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AGENDA

Special Council meeting to be held
at Darebin Civic Centre,
350 High Street Preston
on Monday, 27 June 2016
at 6.00pm.

There will be no Public question time.

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Agenda

1. MEMBERSHIP

Cr Steven Tsitas (Mayor) (Chairperson)

Cr Vince Fontana

Cr Gaetano Greco

Cr Tim Laurence

Cr Bo Li

Cr Trent McCarthy

Cr Angela Villella

Cr Oliver Walsh

Cr Julie Williams

2. APOLOGIES

3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

4.1 2016/2017 BUDGET REFERRALS

Author: Executive Manager Corporate Governance and Performance

Reviewed By: Chief Executive

Report Background

This report provides an opportunity for Councillors to disclose any conflicts of interest in relation to the 2016/2017 Budget.

Previous Council Resolution

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

Previous Briefing(s)

This matter has not previously been to a Councillor briefing.

Council Plan Goal/Endorsed Strategy

Not applicable

Summary

Funding is included in the 2016/2017 Budget for a diverse range of activities across the municipality. The need for Councillors to disclose a conflict or interest where one exists in relation to any of these activities requires that they be addressed separately as part of the Budget process.

Any items in the Budget in which a Councillor discloses a conflict of interest are to be dealt with by separate resolution under this 'Budget Referrals' process. Once all disclosures have been made and the items which are the subject of any disclosure are determined by the Council, all Councillors are able to vote on the 2016/2017 Budget.

Recommendation

THAT:

- (1) The Mayor invites Councillors to disclose any conflicts of interest in relation to adoption of the 2016/2017 Budget by classifying the type and describing the nature of the interest in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*.
- (2) Following each disclosure, Council approve the relevant project and the inclusion of associated funding in the 2016/2017 Budget.

Introduction

In developing the 2016/2017 Budget, an extensive range of activities have been considered for funding. Councillors who have a conflict of interest in any items to be considered are required to disclose the type and nature of the interest.

Due to the wide ranging nature of these activities, it is reasonably foreseeable that in any given year, more than half of the Councillors would disclose a conflict of some sort and be required to excuse themselves from the vote on the Budget.

As this would make the adoption of an annual Budget unworkable in practice, the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) provides a mechanism for Councillors to vote on a budget, without compromising their position by being in a position of clear conflict.

The Act provides that if a Budget to be approved by a Council includes funding for a matter in which a Councillor has a conflict of interest, the Councillor is taken not to have a conflict of interest for the purposes of approving the Budget if the Council approved the matter and the proposed funding previously and the Councillor disclosed the nature of the conflict at the time the funding was approved by the Council.

In the event that a Councillor forms the view that despite this process, they are still unable to cast a vote on the passage of the annual Budget, a mechanism exists to declare a 'conflicting personal interest' under section 79B of the Act and apply to the Council to be exempted from voting.

Issues and Discussion

At the meeting, the Mayor will invite Councillors to disclose any items contained in the 2016/2017 Budget in which they have a conflict of interest.

Any items proposed for inclusion in the Budget in which a Councillor discloses a conflict of interest are to be dealt with individually and by separate resolution under this 'Budget Referrals' process.

Once all disclosures have been made and the items which are the subject of any disclosure are determined by the Council, all Councillors are able to freely vote on the 2016/2017 Budget.

Options for Consideration

Nil

Financial and Resource Implications

Nil

Risk Management

Nil

Policy Implications**Economic Development**

Nil

Environmental Sustainability

There are no environmental sustainability policy implications arising from this report.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

There are no human rights, equity and inclusion policy implications arising from this report.

Other

This report has been prepared to address section 79C(2) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, in relation to approval of a Council Budget.

Future Actions

Council to consider the 2016/2017 Budget

Consultation and Advocacy

Nil

Related Documents

- 2016/2017 Budget (**Appendix A**)
- *Local Government Act 1989*

Disclosure of Interest

Section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

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

4.2 ADOPTION OF 2016/2017 COUNCIL BUDGET AND DECLARATION OF RATES

Author: Chief Financial Officer

Reviewed By: Director Corporate Services

Report Background

The Proposed Budget 2016/2017 was received at a Meeting of Council on 2 May 2016. At that meeting, Council resolved to give public notice in accordance with section 129 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) of Council's intention to adopt the Proposed Budget.

