupation will be permitted once it has been demonstrated that there are no ongoing safety issues affecting the building. The timing of this depends on the owner and the experts they have engaged to undertake the necessary inspections and/ or repair works.

Unfortunately, there is no standard timeframe for this, as it depends on the owner and the experts, they have engaged to undertake the necessary inspections and/ or repair works.

I do appreciate how difficult it must be. But it is very important we ensure that the building is safe.

And, it is the responsibility of the owners corporation and the owners, to keep the tenants informed of the progress and also of the timing.

- Peter Gonis of Reservoir

Q1. In the interests of transparency and open communication, is the use of personal mobile devices by Councillors during a Council meeting permitted?

Q2. This question was not allowed as it related to a Notice of Motion agenda item.

Q3. In the interests of transparency and open communication, will the Mayor share with the Darebin community the Council's detailed plan for the Development of the "Reservoir Leisure Centre"?

Response from General Manager Governance and Engagement

Thank for the question Peter. There is no specific requirement within the local Government Act or our Governance Rules that prohibit the use of either a Council issued mobile device or a personal mobile device, including mobile phones, a tablet or a computer in a council meeting.

What is prohibited is the use of any of those devices to take photographs in the chamber without permission to do so.

Response from General Manager Community

Thank you for your question, Peter. Council's draft 23/24 capital works program that is being considered at tonight's Council meeting commits \$300,000 to the Reservoir Leisure Centre. Part of the funding will be used for essential maintenance of the facility and part of it will be used to undertake a scoping study to explore options for a future redevelopment. As part of the scoping study Council will undertake broad community consultation to understand community ideas and priorities for any potential redevelopment, but that is subject to Council's decision tonight.

- John from Reservoir

Hello Mayor and Councillors, thank you for hearing us this evening. Our questions relate to the lighting project considerations of John Cain pitch 2.

Q1. When can we expect lighting to be finalised at the Westend, which is John Cain pitch 2, to facilitate and drive community participation and provide player safety, as it is a major concern at the moment that the West end pitch is not at a safe training standard. Adequate lighting contributes to this, and it reduces the overall participation of the club.

Q2. What funding will be provided to facilitate temporary lighting whilst designing and construction is occurring? as it's an immediate safety concern.

Q3. What allocated funds will be provided to ease the burden of excessive hiring costs of external pitches forced upon due to infrastructure neglect by council?

Response from General Manager Community

Thank you for the questions. The John Cain Memorial Park west pitch lighting design project is at the consultation stage on the electrical designs, and I understand that these may have been shared with the Northcote City Football club today (and if not, the plan is to do that shortly).

Further funding is required to complete the full design and due diligence stage to prepare for a construction tender. Council will be considering allocating \$50K for this purpose for John Cain West and the Preston City Oval in its budget item later tonight.

While Council recognises the benefits of sports field lighting to support participation, it is not obligated to provide this at all sports grounds. Each club is required to ensure their activities are safe.

- Carmen Muscat of Thornbury

Q1. Has Council installed surveillance devices in Darebin which have facial recognition or number plate recognition capability?

Q2. If so, what is the purpose of such surveillance?

Q3. Has Council sought the views of all residents about the installation of such surveillance equipment, it's purpose and financial expenditure for installation?

Response from General Manager Operations and Capital

Council doesn't currently use facial recognition or number plate recognition technology in its activities. What Council does use is a range of photo and video technologies as part of its work.

Council uses range of photo and video technologies as part of its work such as CCTV cameras on buildings, bodycams worn by staff, and dashcams on enforcement vehicles. None of those activities use facial recognition or number plate recognition technology.

In terms of Q2, the main purposes of using camera technologies are safety and security of people or assets, or for enforcement activities that rely on collecting suitable evidence.

In regard to Q3, Council hasn't recently consulted community about use of various technologies. We do have a Surveillance Systems Policy to ensure our practices align with various State and Federal obligations. This is available on Council's website to provide community with transparency about Council's approach.

- Chris Vellios of Northcote

Q1. Do I get a refund or cover short fall on sale of Property?

Q2. Do City of Darebin check all property sales and give refund if it did not make the value on rates notice?

Response from General Manager Governance and Engagement

Thank you for your question, Chris.

Property revaluations are performed annually by the State Government through the Valuer General Victoria. Council can only increase its total income received from Rates & Charges by the percentage amount set annually by the Victorian Government under the Rate Cap mechanism. The total amount of Rates & Charges to be received by council is then divided by the total valuation of all properties in Darebin to provide Council with the rate in the dollar. As such, Council is not able to collect more in rates income by increasing property values.

Property valuations are determined as at 1 January each year and are used in the following rating year. Council do not refund any difference between the realisation of a property and the assessed municipal valuation. Residents can object to the property valuation on the prescribed form within two months of the date of issue of the Rates & Valuation Notice. You may contact rates department at council on 8470 8888 to assist you in the objection process.

- Wayne Moore of Preston

Q1. The people of Youngman Street, and past the signs, have (all but one) indicated that they did not want parking signs on the street and would like them removed to the original state, why were the parking signs added to the street when the people in the area did not want them & when will they be removed?

Q2. As the street is half empty at night, for those residents who have more than one car and driver in the household, how will they be able to use the parking in their street when there is no allocated parking for more than one car per household?

Q3. The Quest Hotel is required to provide to provide 1 free parking space per room, however it has come to my attention that they are charging \$15/parking space, how will Council resolve this matter and continue to monitor it?

Response from General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

Thank you for your questions, Wayne.

Q1. The parking signs in Youngman Street were designed with the community, in response to a request for a change in the area. The changes are part of a 12 month trial, which ends in March 2024. Residents will be involved in the review process.

Q2. Residents that are eligible to obtain a permit are encouraged to get one. Others are encouraged to make use of their off-street parking or park in areas where it is legal to do so.

Q3. A Planning Enforcement Officer will contact you tomorrow about this matter.

- Marion Attwater of Pascoe Vale

Q1. My question is about the Annual Performance Report of the Audit and Risk Committee which is in the Governance Report at Appendix E. This Annual Report is dated 19 June 2023 and has an empty column for attendance of committee members at the 19 June 2023 committee meeting. Does this mean that the next Annual Performance Report will be for the period 20 June 2023 to some point in June 2024, and therefore the public will have to wait 6-12 months to see the recommendations and findings of the 19 June committee meeting?

Q2. In Report 9.1, the report to adopt the budget, one of the recommended resolutions is that "In accordance with section 94 (2)(e) and (h) of the Local Government Act 2020, declares the Rates and Annual Service Charges for the 2023-24 rating year commencing 1 July 2023 and ending 30 June 2024 as detailed in the Budget 2023-24." This means that the declared rates and service charges will not be listed in the minutes of the Council Meeting. Doesn't a declaration require more than just declaring that something is somewhere in a 150-page document?

Response from General Manager Governance and Engagement

Thank you for your question Marion. With the exception of one independent audit committee member, all other members were present at the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 19 June 2023.

The Annual Performance Report of the Audit and Risk Committee will be published on Council's web site with those columns completed.

In addition to the Bi-Annual Report required under the Local Government Act, Council also receives summary minutes following each Audit and Risk Committee meeting, in accordance with our Governance Rules. Given the last meeting was 7 days ago, these will be reported to the July Council meeting through the Governance Report.

In relation to your second question regarding the adoption of the budget, under Section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020, Council is required to ensure that the ten elements of adopting a Budget are met. It is not practical to list each of these within the recommendation when they are included in Appendix C to the Council Meeting Report.

8. PETITIONS

8.1 FUNDING THE WATERWATCH PROGRAM VIA MERRI CREEK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (MCMC)

Cr. Newton sought leave of the Council to table a petition concerning funding the WaterWatch program via Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC).

Leave was granted.

Petition

'I move a motion to table a petition for referral to the CEO for consideration and response concerning the 'funding the WaterWatch program via Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC)'. I move the petition signed by approximately 102 people and that complies with the Councils Governance Rules stating:

'For over 13 years the City of Darebin has been funding the WaterWatch program via Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC).

Darebin's 23/24 budget has been released and it has not confirmed the funding for the WaterWatch program.

WaterWatch Victoria is a 30-year program that enables us to understand, monitor, care for and sustainably manage our most precious natural asset -water. It is a network of volunteer citizen scientists that monitor local waterways -it could be a creek, pond, lake, dam, wetland, lagoon, or estuary. Within the City of Darebin, it is Darebin Creek, Edgars Creek, Merri Creek, and Edwardes Lake.

WaterWatch programs support communities (from ages 3 to 80) to monitor the health of waterways: to learn through environmental education, and to participate in projects to protect, rehabilitate, or restore the health of our waterways.

We are petitioning the City of Darebin to ensure that Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC) receives that annual funding of \$25,000 to run the following programs so that they remain free of charge to participants:

- *Support to 5 Darebin volunteer monitoring groups (Admin, annual reports, data entry) Merri Creek Rapid Response to Litter program support (preparing community events, answering community questions, loading citizen science litter data, preparing reports, cleaning out litter kits etc.)*
- *Kindergarten, Primary and High School Education*
- *WaterWatch training day for new volunteers*
- *Frog discovery events including creating frog habitat*

We ask that you sign this petition, advocating for your local waterway and ensuring this important citizen science program continues.'

Submission

Kate Jost made a 2 minute submission in relation to the Item 8.1 – Petition concerning funding the WaterWatch program via Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC).

8.2 SCOPING OF LIGHTS AT B.T. CONNOR RESERVE CAR PARK

Cr. Messina sought leave of the Council to table a petition concerning Scoping of lights at B.T. Connor Reserve Car Park.

Leave was granted.

Petition

'I move a motion to table a petition for referral to the CEO for consideration and response concerning the Scoping of lights at B.T. Connor Reserve Car Park. I move the petition signed by approximately 14 people in person and 467 people online, and that complies with the Councils Governance Rules stating:

'We hereby thank Darebin City Council for considering as part of the budgeting process scoping of lights for B.T. Connor Reserve carpark at Broadhurst Av, Reservoir streetlights.

We at Preston Lion Football Club acknowledge that design scope and delivery of project will provide a safer environment for all and most importantly for the 350 children, parents, girls and women that play for our club.

Every fortnight during the season almost 5,000 people leave B.T. Connor Reserve through a dark carpark and street and we are concerned for their health and safety departing a council owned asset.

We understand there has been unruly behaviour in the evenings in the carpark and lighting will provide a safer environment for all.

We also understand that Darebin City Council will have to advocate to the energy provider the information to deliver the project.

Please consider this as part of the process.'"

Submission

Silvana Naumovski made a 2 minute submission in relation to Item 8.2 Petition concerning Scoping of lights at B.T. Connor Reserve Car Park.

8.3

PARKING SIGNS ON YOUNGMAN STREET, PRESTON

Cr. Messina sought leave of the Council to table a petition concerning the Parking signs on Youngman Street, Preston.

Leave was granted.