In response to the public notice, sixty-nine written submissions were received by the close of business on 3 June 2016. Twelve of the submitters were heard by the Hearing of Submissions Committee on 9 June 2016.

The Proposed Budget 2016/2017 presented a financially sound budget that maintains all services from the previous year which is balanced and community focused. It seeks to maximise meeting multi-pronged community expectations with a rate increase of 2.5% which has been set in accordance with the rate cap increase set by the State Government.

It is recommended that Council adopt the attached Budget 2016/2017, declare the rates for the 2016/2017 financial year and that public notice be given of the decision in accordance with the Act.

Previous Council Resolution

At its meeting held on 2 May 2016, Council resolved:

That

- (1) *Public Notice be given in accordance with sections 129 and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 of Council's intention to adopt, at a Special Meeting of Council proposed to be held at 7.00 pm on Monday 27 June 2016, the proposed 2016/2017 Budget (Appendix A) presented to this meeting with an additional budget line 'Active Transport Infrastructure Partnerships – State and Federal' and an allocation of \$300,000 to be included under Capital Works – Footpaths and Clearways.*
- (2) *Public Notice be given in accordance with sections 169 and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 of Council's intention to grant, at a Special Meeting of Council proposed to be held at 7.00 pm on Monday 27 June 2016, a rate rebate to pensioners in the 2016/2017 year in the amount of \$150 to each owner of rateable land who is an 'eligible recipient' within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004.*
- (3) *Any person who makes a written submission in relation to the proposed 2016/2017 Budget or in relation to the granting of a rate rebate to pensioners and requests to be heard in support of the written submission, be heard by Council's Hearing of Submissions Committee at a meeting to be held in the Council Chamber, Darebin Civic Centre, 350 High Street Preston at 7.00 pm on Thursday 9 June 2016.*

Previous Briefings

- Councillor Workshop – Briefing 1: 12 December 2015
- Councillor Planning Weekend – Briefing 2: 5 March 2016
- Councillor Briefing 3: 31 March 2016
- Councillor Briefing 4: 18 April 2016
- Councillor Briefing 5: 26 April 2016

Council Plan Goal/Endorsed Strategy

Open and Accountable Democracy

Summary

The Council must prepare a Budget for each financial year. The Council must ensure that the Budget contains the information specified in the Act and all details required by the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* (“the Regulations”).

Council has completed its statutory obligations and the Act prescribes that Council must adopt its final budget by 30 June each year.

This report presents the 2016/2017 Budget and recommends that Council adopt the attached 2016/2017 Budget, declare the rates for the 2016/2017 Financial Year and that public notice be given of the decision in accordance with the Act.

Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Council having considered all submissions received and having complied with the requirements of sections 127 and 129 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, adopt the attached Budget 2016/2017 inclusive of the following amendments:
 - (a) The outcomes of Council's consideration of public submissions to the Proposed Budget 2016/2017;
 - (b) Items that have been referred to the Budget 2016/2017 by reports to Council which require additional funding not considered during the budget development process;
 - (c) Decrease the financial assistance grant income by \$258,535 to reflect the Victorian Grants Commission allocation of general purpose and local roads grants;
 - (d) Decrease the capital works program – roads by \$433,000 due to Roads to Recovery funding of this amount being deferred to 2017/2018 by deferring Garden Street road rehabilitation and Myrtle Grove road rehabilitation projects to be completed in 2017/2018;
 - (e) Other minor modifications including revisions made to the fees and charges schedule including:
 - i) Correction of statutory fees for Loading Zone Clearway Offences \$155 (not \$156) and Stopping Offences \$93 (not \$91);