Petition

I move a motion to table a petition for referral to the CEO for consideration and response concerning the Parking signs on Youngman Street, Preston. I move the petition signed by approximately 16 people, and that complies with the Councils Governance Rules stating:

That the residents of Youngman Street and close surrounding area request that:

- *The standing signs should be removed from Youngman Street Preston*
- *All money should be refunded to all householders for parking permits*
- *The Quest hotel apartments should provide free parking with their room bookings, so that their customers do not park in Youngman street.'*

TABLING OF PETITIONS

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 23-038

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

That Council move all three Petitions tabled:

Item 8.1 Petition - Funding the WaterWatch program via Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC).

Item 8.2 Petition - Scoping of lights at B.T. Connor Reserve Car Park.

Item 8.3 Petition - Parking signs on Youngman Street, Preston.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

9.1 ADOPTION OF BUDGET 2023–24 (INCORPORATING THE 4 YEAR BUDGET), REVISED 10 YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN, REVISED REVENUE & RATING PLAN AND REVISED RATES FINANCIAL HARDSHIP POLICY

Submissions

The following people made a 2minute submission in relation to Item 9.1 Adoption of Budget 2023–24 (Incorporating the 4 Year Budget), Revised 10 Year Financial Plan, Revised Revenue & Rating Plan and Revised Rates Financial Hardship Policy:

1. *Whitlam Malkoun*
2. *John Catanzariti*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the past two years, financial challenges have impacted us all. High inflation, increasing labour, materials and construction costs, coupled with rising interest rates, has placed significant pressures on Council's budget. As stewards of Government resources, these challenges have meant we have needed to review our strategic plans and priorities to ensure we can continue to deliver what matters most to the Darebin community, whilst being financially sustainable and fiscally responsible.

The need for financial sustainability has also been raised in the report from the Municipal Monitor, published on 26 April 2023 by the Minister for Local Government. As a result of the Municipal Monitor's recommendations contained in the report, the Minister for Local Government has provided Governance Directions to Council to provide a number of assurances relating to financial sustainability, following receipt of the Monitor's report.

As a result, the 2023-24 budget package includes a mid-term review of the Financial Plan 2021-31, now updated to 2023-33, and a mid-term review of the Council Plan 2021-25. These reviews were necessary to enable Council to carefully consider the changing economic landscape and the new challenges these have presented to Council and our community. The 10-year Financial Plan is prudent and necessary to ensure financial sustainability, and to ensure Council keeps a clear focus on delivering the Community's Vision, key services people rely on and social and sustainability outcomes for our Community. It should be noted that the mid-term review of the Council Plan is reported separately on the Council meeting agenda.

We have carefully prioritised a financially responsible capital works program focused on renewing assets and addressing highest priority needs. This includes investing in new kindergartens. Our operating budget has also tightened and we have prioritised delivery of community services and programs people rely on, which have the highest impact towards our community's social and sustainability goals.

Our community has established a clear vision for Darebin in 2041 and our Council Plan and Budget for the years ahead are designed to work towards this. Our Community sees Darebin in 2041 as an equitable, vibrant and connected community which respects and supports First Nations People, values country, our diverse communities and places and our community's vision is that Darebin commits to mitigating the climate emergency, creating prosperity for current and future generations.

The 10-year Financial Plan incorporates provision for investment in improved technology and systems which will help us reduce costs in the medium and longer term, through improved integration and automation that will significantly enhance the community experience and enable achievement of Council goals and plans more efficiently. This aligns to the recommendation made by the Municipal Monitor in their report released in April 2023.

At its meeting on 22 May 2023, Council endorsed the draft 2023-24 budget (incorporating the 4-year Budget), Draft Revised Revenue and Rating Plan, Draft Revised Rates Financial Hardship Policy, and Draft Revised 10 year Financial Plan to proceed to community exhibition, inviting feedback. Community feedback received has been considered and this report recommends that Council adopt its Revised 10-year Financial Plan, 2023-24 budget (incorporating the 4-year Budget), Revised Revenue and Rating Plan and Revised Rates Financial Hardship Policy in their final form.

The following key items are now presented for Council adoption, declaration and endorsement.

- The Revised 10 Year Financial Plan (**Appendix A**) to reflect key changes to the current economic climate.
- The 2023-24 Budget (incorporating the 4-year budget) (**Appendix C**) is an essential planning and resource tool produced each year. The development of a considered budget is vital to the ongoing operational and financial viability of Council. The budget sets out the expected income and expenditure of operational, strategic and capital activities for the coming 4 years and also incorporates Council's rating strategies.
- The Revised Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-25 (**Appendix F**) to reflect the expiry of concessions established for the 2022-23 financial year to support the introduction of the kerbside waste service charge and public waste service rate.
- The Revised Rates Financial Hardship Policy (**Appendix G**) to reflect the expiry of concessions established for the introduction of the kerbside waste service charge and public waste service rate for 2022-23 and the legislative changes arising from the *Local Government Legislation Amendment (Rating and Other Matters) Bill 2022*.
- Granting various Rebates & Concessions as detailed below.
- Granting of special rates and charges for the encouragement of business and commerce in the Reservoir Village Business district.

The budget documentation forms part of a comprehensive public accountability process and reporting that includes:

- A 20-year Community Vision
- A 4-year Council Plan incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan
- A 10-year Financial Plan
- A 4-year Rating and Revenue Plan
- An Annual Report

Key features of the budget include:

- \$30 million Capital Works Program with a key focus on asset renewal and maintenance
- No new Borrowings to reduce interest repayment expenses
- \$2.5 million Operating initiatives / Projects
- An overall average rate increase of 3.5% in line with the rate cap set by the Victorian State government.

General Manager Governance and Engagement notified Councillors of the adjusted officer recommendation, which included minor amendments to point (6), and point (22) as follows:

(6) *Note the following projects have been amended since the draft budget **and are reflected in Attachment C:***

(22) *In accordance with section 91 of the Local Government Act 2020 adopts the Revised 10 Year Financial Plan (Appendix A) **authorising the CEO to make any necessary adjustments to reflect changes made through the adoption of the 2023-24 budget (incorporating the 4 year budget).***

Adjusted Officer Recommendation
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That Council:

- (1) Note that expenditure of \$80k for Aged Care Reforms and Council Plan Action 1-20, Aged Care and Home Support Fees and Charges, has been included in the 2023-24 financial year.
- (2) Note that capital expenditure of \$150k, subject to scoping and market testing), for Jika Jika Community Centre for planned restumping works through the Building Renewal Program has been included in the 2023-24 financial year.
- (3) Note that capital expenditure of \$250k for Northcote Golf Course for construction of the eastern path, subject to finalising design and further decision by Council has been included in the 2024-25 financial year.

ADOPTION OF 2023-24 BUDGET (INCORPORATING THE 4 YEAR BUDGET), REVISED REVENUE AND RATING PLAN & REVISED RATES FINANCIAL HARDSHIP POLICY

- (4) Note that community submissions for the 2023-24 Budget were invited through community consultation from 6 – 26 February 2023, with all submissions (Appendix H) having been considered for the Budget and separately at a Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting held on 14 March 2023.
- (5) Note that the Draft 2023-24 Budget and Four Year Budget was placed on community exhibition from 23 May – 6 June 2023, inviting community feedback and that all feedback (Appendix I) has been considered for the 2023-24 Budget.
- (6) Note the following projects have been amended since the draft budget **and are reflected in Attachment C:**
 - a) Removal of Out of the Park Picnic project: \$100,000
 - b) Removal of Homemade Wine and Food Festival project: \$50,000
 - c) Inclusion of WaterWatch project: \$20,000
 - d) Inclusion of Towards Zero project: \$80,000
 - e) Inclusion of Libraries After Dark initiative: \$50,000
 - f) Removal of BT Conner lighting project: \$30,000

- g) Removal of Migration Monument project: \$20,000
 - h) Inclusion of John Cain Memorial Park and Preston City Oval Lighting Design project: \$50,000
 - i) Clements Reserve Remediation project budget profile has been amended from \$1,800,000 in 2026-27 Year to:
 - i. \$150,000 in Year 2025-26
 - ii. \$1,650,000 in Year 2026-27
- (7) In accordance with section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020* adopts the 2023-24 Budget (incorporating the 4-year budget) (Appendix C).
- (8) In accordance with section 93 of the *Local Government Act 2020* adopts the revised Revenue and Rating Plan 2022-2026 (Appendix F – version for adoption).
- (9) Adopt the revised Rates Financial Hardship Policy (Appendix G – version for adoption).
- (10) In accordance with section 94 (2)(e) and (h) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, declares the Rates and Annual Service Charges for the 2023-24 rating year commencing 1 July 2023 and ending 30 June 2024 as detailed in the Budget 2023-24.
- (11) Granting of a concession for residential properties with a CIV value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General that equates to 100% of the public waste rate, for the principal place of residence. Automatically applied to principal place of residence for ratepayers.
- (12) Granting of a concession for residential properties with a CIV value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General that caps the kerbside waste collection service fee to a maximum amount of \$50 for residential properties for the principal place of residence. Automatically applied to principal place of residence for ratepayers.
- (13) Note the Special Charge for the Northcote Business Precinct for 2023-24 will be \$96,555 in accordance with Council's decision on 24 June 2019 as reflected in the revised Revenue and Rating Plan at Appendix F.
- (14) Note the Special Rate for the Preston Central Business Precinct for 2023-24 will be \$121,125 in accordance with Council's decision on 12 August 2019 as reflected in the revised Revenue and Rating Plan at Appendix F.
- (15) Note that the Special Rate for the Reservoir Village Business Precinct for 2023-24 will be \$78,900 in accordance with Council's decision on 26 June 2022 as reflected in the revised Revenue and Rating Plan at Appendix F.
- (16) Note that the Special Rate for the Fairfield Business Precinct for 2023-24 will be \$74,579 in accordance with Council's declaration of the Special Rate for 5 years on 24 June 2019 as reflected in the revised Revenue and Rating Plan at Appendix F.
- (17) Note that Council will write to each person who is liable to pay the Special Rate or Special Charge for 2023/24 and that the Special Rates for Fairfield, Preston and Northcote expire on 30 June 2024.

ADOPTION OF REVISED 10-YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN

That Council:

- (18) Note that deliberative engagement was undertaken pursuant to section 91(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* to inform the 10-year Financial Plan and the report provided at Appendix B relating to this engagement.
- (19) Note the 10-year Financial Plan has been informed by an independent peer review of assumptions, a series of special Audit and Risk Committee meetings and Councillor workshops and briefings between January to May 2023.
- (20) Note the Municipal Monitor's report included a recommendation for the Minister for

Local Government to action, that in addition to the annual audit of the Darebin City Council's financial accounts, the Auditor-General undertake an annual performance review of the progress of the Council towards financial sustainability until the Auditor-General is satisfied that the Council has achieved financial sustainability.

- (21) Note that a 'Future Fund' (reserve) will be established for major capital infrastructure projects and that a further report to Council will be provided on the structure of the fund.
- (22) In accordance with section 91 of the *Local Government Act 2020* adopts the Revised 10 Year Financial Plan (Appendix A) **authorising the CEO to make any necessary adjustments to reflect changes made through the adoption of the 2023-24 budget (incorporating the 4 year budget).**
- (23) Note the feedback received through the Community Exhibition of the draft 10 year Financial Plan and write to all community members who provided feedback that Council has considered their feedback relating to the Revised 10 Year Financial Plan and advise them of the outcome of the consideration as it relates to their specific feedback and thank them for their contributions.

DECLARATION OF THE KERBSIDE WASTE SERVICE CHARGE AND PUBLIC WASTE SERVICE RATE AND ASSOCIATED CONCESSIONS

- (24) In accordance with section 162 of the *Local Government Act 1989* declares:
 - a) A service rate for Public Waste in the 2023-24 year levied at $0.00006124 \times \text{CIV}$ per rateable property in accordance with the criteria in the Revenue and Rating Plan.
 - b) A service charge for Kerbside Waste Collection Services of \$293.07 in the 2023/24 year in accordance with the criteria in the Revenue and Rating Plan and noting that this charge is subject to concessions.
- (25) In accordance with section 169 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, grants the following Concession in relation to the service charge for kerbside waste collection services as follows:
 - a) A concession for residential properties with a CIV value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General of Victoria that equates to 100% of the public waste rate. This concession will automatically be applied to the principal place of residence for ratepayers and will not require an application.
 - b) A concession for residential properties with a CIV value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General of Victoria that caps the kerbside waste collection service fee to a maximum amount of \$50 for residential properties. This concession will automatically be applied to the principal place of residence for ratepayers and will not require an application.

DECLARATION OF PENSIONER CONCESSION AND CONCESSION FOR PROPERTIES OWNED AND MANAGED BY ABORIGINAL HOUSING VICTORIA.

- (26) In accordance with section 169 (1d) of the *Local Government Act 1989* and Council's 'Statement of Commitment to Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people' and 'Toward Equality Framework', grants a concession of 100% (\$0) for general rates for all properties owned or managed by Aboriginal Housing Victoria as a 'registered agency', relating to the provision of affordable housing.
- (27) A Pensioner Concession of \$150 for pensioners who are holders of an eligible Centrelink or Veteran Affairs Pension Concession Card or a Veteran Affairs Gold Card which stipulates TPI or War Widow for the Kerbside Waste Collection Service Charge. This concession will be provided by direct provision (without application where information is known) for the Kerbside Collection Service Charge on their principal place of residence only.

- (28) A Pensioner Safety Net Concession of \$150 for pensioners who are holders of a Centrelink or Veteran Affairs Pension Concession Card or a Veteran Affairs Gold Card which stipulates TPI or War Widow and who are not eligible for the Pensioner Concession for the Kerbside Waste Collection Service Charge, for the principal place of residence. Ongoing eligibility is maintained, unless rejected by Centrelink or the Department of Veteran Affairs during the annual verification procedure. Upon confirmation of an eligible pensioner concession status, the pensioner concessions deducted from the rate account before payment is required by the ratepayer.

Cr's. Messina, Rennie and Laurence declared conflicts of interest in Item 9.1 in relation to points (1) to (3) as follows:

Cr. Lina Messina declared a conflict of interest in relation to and any matters relating to Council becoming a Home Care Provider, due to her role as Home Care Provider.

Cr. Susan Rennie declared a conflict of interest in relation to the capital works at Jika Jika Community Centre, due to this being her place of employment.

Cr. Laurence declared general conflict of interest in relation to the Northcote Golf Course, due to a family residential amenity located in close proximity to the Northcote Golf Course.

6.53pm – Cr's Messina, Rennie and Laurence left the meeting.

Procedural Motion

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

That Council move Item 9.1, points (1), (2) and (3) en bloc.

CARRIED

For: Cr's Dimitriadis, Hannan, Newton, McCarthy and Williams (5)

Against: Cr. Greco (1)

Points were (1), (2) and (3) were put to vote and became the council resolution as follows:

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 23-039

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

That Council:

- (1) Note that expenditure of \$80k for Aged Care Reforms and Council Plan Action 1-20, Aged Care and Home Support Fees and Charges, has been included in the 2023-24 financial year.
- (2) Note that capital expenditure of \$150k, subject to scoping and market testing), for Jika Jika Community Centre for planned restumping works through the Building Renewal Program has been included in the 2023-24 financial year.
- (3) Note that capital expenditure of \$250k for Northcote Golf Course for construction of the eastern path, subject to finalising design and further decision by Council has been included in the 2024-25 financial year.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.55pm – Cr’s Messina, Rennie and Laurence returned to the meeting.

Cr. Rennie moved the adjusted officer recommendation, points (4) to (23), with an amendment to point (7), to include point a) as follows:

- (7) In accordance with section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020 adopts the 2023-24 Budget (incorporating the 4-year budget) (Appendix C) **with the following amendment:**
- a) **Increase the Waterwatch project by \$5k making the total budget allocation \$25k**

Motion

MOVED: Cr. S Rennie
SECONDED: Cr. S Newton

(Points (4) to (23))

ADOPTION OF 2023-24 BUDGET (INCORPORATING THE 4 YEAR BUDGET), REVISED REVENUE AND RATING PLAN & REVISED RATES FINANCIAL HARDSHIP POLICY

- (4) Note that community submissions for the 2023-24 Budget were invited through community consultation from 6 – 26 February 2023, with all submissions (Appendix H) having been considered for the Budget and separately at a Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting held on 14 March 2023.
- (5) Note that the Draft 2023-24 Budget and Four Year Budget was placed on community exhibition from 23 May – 6 June 2023, inviting community feedback and that all feedback (Appendix I) has been considered for the 2023-24 Budget.
- (6) Note the following projects have been amended since the draft budget and are reflected in Attachment C:
- a) Removal of Out of the Park Picnic project: \$100,000
 - b) Removal of Homemade Wine and Food Festival project: \$50,000
 - c) Inclusion of WaterWatch project: \$20,000
 - d) Inclusion of Towards Zero project: \$80,000
 - e) Inclusion of Libraries After Dark initiative: \$50,000
 - f) Removal of BT Conner lighting project: \$30,000
 - g) Removal of Migration Monument project: \$20,000
 - h) Inclusion of John Cain Memorial Park and Preston City Oval Lighting Design project: \$50,000
 - i) Clements Reserve Remediation project budget profile has been amended from \$1,800,000 in 2026-27 Year to:
 - i. \$150,000 in Year 2025-26
 - ii. \$1,650,000 in Year 2026-27
- (7) In accordance with section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020 adopts the 2023-24 Budget (incorporating the 4-year budget) (Appendix C) **with the following amendment:**
- a) **Increase the Waterwatch project by \$5k making the total budget allocation \$25k.**

- (8) In accordance with section 93 of the *Local Government Act 2020* adopts the revised Revenue and Rating Plan 2022-2026 (Appendix F – version for adoption).
- (9) Adopt the revised Rates Financial Hardship Policy (Appendix G – version for adoption).
- (10) In accordance with section 94 (2)(e) and (h) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, declares the Rates and Annual Service Charges for the 2023-24 rating year commencing 1 July 2023 and ending 30 June 2024 as detailed in the Budget 2023-24.
- (11) Granting of a concession for residential properties with a CIV value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General that equates to 100% of the public waste rate, for the principal place of residence. Automatically applied to principal place of residence for ratepayers.
- (12) Granting of a concession for residential properties with a CIV value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General that caps the kerbside waste collection service fee to a maximum amount of \$50 for residential properties for the principal place of residence. Automatically applied to principal place of residence for ratepayers.
- (13) Note the Special Charge for the Northcote Business Precinct for 2023-24 will be \$96,555 in accordance with Council's decision on 24 June 2019 as reflected in the revised Revenue and Rating Plan at Appendix F.
- (14) Note the Special Rate for the Preston Central Business Precinct for 2023-24 will be \$121,125 in accordance with Council's decision on 12 August 2019 as reflected in the revised Revenue and Rating Plan at Appendix F.
- (15) Note that the Special Rate for the Reservoir Village Business Precinct for 2023-24 will be \$78,900 in accordance with Council's decision on 26 June 2022 as reflected in the revised Revenue and Rating Plan at Appendix F.
- (16) Note that the Special Rate for the Fairfield Business Precinct for 2023-24 will be \$74,579 in accordance with Council's declaration of the Special Rate for 5 years on 24 June 2019 as reflected in the revised Revenue and Rating Plan at Appendix F.
- (17) Note that Council will write to each person who is liable to pay the Special Rate or Special Charge for 2023/24 and that the Special Rates for Fairfield, Preston and Northcote expire on 30 June 2024.

ADOPTION OF REVISED 10-YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN

That Council:

- (18) Note that deliberative engagement was undertaken pursuant to section 91(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* to inform the 10-year Financial Plan and the report provided at Appendix B relating to this engagement.
- (19) Note the 10-year Financial Plan has been informed by an independent peer review of assumptions, a series of special Audit and Risk Committee meetings and Councillor workshops and briefings between January to May 2023.
- (20) Note the Municipal Monitor's report included a recommendation for the Minister for Local Government to action, that in addition to the annual audit of the Darebin City Council's financial accounts, the Auditor-General undertake an annual performance review of the progress of the Council towards financial sustainability until the Auditor-General is satisfied that the Council has achieved financial sustainability.
- (21) Note that a 'Future Fund' (reserve) will be established for major capital infrastructure projects and that a further report to Council will be provided on the structure of the fund.
- (22) In accordance with section 91 of the *Local Government Act 2020* adopts the Revised 10 Year Financial Plan (Appendix A) authorising the CEO to make any necessary adjustments to reflect changes made through the adoption of the 2023-24 budget (incorporating the 4 year budget).

- (23) Note the feedback received through the Community Exhibition of the draft 10 year Financial Plan and write to all community members who provided feedback that Council has considered their feedback relating to the Revised 10 Year Financial Plan and advise them of the outcome of the consideration as it relates to their specific feedback and thank them for their contributions.

Cr. Messina proposed a further amendment to point (7) of the motion, to include points b) and c) as follows:

- (7) *In accordance with section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020 adopts the 2023-24 Budget (incorporating the 4-year budget) (Appendix C) **with the following amendments:***
- a) *Increase the Waterwatch project by \$5k making the total budget allocation \$25k.*
 - b) ***Include \$30k to scope out lighting projects at BT Connor, carpark, street and Merri Creek lighting.***
 - c) ***Include \$20k for the scoping out for a migration monument.***

Mayor Williams, the Chairperson, made the following statement regarding Cr. Messina's proposed amendment:

To support the amendment to be considered as part of the 2023 – 24 Budget, I have determined that under 3.3 (1) (f) of the Governance Rules that the motion to include the item in the final budget should be rejected on the basis that it is the same as, or similar in intent to a previous motion which was considered by Council within the last 6 months.

The Chairperson asked the Councillors who consent to the amended motion to include the item in the final budget being accepted for consideration and debate to raise their hands.

Process

CONSENT SOUGHT: Cr. J Williams

That Council allow Cr. Messina's proposed amendment to point (7) of the substantive motion, to be heard this evening.

SUPPORTED UNANIMOUSLY

All Councillors raised their hand in support of the amendment being included for consideration and debate.

Amendment

MOVED: Cr. L Messina

SECONDED: Cr. G Greco

- (7) In accordance with section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020 adopts the 2023-24 Budget (incorporating the 4-year budget) (Appendix C) **with the following amendments:**
- b) **Include \$30k to scope out lighting projects at BT Connor, carpark, street and Merri Creek lighting.**
 - c) **Include \$20k for the scoping out for a migration monument.**

CARRIED

For: Cr's Dimitriadis, Laurence, Messina, Greco and Williams (5)

Against: Cr's Hannan, Rennie and Newton (3)

Abstained: Cr. McCarthy (1)

The amendment became part of the substantive motion (points (4) to (23)) as follows:

Substantive Motion

MOVED: Cr. S Rennie

SECONDED: Cr. S Newton

(Points (4) to (23))

ADOPTION OF 2023-24 BUDGET (INCORPORATING THE 4 YEAR BUDGET), REVISED REVENUE AND RATING PLAN & REVISED RATES FINANCIAL HARDSHIP POLICY

- (4) Note that community submissions for the 2023-24 Budget were invited through community consultation from 6 – 26 February 2023, with all submissions (Appendix H) having been considered for the Budget and separately at a Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting held on 14 March 2023.
- (5) Note that the Draft 2023-24 Budget and Four Year Budget was placed on community exhibition from 23 May – 6 June 2023, inviting community feedback and that all feedback (Appendix I) has been considered for the 2023-24 Budget.
- (6) Note the following projects have been amended since the draft budget and are reflected in Attachment C:
 - a) Removal of Out of the Park Picnic project: \$100,000
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 - ii. \$1,650,000 in Year 2026-27
- (7) In accordance with section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020 adopts the 2023-24 Budget (incorporating the 4-year budget) (Appendix C) **with the following amendments:**
 - a) Increase the Waterwatch project by \$5k making the total budget allocation \$25k.
 - b) **Include \$30k to scope out lighting projects at BT Connor, carpark, street and Merri Creek lighting.**
 - c) **Include \$20k for the scoping out for a migration monument.**

- (8) In accordance with section 93 of the *Local Government Act 2020* adopts the revised Revenue and Rating Plan 2022-2026 (Appendix F – version for adoption).
- (9) Adopt the revised Rates Financial Hardship Policy (Appendix G – version for adoption).
- (10) In accordance with section 94 (2)(e) and (h) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, declares the Rates and Annual Service Charges for the 2023-24 rating year commencing 1 July 2023 and ending 30 June 2024 as detailed in the Budget 2023-24.
- (11) Granting of a concession for residential properties with a CIV value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General that equates to 100% of the public waste rate, for the principal place of residence. Automatically applied to principal place of residence for ratepayers.
- (12) Granting of a concession for residential properties with a CIV value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General that caps the kerbside waste collection service fee to a maximum amount of \$50 for residential properties for the principal place of residence. Automatically applied to principal place of residence for ratepayers.
- (13) Note the Special Charge for the Northcote Business Precinct for 2023-24 will be \$96,555 in accordance with Council's decision on 24 June 2019 as reflected in the revised Revenue and Rating Plan at Appendix F.
- (14) Note the Special Rate for the Preston Central Business Precinct for 2023-24 will be \$121,125 in accordance with Council's decision on 12 August 2019 as reflected in the revised Revenue and Rating Plan at Appendix F.
- (15) Note that the Special Rate for the Reservoir Village Business Precinct for 2023-24 will be \$78,900 in accordance with Council's decision on 26 June 2022 as reflected in the revised Revenue and Rating Plan at Appendix F.
- (16) Note that the Special Rate for the Fairfield Business Precinct for 2023-24 will be \$74,579 in accordance with Council's declaration of the Special Rate for 5 years on 24 June 2019 as reflected in the revised Revenue and Rating Plan at Appendix F.
- (17) Note that Council will write to each person who is liable to pay the Special Rate or Special Charge for 2023/24 and that the Special Rates for Fairfield, Preston and Northcote expire on 30 June 2024.

ADOPTION OF REVISED 10-YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN

That Council:

- (18) Note that deliberative engagement was undertaken pursuant to section 91(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* to inform the 10-year Financial Plan and the report provided at Appendix B relating to this engagement.
- (19) Note the 10-year Financial Plan has been informed by an independent peer review of assumptions, a series of special Audit and Risk Committee meetings and Councillor workshops and briefings between January to May 2023.
- (20) Note the Municipal Monitor's report included a recommendation for the Minister for Local Government to action, that in addition to the annual audit of the Darebin City Council's financial accounts, the Auditor-General undertake an annual performance review of the progress of the Council towards financial sustainability until the Auditor-General is satisfied that the Council has achieved financial sustainability.
- (21) Note that a 'Future Fund' (reserve) will be established for major capital infrastructure projects and that a further report to Council will be provided on the structure of the fund.
- (22) In accordance with section 91 of the *Local Government Act 2020* adopts the Revised 10 Year Financial Plan (Appendix A) authorising the CEO to make any necessary adjustments to reflect changes made through the adoption of the 2023-24 budget (incorporating the 4 year budget).

(23) Note the feedback received through the Community Exhibition of the draft 10 year Financial Plan and write to all community members who provided feedback that Council has considered their feedback relating to the Revised 10 Year Financial Plan and advise them of the outcome of the consideration as it relates to their specific feedback and thank them for their contributions.

Cr. McCarthy proposed a further amendment to point (7) to include point d), and an amendment to point (22) as follows:

(7) *In accordance with section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020 adopts the 2023-24 Budget (incorporating the 4-year budget) (Appendix C) **with the following amendments:***

- a) *Increase the Waterwatch project by \$5k making the total budget allocation \$25k.*
- b) *Include \$30k to scope out lighting projects at BT Connor, carpark, street and Merri Creek lighting.*
- c) *Include \$20k for the scoping out for a migration monument.*
- d) ***Allocates \$100K to commence construction of the all access path through Northcote Golf Course, connecting Mayer Park with Warrk Warrk Bridge, with funding for the costs of this from the Open Space Reserve, subject to final eligibility checks and noting that finalisation of the funding proportion will be done by officers to meet eligibility requirements.***

(22) *In accordance with section 91 of the Local Government Act 2020 adopts the Revised 10 Year Financial Plan (Appendix A) authorising the CEO to make any necessary adjustments to reflect changes made through the adoption of the 2023-24 budget (incorporating the 4 year budget) **with the following amendment:***

- a) ***Any necessary adjustments to reflect the Budget amendment relating to Northcote Golf Course path at clause 7 of this resolution, including the Capital Works Program at Appendix D.***

Cr. Laurence declared general conflict of interest in relation to the Northcote Golf Course, due to a family residential amenity located in close proximity to the Northcote Golf Course.

7.22pm – Cr. Laurence left the meeting.

Mayor Williams, the Chairperson, made the following statement regarding Cr. McCarthy's proposed amendment:

To support the amendment to be considered as part of the 2023 – 24 Budget, I have determined that under the 3.3 (1) (f) of the Governance Rules that the motion to include the item in the final budget should be rejected on the basis that it is the same as, or similar in intent to a previous motion which was considered by Council within the last 6 months.

The Chairperson asked the Councillors who consent to the amended motion to include the item in the final budget being accepted for consideration and debate to raise their hands.

Process

CONSENT SOUGHT: Cr. J Williams

That Council accept Cr. McCarthy's amendments to points (7) and (22) into the agenda for consideration.

SUPPORTED UNANIMOUSLY

All Councillors raised their hand in support of the amendment being included for consideration and debate.

The amendment was accepted by the mover and seconder and became part of the substantive motion.

Substantive Motion

MOVED: Cr. S Rennie

SECONDED: Cr. S Newton

(Points (4) to (23))

ADOPTION OF 2023-24 BUDGET (INCORPORATING THE 4 YEAR BUDGET), REVISED REVENUE AND RATING PLAN & REVISED RATES FINANCIAL HARDSHIP POLICY

- (4) Note that community submissions for the 2023-24 Budget were invited through community consultation from 6 – 26 February 2023, with all submissions (Appendix H) having been considered for the Budget and separately at a Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting held on 14 March 2023.
- (5) Note that the Draft 2023-24 Budget and Four Year Budget was placed on community exhibition from 23 May – 6 June 2023, inviting community feedback and that all feedback (Appendix I) has been considered for the 2023-24 Budget.
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 - a) Increase the Waterwatch project by \$5k making the total budget allocation \$25k.
 - b) Include \$30k to scope out lighting projects at BT Connor, carpark, street and

Merri Creek lighting.

- c) Include \$20k for the scoping out for a migration monument.
 - d) **Allocates \$100K to commence construction of the all access path through Northcote Golf Course, connecting Mayer Park with Warrk Warrk Bridge, with funding for the costs of this from the Open Space Reserve, subject to final eligibility checks and noting that finalisation of the funding proportion will be done by officers to meet eligibility requirements.**
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 - (14) Note the Special Rate for the Preston Central Business Precinct for 2023-24 will be \$121,125 in accordance with Council's decision on 12 August 2019 as reflected in the revised Revenue and Rating Plan at Appendix F.
 - (15) Note that the Special Rate for the Reservoir Village Business Precinct for 2023-24 will be \$78,900 in accordance with Council's decision on 26 June 2022 as reflected in the revised Revenue and Rating Plan at Appendix F.
 - (16) Note that the Special Rate for the Fairfield Business Precinct for 2023-24 will be \$74,579 in accordance with Council's declaration of the Special Rate for 5 years on 24 June 2019 as reflected in the revised Revenue and Rating Plan at Appendix F.
 - (17) Note that Council will write to each person who is liable to pay the Special Rate or Special Charge for 2023/24 and that the Special Rates for Fairfield, Preston and Northcote expire on 30 June 2024.

ADOPTION OF REVISED 10-YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN

That Council:

- (18) Note that deliberative engagement was undertaken pursuant to section 91(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* to inform the 10-year Financial Plan and the report provided at Appendix B relating to this engagement.
- (19) Note the 10-year Financial Plan has been informed by an independent peer review of assumptions, a series of special Audit and Risk Committee meetings and Councillor workshops and briefings between January to May 2023.
- (20) Note the Municipal Monitor's report included a recommendation for the Minister for Local Government to action, that in addition to the annual audit of the Darebin City Council's financial accounts, the Auditor-General undertake an annual performance review of the progress of the Council towards financial sustainability until the Auditor-General is satisfied that the Council has achieved financial sustainability.

- (21) Note that a 'Future Fund' (reserve) will be established for major capital infrastructure projects and that a further report to Council will be provided on the structure of the fund.
- (22) In accordance with section 91 of the *Local Government Act 2020* adopts the Revised 10 Year Financial Plan (Appendix A) authorising the CEO to make any necessary adjustments to reflect changes made through the adoption of the 2023-24 budget (incorporating the 4 year budget) with the following amendment:
- a) **Any necessary adjustments to reflect the Budget amendment relating to Northcote Golf Course path at clause 7 of this resolution, including the Capital Works Program at Appendix D.**
- (23) Note the feedback received through the Community Exhibition of the draft 10 year Financial Plan and write to all community members who provided feedback that Council has considered their feedback relating to the Revised 10 Year Financial Plan and advise them of the outcome of the consideration as it relates to their specific feedback and thank them for their contributions.

7.37pm Cr Laurence returned to the meeting.

Cr. Laurence proposed a further amendment to point (7) of the substantive motion to include point e) as follows:

- (7) *In accordance with section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020 adopts the 2023-24 Budget (incorporating the 4-year budget) (Appendix C) **with the following amendments:***
- a) *Increase the Waterwatch project by \$5k making the total budget allocation \$25k.*
- b) *Include \$30k to scope out lighting projects at BT Connor, carpark, street and Merri Creek lighting.*
- c) *Include \$20k for the scoping out for a migration monument.*
- d) *Allocates \$100K to commence construction of the all access path through Northcote Golf Course, connecting Mayer Park with Warrk Warrk Bridge, with funding for the costs of this from the Open Space Reserve, subject to final eligibility checks and noting that finalisation of the funding proportion will be done by officers to meet eligibility requirements.*
- e) **Allocates \$1.8m for the remediation of Clements Reserve over two years as follows:**
- i. **\$150,000 in 2023-24 for preparatory work and approvals**
- ii. **\$1.65m in 2024-25 for construction**
- iii. **Funds the costs of remediation of Clements Reserve from the Open Space Reserve, subject to final eligibility checks and noting that finalisation of the funding proportion will be done by officers to meet eligibility requirements.**
- iv. **Removes the allocation of \$165K in 2025/26 and \$1.65m from 2026-27 from the 4 year Capital Works Program (Appendix D) and the budget for those years.**

The mover and seconder of the substantive motion did not accept the amendment. The amendment was voted on and lost as follows:

Amendment

MOVED: Cr. T Laurence

SECONDED: Cr. G Greco

- (7) In accordance with section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020 adopts the 2023-24 Budget (incorporating the 4-year budget) (Appendix C) **with the following amendments:**
- a) Increase the Waterwatch project by \$5k making the total budget allocation \$25k.
 - b) Include \$30k to scope out lighting projects at BT Connor, carpark, street and Merri Creek lighting.
 - c) Include \$20k for the scoping out for a migration monument.
 - d) Allocates \$100K to commence construction of the all access path through Northcote Golf Course, connecting Mayer Park with Warrk Warrk Bridge, with funding for the costs of this from the Open Space Reserve, subject to final eligibility checks and noting that finalisation of the funding proportion will be done by officers to meet eligibility requirements.
 - e) **Allocates \$1.8m for the remediation of Clements Reserve over two years as follows:**
 - i. **\$150,000 in 2023-24 for preparatory work and approvals**
 - ii. **\$1.65m in 2024-25 for construction**
 - iii. **Funds the costs of remediation of Clements Reserve from the Open Space Reserve, subject to final eligibility checks and noting that finalisation of the funding proportion will be done by officers to meet eligibility requirements.**
 - iv. **Removes the allocation of \$165K in 2025/26 and \$1.65m from 2026-27 from the 4 year Capital Works Program (Appendix D) and the budget for those years.**

LOST

For: Cr's Dimitriadis, Laurence, Messina, and Greco (4)

Against: Cr's Hannan, Rennie, Newton, and McCarthy (4)

Abstained: Cr. Williams (1)

The Mayor acknowledged and thanked the Auslan interpreters for attending.

7.56pm - The Meeting adjourned for a break.

8.00pm – Auslan interpreters left the Meeting.

8.30pm – The Meeting resumed.

Cr. Dimitriadis requested to vote in part and vote on point (7) (d) of the substantive motion.

The Mayor consented for Item (7) (d) to be voted on separately.

Cr. Laurence declared a general conflict of interest in relation to the Northcote Golf Course, due to a family residential amenity located in close proximity to the Northcote Golf Course.

8.35pm – Cr. Laurence left the meeting.

Prior to putting point 7 (d) to the vote, the Chairperson used their discretion and provided Cr. Dimitriadis and Cr. McCarthy an opportunity to speak to point (7) d).

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 23-040**

MOVED: Cr. S Rennie
SECONDED: Cr. S Newton

That Council includes point (7) d) noted in bold below, in the Budget.

(7) *In accordance with section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020 adopts the 2023-24 Budget (incorporating the 4-year budget) (Appendix C) with the following amendments:*

- d) Allocates \$100K to commence construction of the all access path through Northcote Golf Course, connecting Mayer Park with Warrk Warrk Bridge, with funding for the costs of this from the Open Space Reserve, subject to final eligibility checks and noting that finalisation of the funding proportion will be done by officers to meet eligibility requirements.**

LOST

For: Cr's Hannan, Rennie, Newton, and McCarthy (4)

Against: Cr's Dimitriadis, Messina, Greco and Williams (4)

The vote was lost on the casting vote of the Mayor.

8.48pm – Cr. Laurence returned to the Meeting.

Points (4) to (23) of the Substantive Motion (excluding (7)(d)) were then put to vote and carried unanimously as follows:

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 23-041**

MOVED: Cr. S Rennie
SECONDED: Cr. S Newton

(Points (4) to (23))

ADOPTION OF 2023-24 BUDGET (INCORPORATING THE 4 YEAR BUDGET), REVISED REVENUE AND RATING PLAN & REVISED RATES FINANCIAL HARDSHIP POLICY

- (4) Note that community submissions for the 2023-24 Budget were invited through community consultation from 6 – 26 February 2023, with all submissions (Appendix H) having been considered for the Budget and separately at a Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting held on 14 March 2023.
- (5) Note that the Draft 2023-24 Budget and Four Year Budget was placed on community exhibition from 23 May – 6 June 2023, inviting community feedback and that all feedback (Appendix I) has been considered for the 2023-24 Budget.
- (6) Note the following projects have been amended since the draft budget and are reflected in Attachment C:
- Removal of Out of the Park Picnic project: \$100,000
 - Removal of Homemade Wine and Food Festival project: \$50,000
 - Inclusion of WaterWatch project: \$20,000
 - Inclusion of Towards Zero project: \$80,000

- e) Inclusion of Libraries After Dark initiative: \$50,000
 - f) Removal of BT Conner lighting project: \$30,000
 - g) Removal of Migration Monument project: \$20,000
 - h) Inclusion of John Cain Memorial Park and Preston City Oval Lighting Design project: \$50,000
 - i) Clements Reserve Remediation project budget profile has been amended from \$1,800,000 in 2026-27 Year to:
 - i. \$150,000 in Year 2025-26
 - ii. \$1,650,000 in Year 2026-27
- (7) In accordance with section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020 adopts the 2023-24 Budget (incorporating the 4-year budget) (Appendix C) **with the following amendments:**
- a) Increase the Waterwatch project by \$5k making the total budget allocation \$25k.
 - b) Include \$30k to scope out lighting projects at BT Connor, carpark, street and Merri Creek lighting.
 - c) Include \$20k for the scoping out for a migration monument.
- (8) In accordance with section 93 of the *Local Government Act 2020* adopts the revised Revenue and Rating Plan 2022-2026 (Appendix F – version for adoption).
- (9) Adopt the revised Rates Financial Hardship Policy (Appendix G – version for adoption).
- (10) In accordance with section 94 (2)(e) and (h) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, declares the Rates and Annual Service Charges for the 2023-24 rating year commencing 1 July 2023 and ending 30 June 2024 as detailed in the Budget 2023-24.
- (11) Granting of a concession for residential properties with a CIV value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General that equates to 100% of the public waste rate, for the principal place of residence. Automatically applied to principal place of residence for ratepayers.
- (12) Granting of a concession for residential properties with a CIV value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General that caps the kerbside waste collection service fee to a maximum amount of \$50 for residential properties for the principal place of residence. Automatically applied to principal place of residence for ratepayers.
- (13) Note the Special Charge for the Northcote Business Precinct for 2023-24 will be \$96,555 in accordance with Council's decision on 24 June 2019 as reflected in the revised Revenue and Rating Plan at Appendix F.
- (14) Note the Special Rate for the Preston Central Business Precinct for 2023-24 will be \$121,125 in accordance with Council's decision on 12 August 2019 as reflected in the revised Revenue and Rating Plan at Appendix F.
- (15) Note that the Special Rate for the Reservoir Village Business Precinct for 2023-24 will be \$78,900 in accordance with Council's decision on 26 June 2022 as reflected in the revised Revenue and Rating Plan at Appendix F.
- (16) Note that the Special Rate for the Fairfield Business Precinct for 2023-24 will be \$74,579 in accordance with Council's declaration of the Special Rate for 5 years on 24 June 2019 as reflected in the revised Revenue and Rating Plan at Appendix F.
- (17) Note that Council will write to each person who is liable to pay the Special Rate or Special Charge for 2023/24 and that the Special Rates for Fairfield, Preston and Northcote expire on 30 June 2024.

ADOPTION OF REVISED 10-YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN

That Council:

- (18) Note that deliberative engagement was undertaken pursuant to section 91(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* to inform the 10-year Financial Plan and the report provided at Appendix B relating to this engagement.
- (19) Note the 10-year Financial Plan has been informed by an independent peer review of assumptions, a series of special Audit and Risk Committee meetings and Councillor workshops and briefings between January to May 2023.
- (20) Note the Municipal Monitor's report included a recommendation for the Minister for Local Government to action, that in addition to the annual audit of the Darebin City Council's financial accounts, the Auditor-General undertake an annual performance review of the progress of the Council towards financial sustainability until the Auditor-General is satisfied that the Council has achieved financial sustainability.
- (21) Note that a 'Future Fund' (reserve) will be established for major capital infrastructure projects and that a further report to Council will be provided on the structure of the fund.
- (22) In accordance with section 91 of the *Local Government Act 2020* adopts the Revised 10 Year Financial Plan (Appendix A) authorising the CEO to make any necessary adjustments to reflect changes made through the adoption of the 2023-24 budget (incorporating the 4 year budget) with the following amendment:
- a) Any necessary adjustments to reflect the Budget amendment relating to Northcote Golf Course path at clause 7 of this resolution, including the Capital Works Program at Appendix D.
- (23) Note the feedback received through the Community Exhibition of the draft 10 year Financial Plan and write to all community members who provided feedback that Council has considered their feedback relating to the Revised 10 Year Financial Plan and advise them of the outcome of the consideration as it relates to their specific feedback and thank them for their contributions.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Mayor thanked Peter Smith, CEO, the Executive Leadership team and Council Staff for their work and contribution towards preparing the Annual Budget, and to Councillors for their passion for the community.

Extension of Time

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

8.56pm - That Council extend the meeting by 30minutes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Points (24) to (28) of the adjusted officer recommendation were then put to vote and became the Council Resolution as follows:

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 23-042**

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

(Points (24) to (28))

DECLARATION OF THE KERBSIDE WASTE SERVICE CHARGE AND PUBLIC WASTE SERVICE RATE AND ASSOCIATED CONCESSIONS

That council:

- (24) In accordance with section 162 of the *Local Government Act 1989* declares:
- a) A service rate for Public Waste in the 2023-24 year levied at $0.00006124 \times \text{CIV}$ per rateable property in accordance with the criteria in the Revenue and Rating Plan.
 - b) A service charge for Kerbside Waste Collection Services of \$293.07 in the 2023/24 year in accordance with the criteria in the Revenue and Rating Plan and noting that this charge is subject to concessions.
- (25) In accordance with section 169 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, grants the following Concession in relation to the service charge for kerbside waste collection services as follows:
- a) A concession for residential properties with a CIV value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General of Victoria that equates to 100% of the public waste rate. This concession will automatically be applied to the principal place of residence for ratepayers and will not require an application.
 - b) A concession for residential properties with a CIV value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General of Victoria that caps the kerbside waste collection service fee to a maximum amount of \$50 for residential properties. This concession will automatically be applied to the principal place of residence for ratepayers and will not require an application.

DECLARATION OF PENSIONER CONCESSION AND CONCESSION FOR PROPERTIES OWNED AND MANAGED BY ABORIGINAL HOUSING VICTORIA.

- (26) In accordance with section 169 (1d) of the *Local Government Act 1989* and Council's 'Statement of Commitment to Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people' and 'Toward Equality Framework', grants a concession of 100% (\$0) for general rates for all properties owned or managed by Aboriginal Housing Victoria as a 'registered agency', relating to the provision of affordable housing.
- (27) A Pensioner Concession of \$150 for pensioners who are holders of an eligible Centrelink or Veteran Affairs Pension Concession Card or a Veteran Affairs Gold Card which stipulates TPI or War Widow for the Kerbside Waste Collection Service Charge. This concession will be provided by direct provision (without application where information is known) for the Kerbside Collection Service Charge on their principal place of residence only.
- (28) A Pensioner Safety Net Concession of \$150 for pensioners who are holders of a Centrelink or Veteran Affairs Pension Concession Card or a Veteran Affairs Gold Card which stipulates TPI or War Widow and who are not eligible for the Pensioner Concession for the Kerbside Waste Collection Service Charge, for the principal place of residence. Ongoing eligibility is maintained, unless rejected by Centrelink or the Department of Veteran Affairs during the annual verification procedure. Upon confirmation of an eligible pensioner concession status, the pensioner concessions deducted from the rate account before payment is required by the ratepayer.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The complete Council Resolution of Item 9.1 Adoption of Budget 2023–24 (Incorporating The 4 Year Budget), Revised 10 Year Financial Plan, Revised Revenue & Rating Plan and Revised Rates Financial Hardship Policy, as adopted, reads as follows:

**ITEM 9.1 ADOPTION OF BUDGET 2023–24 (INCORPORATING THE 4 YEAR BUDGET),
REVISED 10 YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN, REVISED REVENUE & RATING PLAN AND
REVISED RATES FINANCIAL HARDSHIP POLICY**

COUNCIL RESOLUTION AS ADOPTED

That Council:

- (1) Note that expenditure of \$80k for Aged Care Reforms and Council Plan Action 1-20, Aged Care and Home Support Fees and Charges, has been included in the 2023-24 financial year.
- (2) Note that capital expenditure of \$150k, subject to scoping and market testing), for Jika Jika Community Centre for planned restumping works through the Building Renewal Program has been included in the 2023-24 financial year.
- (3) Note that capital expenditure of \$250k for Northcote Golf Course for construction of the eastern path, subject to finalising design and further decision by Council has been included in the 2024-25 financial year.

**ADOPTION OF 2023-24 BUDGET (INCORPORATING THE 4 YEAR BUDGET), REVISED
REVENUE AND RATING PLAN & REVISED RATES FINANCIAL HARDSHIP POLICY**

- (4) Note that community submissions for the 2023-24 Budget were invited through community consultation from 6 – 26 February 2023, with all submissions (Appendix H) having been considered for the Budget and separately at a Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting held on 14 March 2023.
- (5) Note that the Draft 2023-24 Budget and Four Year Budget was placed on community exhibition from 23 May – 6 June 2023, inviting community feedback and that all feedback (Appendix I) has been considered for the 2023-24 Budget.
- (6) Note the following projects have been amended since the draft budget and are reflected in Attachment C:
 - a) Removal of Out of the Park Picnic project: \$100,000
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- (7) In accordance with section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020 adopts the 2023-24 Budget (incorporating the 4-year budget) (Appendix C) with the following amendments:
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- (11) Granting of a concession for residential properties with a CIV value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General that equates to 100% of the public waste rate, for the principal place of residence. Automatically applied to principal place of residence for ratepayers.
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That Council:

- (18) Note that deliberative engagement was undertaken pursuant to section 91(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* to inform the 10-year Financial Plan and the report provided at Appendix B relating to this engagement.
- (19) Note the 10-year Financial Plan has been informed by an independent peer review of assumptions, a series of special Audit and Risk Committee meetings and Councillor workshops and briefings between January to May 2023.
- (20) Note the Municipal Monitor's report included a recommendation for the Minister for Local Government to action, that in addition to the annual audit of the Darebin City Council's financial accounts, the Auditor-General undertake an annual performance review of the progress of the Council towards financial sustainability until the Auditor-General is satisfied that the Council has achieved financial sustainability.
- (21) Note that a 'Future Fund' (reserve) will be established for major capital infrastructure projects and that a further report to Council will be provided on the structure of the fund.
- (22) In accordance with section 91 of the *Local Government Act 2020* adopts the Revised 10 Year Financial Plan (Appendix A) authorising the CEO to make any necessary adjustments to reflect changes made through the adoption of the 2023-24 budget (incorporating the 4 year budget) with the following amendment:
- b) Any necessary adjustments to reflect the Budget amendment relating to

Northcote Golf Course path at clause 7 of this resolution, including the Capital Works Program at Appendix D.

- (23) Note the feedback received through the Community Exhibition of the draft 10 year Financial Plan and write to all community members who provided feedback that Council has considered their feedback relating to the Revised 10 Year Financial Plan and advise them of the outcome of the consideration as it relates to their specific feedback and thank them for their contributions.

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- a) A service rate for Public Waste in the 2023-24 year levied at 0.00006124 x CIV per rateable property in accordance with the criteria in the Revenue and Rating Plan.
 - b) A service charge for Kerbside Waste Collection Services of \$293.07 in the 2023/24 year in accordance with the criteria in the Revenue and Rating Plan and noting that this charge is subject to concessions.
- (25) In accordance with section 169 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, grants the following Concession in relation to the service charge for kerbside waste collection services as follows:
- a) A concession for residential properties with a CIV value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General of Victoria that equates to 100% of the public waste rate. This concession will automatically be applied to the principal place of residence for ratepayers and will not require an application.
 - b) A concession for residential properties with a CIV value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General of Victoria that caps the kerbside waste collection service fee to a maximum amount of \$50 for residential properties. This concession will automatically be applied to the principal place of residence for ratepayers and will not require an application.

DECLARATION OF PENSIONER CONCESSION AND CONCESSION FOR PROPERTIES OWNED AND MANAGED BY ABORIGINAL HOUSING VICTORIA.

- (26) In accordance with section 169 (1d) of the *Local Government Act 1989* and Council's 'Statement of Commitment to Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people' and 'Toward Equality Framework', grants a concession of 100% (\$0) for general rates for all properties owned or managed by Aboriginal Housing Victoria as a 'registered agency', relating to the provision of affordable housing.
- (27) A Pensioner Concession of \$150 for pensioners who are holders of an eligible Centrelink or Veteran Affairs Pension Concession Card or a Veteran Affairs Gold Card which stipulates TPI or War Widow for the Kerbside Waste Collection Service Charge. This concession will be provided by direct provision (without application where information is known) for the Kerbside Collection Service Charge on their principal place of residence only.
- (28) A Pensioner Safety Net Concession of \$150 for pensioners who are holders of a Centrelink or Veteran Affairs Pension Concession Card or a Veteran Affairs Gold Card which stipulates TPI or War Widow and who are not eligible for the Pensioner Concession for the Kerbside Waste Collection Service Charge, for the principal place of residence. Ongoing eligibility is maintained, unless rejected by Centrelink or the Department of Veteran Affairs during the annual verification procedure. Upon confirmation of an eligible pensioner concession status, the pensioner concessions deducted from the rate account before payment is required by the ratepayer.

**9.2 ADOPTION OF REVISED COUNCIL PLAN 2021-25
(INCORPORATING HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN) AND
2023-24 COUNCIL PLAN ACTION PLAN**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks that Council adopt the Revised Council Plan 2021-25 (incorporating Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan) (**Appendix A**) and 2023-24 Council Plan Action Plan (**Appendix B**), following community feedback provided between 23 May 2023 to 6 June 2023. The community feedback on the Council Plan and Council Plan Action Plan resulted in no material changes.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 23-043

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

That Council:

- (1) Note the revised Council Plan 2021-25 (incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan) and 2023-24 Council Plan Action Plan were out on community exhibition seeking community feedback during the period 23 May to 6 June 2023.
- (2) Acknowledge the community feedback provided and note officers will write thanking individuals for their time in responding to the revised Council Plan 2021-25 and Council Plan Action Plan.
- (3) Adopt the revised Council Plan 2021-25 (incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan) at **Appendix A**.
- (4) Adopt the draft 2023-24 Council Plan Action Plan at **Appendix B**.
- (5) Authorise the CEO to amend the Council Plan 2021-25 and 2023-24 Council Plan Action Plan to reflect any amendments resolved by the Council in the 2023-24 Budget.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.3 CONTRACT AWARD – CT202320 TRANSACTIONAL BANKING SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council's Financial Services Department has recently completed a Request for Tender (RFT) for the provision of Transactional Banking Services:

- General Banking Service;
- Electronic Banking Service.
- Revenue Collection and Customer Payments; and
- Corporate Credit Card

This report seeks Council endorsement to enter into a two-year contract, with an optional two additional years for the provision of the above services.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 23-044

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

That Council:

- (1) Awards Contract CT202320 for the provision of Transactional Banking Services, to Westpac Banking Corporation for the initial contract term ending 1 October 2026, as per the current State Purchasing Contract (SPC).
- (2) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to finalise and execute the contract documentation on behalf of the Council.
- (3) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to review and approval contract extension terms of two terms of two (2) year each options based on satisfactory performance.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.4 OPTIONS TO RETAIN TREES IN GLADSTONE AVENUE, NORTHCOTE

Cr. Tom Hannan declared conflict in Item 9.4 Gladstone Ave in relation to Energy Safe Victoria as this relates to his area of employment.

9.11pm – Cr. Hannan left the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Report provides information on options to retain 3 trees in Gladstone Avenue Northcote. A wide range of options have been explored as outlined in this report. Council officers have discussed options with and considered ideas and feedback from local residents as part of investigations. Unfortunately, investigations have not identified a legal and safe option that also retains the trees and canopy cover.

A 2020 audit, carried out by Energy Safe Victoria (ESV), identified three street trees located at 43, 45 & 53 Gladstone Avenue in Northcote as non-compliant with the Electricity Safety Regulations 2020. Compliance with these Regulations ensures appropriate standards of electrical safety are reached. Failing to apply the Code of the Electrical Line Clearance (ELC) may result in outcomes that include electrocution and fire or that may affect the reliability of electricity supply. Significant financial penalties are applicable for non-compliance.

Opportunities to retain and manage these trees in line with the ELC regulations have been explored with assessments carried out by both internal and external arborists. Options included: installation of Aerial Bundled Cable (ABC); selective pruning works; installation of kerb outstands; redirection of existing wires and undergrounding of overhead cables.

None of the options have found a legal and safe option that would also retain the trees and canopy cover. Redirection of existing wires could retain the trees, but would result in a net loss of canopy cover due to substantial pruning required of other trees and is not recommended even before costs are considered. The trees have all been assessed as having relatively short useful life expectancies (ULE) and officers note that an advantage of replacing them sooner is that new trees will establish sooner.

It is recommended that the trees be removed and replaced with trees of a more suitable species. This would provide long-lasting benefits to the streetscape and achieve required compliance. The replacement species is fast growing and is expected to establish quickly.

Council's Tree Management team has been engaging with residents of Gladstone Avenue for an extended period to investigate options for retention. Council initiated a street meeting for residents of Gladstone Avenue and has undertaken several rounds of consultation and communication regarding the trees in question.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Notes the requirement for compliance with the *Electricity Safety Act 1998* and *Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations*, which Council achieves through its Electrical Line Clearance Program.
- (2) Writes to the Minister for Energy and Resources requesting the next review of the *Electricity Safety Act 1998* and *Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations* to give consideration to changing requirements for maintaining trees within an urban setting with the aim of retaining more canopy in these areas.
- (3) Notes that officers will remove and replace the three (3) trees in question with a suitable native species (*Corymbia scentuous*).
- (4) Notes that officers will communicate the outcome of Council's decision and the reasons for it with local residents.

PROCEDURAL MOTION TO DEFER ITEM OF BUSINESS**Council Resolution****MINUTE NO. 23-045**

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

That consideration of Item 9.4 Options to retain trees in Gladstone Avenue, Northcote, be deferred to the next Council Meeting 24 July 2023.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.14pm – Cr. Hannan returned to the Meeting.

9.5 GOVERNANCE REPORT JUNE 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Summary of Advisory Committees, Councillor Briefing and other informal meetings of Councillors (**Appendix A**)
- Reports by Mayor and Councillors
- Community Advisory Committees six-month progress report for the period 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023 (**Appendix B**)
- Confidential Council resolutions made public (May 2023)
- Responses to Public Questions taken on notice at the 22 May 2023 Council Meeting (**Appendix C**)
- Audit and Risk Committee – Biannual Report (**Appendix D**) and Annual Performance Report (**Appendix E**)

Adjusted Officer Recommendation
--

That Council:

- (1) Note the Governance Report – May 2023.
- (2) Note the Summary of Advisory Committees, Councillor Briefings and other Informal Meetings of Councillors at **Appendix A** to this report, for incorporation in the minutes of this meeting.
- (3) Note that reports by Mayors and Councillors submitted prior to the meeting and circulated to Councillors, will be incorporated in the minutes of this meeting.
- (4) Note the Community Advisory Committees six-month progress report for the period 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023 (**Appendix B**).
- (5) Note that there was one confidential council resolution made public for the month of May 2023.
- (6) Note the response to questions taken on notice during Public Question Time at the Council Meeting held on 22 May 2023, at **Appendix C** to this report.
- (7) Note Councillor Laurence took leave for 7 days from 14 June 2023.
- (8) Note the Deputy Secretary, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action has been advised Councillor Messina will continue as Council's representative on the Recycling Victoria Local Government Advisory Committee.
- (9) Note the Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report (**Appendix D**) and Annual Performance Report (**Appendix E**) **which will be updated to reflect Audit and Risk Committee memberships attendance on 19 June 2023 prior to be published on Council's web site.**

Cr. Rennie proposed to include an additional point (10) as follows:

(10) Note that Cr. Newton has been re-elected to the board of VLGA.

The amendment was accepted by the mover and the seconder.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. S Newton
SECONDED: Cr. L Messina

That Council:

- (1) Note the Governance Report – May 2023.
- (2) Note the Summary of Advisory Committees, Councillor Briefings and other Informal Meetings of Councillors at Appendix A to this report, for incorporation in the minutes of this meeting.
- (3) Note that reports by Mayors and Councillors submitted prior to the meeting and circulated to Councillors, will be incorporated in the minutes of this meeting.
- (4) Note the Community Advisory Committees six-month progress report for the period 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023 (Appendix B).
- (5) Note that there was one confidential council resolution made public for the month of May 2023.
- (6) Note the response to questions taken on notice during Public Question Time at the Council Meeting held on 22 May 2023, at Appendix C to this report.
- (7) Note Councillor Laurence took leave for 7 days from 14 June 2023.
- (8) Note the Deputy Secretary, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action has been advised Councillor Messina will continue as Council's representative on the Recycling Victoria Local Government Advisory Committee.
- (9) Note the Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report (Appendix D) and Annual Performance Report (Appendix E) which will be updated to reflect Audit and Risk Committee memberships attendance on 19 June 2023 prior to be published on Council's web site.
- (10) Note that Cr. Newton has been re-elected to the board of VLGA.**

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 23-046**

MOVED: Cr. S Newton
SECONDED: Cr. L Messina

That Council:

- (1) Note the Governance Report – May 2023.
- (2) Note the Summary of Advisory Committees, Councillor Briefings and other Informal Meetings of Councillors at Appendix A to this report, for incorporation in the minutes of this meeting.
- (3) Note that reports by Mayors and Councillors submitted prior to the meeting and circulated to Councillors, will be incorporated in the minutes of this meeting.
- (4) Note the Community Advisory Committees six-month progress report for the period 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023 (Appendix B).
- (5) Note that there was one confidential council resolution made public for the month of May 2023.
- (6) Note the response to questions taken on notice during Public Question Time at the Council Meeting held on 22 May 2023, at Appendix C to this report.

- (7) Note Councillor Laurence took leave for 7 days from 14 June 2023.
- (8) Note the Deputy Secretary, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action has been advised Councillor Messina will continue as Council's representative on the Recycling Victoria Local Government Advisory Committee.
- (9) Note the Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report (Appendix D) and Annual Performance Report (Appendix E) which will be updated to reflect Audit and Risk Committee memberships attendance on 19 June 2023 prior to be published on Council's web site.
- (10) Note that Cr. Newton has been re-elected to the board of VLGA.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS – 26 JUNE 2023

REPORT OF CR. JULIE WILLIAMS, MAYOR

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

- 3 x Councillor Briefing sessions
- 4 x Councillor only meetings
- 2 x Mayor, Deputy Mayor and CEO
- 2 x Mayor, Deputy Mayor catch up
- Monthly Council meeting
- Mayor and CEO weekly meeting
- Meeting with Kwabena Ansah
- Meeting with CEO and Kat Theophanous MP
- Filming for Council meeting outcomes
- Meeting with residents
- Filming for Reconciliation Week
- Australia's Biggest Morning Tea
- Reservoir East Family Centre Opening with Minister for Early Childhood and Pre-Prep, Ingrid Stitt MP
- Meeting with CEO and Nathan Lambert MP - Monthly Meeting
- Meeting with Nathan Lambert MP and Kristian Gandolfo, Member of Preston Market Traders Group
- Interfaith Advisory Committee
- M9 Mayors and CEOs meeting
- Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum Meeting No 27 - All members
- Reservoir Suburban Revitalisation Board Meeting
- Special Council Meeting
- John Nugent
- Northern Business Achievement Awards Breakfast

- Northern Bullants Football Club - Charity Home Match - Raising funds for the Good Friday Appeal
- MAV Metropolitan North Regional Meeting
- Filming for next Mayoral Social Media Video: Refugee Week
- Disability Advisory Committee
- Keon Park Children's Hub - Visit with Minister Danny Pearson
- Taskforce Canberra Delegation - Catch Up
- Metropolitan Transport Forum Monthly Meeting
- Citizenship Ceremony
- Active and Health Ageing Advisory Committee Meeting
- Darebin Chess Tournament
- Australian Local Government Association conference - Canberra
- Hearing of Submissions Committee Meeting
- Planning Committee Meeting
- Meeting with the Hon Ted O'Brien, Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Energy and Senior Adviser, James Fleay
- Meeting with Partnerships and Projects Division and Darebin Council
- Meeting with Senator Penny Allman-Payne
- Meeting with Senator Jana Stewart
- La Trobe University Hockey Club - Pride Round
- Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
- Visit Holy Name Primary School
- Filming for NAIDOC Week
- CEO Committee Meeting
- Refugee Week 2023 Event - Finding Freedom through the Decades
- Refugee Week 2023 Event - Refugee Journey Finding Freedom
- Meeting with Senior Adviser, Housing Minister Julie Collins MP
- Meeting with Senator Karen Grogan
- Meeting with Macedonian Priest
- Attended to matter and discussion with residents regarding bin collection, hard rubbish, Preston Market graffiti, Budget, Industrial strike planning, tree protection, home help, NGC, NARC, Sports club grants

REPORT OF CR. GAETANO GRECO

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

- Councillor Activity Report
- Council Budget Briefing
- Council Meeting
- Councillor Weekly meeting

REPORT OF CR. LINA MESSINA,

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

- Weekly meeting with Mayor
- Meeting with Vicky & Kylie Bennetts- Economic Forum
- Meeting with Vicky G & Kylie Bennetts- Migration Monument
- Discussions with CEO and Mayor
- Councillor briefing
- CEO Employment Matters committee
- Audit and Risk Committee
- Meetings with various traders to discuss economic forum
- Meeting with multicultural group to discuss migration monument
- Meeting with Preston Lions, Northern Bullants, Preston Cricket Club, Northcote City Football Club
- Discussions with Nathan Lambert
- Meeting Leader of the State Opposition Leader John Prosecuto & Evan Mullholland
- Meeting with Operators at Olivia Social
- Meeting with Cajo owner to discuss planning application at Radford Rd,
- Meeting at Genobile Saba

REPORT OF CR. TIM LAURENCE

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

- Council meeting
- Council budget briefings
- Planning meeting
- Refugee presentation at Intercultural centre

REPORT OF CR. SUSANNE NEWTON

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

- Weekly Councillor meetings

- Fortnightly meetings with CEO and Mayor
- Fortnightly meetings with Mayor
- Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) board meeting
- CEO Employment Matters committee meeting
- Women's Parliament Day, meetings with MPs Michaela Settle, Peter Walsh, Emma Kealy about ending Non-disclosure agreements (NDAS) and attended question time
- Metropolitan Transport Forum Ambassador meeting
- Weekly Councillor briefing sessions
- Audit and Risk Committee (attended as an observer)
- Early Childhood Budget and Reform briefing session
- Visit to Reservoir Neighbourhood House to farewell Angie Davidson
- Back your Neighbour Mayoral Taskforce supporting refugees and asylum seekers - meetings in federal parliament with MPs Kylea Tink and Allegra Spender and attended question time
- Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly in Canberra
- Metropolitan Transport Forum meeting
- Darebin Nature Trust meeting
- Darebin Art & Heritage Advisory panel meeting
- Special Council meeting
- Reservoir East Family Centre opening
- Interview for research study through La Trobe University on women in politics
- Victorian Local Government Association (VLGA) board election - successfully re-elected to the board for a three-year term
- Williamson Community Leadership Program
- Do you want to be a Councillor? Session for prospective council candidates with Councillor Sophie Wade
- Do you want to be a Councillor? Session for prospective council candidates with Councillor Tomas Lightbody
- Opening of Zelda D'Aprano statue at Trades Hall

REPORT OF CR. SUSAN RENNIE

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

- Council Meeting
- Special Council Meeting
- Hearing of Submissions Committee
- Council Briefings
- Planning Committee Meeting
- Budget discussions

- Councillor only weekly meetings
- Refugee Week event
- Sylvester Hive Winter Solstice event
- Meeting to discuss ALGA
- ALGA
- Communities in Control Conference
- Cities Power Partnership Breakfast
- Mayoral Taskforce on People Seeking Asylum morning tea
- Crocodiles at NTH
- Education Network Advisory Meeting
- MAV Metro regional meeting
- Onsite Preston Triangle meeting with council staff

REPORT OF CR. TRENT MCCARTHY

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

- Merri Creek Management Committee Meeting
- Climate Emergency Australia AGM, Board meeting and Advocacy Group meeting
- Northern Business Achievement Awards Breakfast
- NAGA Executive Officer Interviews
- NAGA Farewell Event for Outgoing Executive Officer
- Weekly Councillor meetings
- Weekly Councillor Briefing sessions
- Meetings in federal parliament with Senators and MPs
- Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly in Canberra
- Cities Power Partnership Climate Leaders event
- Climate Emergency Darebin meeting
- Darebin Nature Trust meeting
- Special Council meeting
- Do you want to be a Councillor? Session for prospective council candidates

REPORT OF CR. EMILY DIMITRIADIS

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

- Attended Council briefings
- Attended Councillor-only meetings
- Attended Official Council meeting
- Attended Special meeting

- Attended Planning meeting
- Attended Submission Hearing
- Attended CEO Employment Matters Committee
- Attended meeting with Northcote Cricket Club
- Attended Treaty Cup at Narrandjeri Stadium
- Attended Northcote City Football Club women's clinic
- Presented at the Thornbury High School careers day

REPORT OF CR. TOM HANNAN

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

- Contact (phone / online) with residents about their concerns, e.g. parking, building works, Council budget, street sweeping, Reservoir Leisure Centre, Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre, waste collection, street trees, public housing, library opening hours.
- Attended Australian Institute of Company Directors Course (AICD) online
- Finding Freedom through the Decades – Refugee Week Event
- Darebin Nature Trust meeting
- Hearing of submissions meeting
- Budget briefing
- Councillor briefings
- Councillor only meetings
- Planning Committee meeting
- Special Council meeting
- Council ordinary meeting

10. ITEMS TO BE TABLED

Nil

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

11.1 SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL #PARENTSUP CAMPAIGN

Take notice that at the Council Meeting to be held on 26 June 2023, it is my intention to move:

That Council:

- (1) *Notes support for the #ParentsUp campaign.*
- (2) *Signs up as a supporter of the #ParentsUp campaign and provides the City of Darebin logo by the end of July 2023.*
- (3) *Shares the #ParentsUp petition in the Council e-news platforms and social media by the end of July 2023 (template copy will be provided).*
- (4) *Provides #ParentsUp information packs (to be provided) to Maternal and Child Health centres by the end of July 2023.*
- (5) *Provides #ParentsUp materials (to be provided) to public spaces such as libraries by the end of July 2023.*

Rationale

All children deserve the best start in life to reach their full potential.

Parenting and early childhood matters. The early years, when 90% of a child's brain develops, are vital and present a great opportunity to build children's health, development and learning. The relationships a child has in their early years shape all aspects of their development, including their social, emotional, intellectual and behavioural development, along with later life outcomes including self-confidence, motivation to learn and school achievement.

This makes early learning and care services and Paid Parental Leave critical pieces of social infrastructure - so that families can provide a stable, nurturing environment at home for their children, and access to high quality early education and care outside of the home.

Currently, Australia lags developed countries in the provision of best practice, evidence-based policies that support families and children. This fails to deliver optimal outcomes for children, parents, the community and the economy.

But there is a solution.

With the right investment in expanded Paid Parental Leave and high quality early learning and outside school hours care, Australia can be the best place in the world to be a parent. The #ParentsUp campaign is a parent-led campaign, calling on every Federal political representative to make commitments on:

1. One year of Paid Parental Leave to be shared between parents, at full pay including super.
2. Universal access to Early Childhood Education and Care and Outside School Hours Care delivered by a well supported and properly paid workforce.

Find out more: <https://www.theparenthood.org.au/parentsup>

For every \$1 we invest in early learning in the year before school, we get at least \$2 in return. Quality early learning sets kids up for lifelong success & boosts productivity. Expanding Paid Parental Leave will boost GDP by \$116 billion by 2050.

A shared paid parental scheme would give both parents an opportunity to develop skills in caring for and forming attachments with their children; ensure mothers are able to maintain a connection to the workforce; boost national breastfeeding rates, GDP through greater female participation in the workforce.

Councils right around Australia have a core responsibility in improving and fostering optimal health and wellbeing outcomes for families and children. Reform in this space has the power to support these health and wellbeing goals for councils, for council-run and private centres alike.

This campaign is supported by The Parenthood - an inclusive, independent, not-for-profit movement giving voice to parents, carers and their families.

To find out more visit https://www.theparenthood.org.au/a_better_deal_for_children

Notice Received: 4 June 2023

Notice Given to Councillors 4 June 2023

Date of Meeting: 26 June 2023

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 23-047

MOVED: Cr. S Newton

SECONDED: Cr. S Rennie

That Council:

- (1) *Notes support for the #ParentsUp campaign.*
- (2) *Signs up as a supporter of the #ParentsUp campaign and provides the City of Darebin logo by the end of July 2023.*
- (3) *Shares the #ParentsUp petition in the Council e-news platforms and social media by the end of July 2023 (template copy will be provided).*
- (4) *Provides #ParentsUp information packs (to be provided) to Maternal and Child Health centres by the end of July 2023.*
- (5) *Provides #ParentsUp materials (to be provided) to public spaces such as libraries by the end of July 2023.*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11.2

PRESTON MARKET - NEXT STEPS

Take notice that at the Council Meeting to be held on 26 June 2023, it is my intention to move:

That Council:

- (1) Notes with alarm that Salta Properties has notified all stallholders that their leases would not be renewed and that Preston Market would be closed in January 2024 as a result of protective heritage and development rules recommended by the Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) that the Planning Minister Sonia Kilkenney, MP has publicly announced her intention to implement for the market site.*
- (2) Notes that Salta Properties intention to close Preston Market threatens traders' livelihoods, hundreds of market jobs and the heritage, social and cultural significance of the market together with the market's recognised net community benefit.*
- (3) Notes the public meeting held last month, attended by over 450 community members, called for the existing Preston Market to be retained and publicly acquired to ensure it is safe and put in public hands.*
- (4) Writes to the Premier to request that he establish a process and mechanism for the State Government and Council to work together with traders and the market owners to consider and facilitate viable options for the market to continue operating in the short term (beyond January 2024) and, the retention of the existing market in any future redevelopment of the site consistent with the SAC's key findings.*

Rationale

The recent announcement by Salta Properties to not renew leases and close Preston Market next January puts the future of the existing market in jeopardy along with the livelihoods of traders and hundreds of local market jobs. It will be devastating for the community and traders if Salta get their way and closes the market simply because their proposal to build a new market with 2200 apartments was rejected by the SAC which was set up by the state government to receive advice on the future of the market. The SAC clearly found that there is no compelling reason to demolish 80% of the market as proposed by Salta Properties and recommended controls be put in place to adequately recognise and protect the significance of the market. Therefore, it is incumbent on the state government to consider public acquisition of Preston Market to ensure it flourishes and remains open for the benefit of the community and traders.

Notice Received: 12 June 2023

Notice Given to Councillors 12 June 2023

Date of Meeting: 26 June 2023

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 23-048

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

That Council:

- (1) *Notes with alarm that Salta Properties has notified all stallholders that their leases would not be renewed and that Preston Market would be closed in January 2024 as a result of protective heritage and development rules recommended by the Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) that the Planning Minister Sonia Kilkeny, MP has publicly announced her intention to implement for the market site.*
- (2) *Notes that Salta Properties intention to close Preston Market threatens traders' livelihoods, hundreds of market jobs and the heritage, social and cultural significance of the market together with the market's recognised net community benefit.*
- (3) *Notes the public meeting held last month, attended by over 450 community members, called for the existing Preston Market to be retained and publicly acquired to ensure it is safe and put in public hands.*
- (4) *Writes to the Premier to request that he establish a process and mechanism for the State Government and Council to work together with traders and the market owners to consider and facilitate viable options for the market to continue operating in the short term (beyond January 2024) and, the retention of the existing market in any future redevelopment of the site consistent with the SAC's key findings.*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**PROCEDURAL MOTION TO EXTEND THE MEETING****Council Resolution**

MOVED: Cr. S Rennie
SECONDED: Cr. L Messina

9.28pm - That Council extend the meeting by 30minutes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12. URGENT BUSINESS

13. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL

Peter Smith, CEO, declared a conflict of interest in Confidential Item 13.1 CEO Contractual Matters, and declared an interest in Placemaking X, as he is the Chair of an Advisory Board and is interested in attending a development activity run by that organisation.

9.38pm – Peter Smith, CEO left the meeting.

CLOSE OF MEETING

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr. L Messina
SECONDED: Cr. G Greco

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

13.1 CEO Contractual Matter

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.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.39pm - The meeting was closed to the members of the public.

9.50pm - Cr. Dimitriadis left the Meeting.

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

The meeting was re-opened to the members of the public at 9.54pm.

14. CLOSE OF MEETING


The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

**CITY OF
DAREBIN**

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