- ii) Removal of Public Indemnity Insurance under footpath trading outdoor dining fees and renaming Itinerant Traders (per year) to Mobile Vendor Permit;
 - iii) Update of transfer station fees to reflect increased landfill disposal rates notified in June 2016 as follows:
 - Mixed (general) waste - (M3) \$92.50 up from \$87
 - Any Waste – (Car boot load) Flat rate \$35 up from \$30
 - Any waste – (Station Wagon load) Flat rate \$46.50 up from \$45
 - Mixed (General) Waste – Per Tonne (Minimum 1 tonne limit) \$215 up from \$205.
- (2) In accordance with sections 158 and 161 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council declares the Rates and Annual Service Charges for the 2016/2017 rating year commencing 1 July 2016 and ending 30 June 2017 as detailed in the Budget 2016/2017.
- (3) The amount of \$116,337,736 declared as the amount which Council intends to raise by general rates.
- (4) General rates must be paid by four instalments made on or before the following dates:
- (a) Instalment 1 – 30 September 2016
 - (b) Instalment 2 – 30 November 2016
 - (c) Instalment 3 – 29 February 2017
 - (d) Instalment 4 – 31 May 2017.
- (5) In accordance with section 169 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council declares a rebate in relation to rates of \$150 to each owner of rateable land who is an 'eligible recipient' within the meaning of the *State Concessions Act 2004* to assist the proper development of the municipal district as detailed in the Budget 2016/2017 and is being granted because Council considers that it provides a benefit to the Darebin community in that it provides some relief on rates to elderly and other eligible residents in addition to the State Government rates concession and is consistent with principles of fairness and equity.
- (6) In accordance with section 172 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council will charge interest for rates and charges which have not been paid by the date the instalment is due and payable.
- (7) All submitters be advised that Council has considered their submissions relating to the Proposed Budget 2016/2017 and that the submitters be advised:
- (a) The Budget 2016/2017 is financially responsible, supports the goals and strategies included in the 2013-2017 Council Plan, and fits within a longer term framework of financial sustainability.
 - (b) The Budget 2016/2017 raises general rates by an increase of 2.5%.
 - (c) The level of rates raised allows Council to maintain service levels and deliver the detailed capital works program.
 - (d) The capital works projects included and considered in the Budget 2016/2017 have been determined through a rigorous process of consultation, review and prioritisation.
 - (e) The outcome of the consideration as it relates to their specific submission, and they be thanked for their contributions.

- (8) Council give public notice of the adoption of the Budget 2016/2017 in accordance with section 130(2) of the *Local Government Act 1989*.
 - (9) A copy of the adopted Budget 2016/2017 be provided to the Minister for Local Government in accordance with section 130(4) of the *Local Government Act 1989*.
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Introduction

The Proposed Budget 2016/2017 was received at a Meeting of Council on 2 May 2016.

Subsequent to that meeting, public notice of the proposed adoption of the Budget, in accordance with section 129 of the Act, was given in the The Age newspaper on 4 May 2016 with copies in the Preston Leader on 10 May 2016 and the Northcote Leader on 12 May 2016.

The Proposed Budget was made available for inspection at all Council's Customer Service Centres and published on Council's website between 4 May 2016 and 3 June 2016 (both dates inclusive and written submissions were invited. Submissions closed on Friday 3 June 2016.

In response to the public notice, sixty-nine community written submissions were received by the close of business on 3 June 2016. Twelve of the submitters were heard by the Hearing of Submissions Committee on 9 June 2016.

Issues and Discussion

Council has prepared a Budget for 2016/17 which is aligned to the vision in the Council Plan 2013-17. It seeks to maintain services and infrastructure as well as deliver projects and services that are valued by our community, and do this within the rate increase mandated by the State Government.

The Budget 2016/2017 has been prepared in the context of key principles in the Council's Strategic Resource Plan that underpin long term financial planning.

These principles are:

- Maintenance of the scope and standard of ongoing services provided to the Darebin community.
- A focus on renewing community assets such as roads, footpaths, open space and buildings to ensure they are maintained at an appropriate standard to meet required service levels.
- Generation of sufficient ongoing income to fund Council services and capital works commitments over the longer term.
- Holding of sufficient cash and other and other assets in order to meet Council's payment obligations to suppliers and employees.

In addition the preparation of the Budget 2016/2017 reflects the principles of Council's Charter of Good Governance:

- Transparency
 - Accountability
 - Equity and Inclusion
-

- Effectiveness and Efficiency
- Community Engagement
- Ethical Decision Making

This Budget projects a surplus of \$10.51 million for 2016/17, however, it should be noted that the adjusted underlying result is a surplus of \$5.89 million after adjusting for capital grants and contributions.

The Budget 2016/2017 presents a financially sound budget that maintains all services from the previous year. This budget is balanced and community focused. The average rate will rise by 2.5% in line with the order by the Minister for Local Government on 14 December 2015 under the Fair Go Rates System.

Key drivers of the 2016/2017 Proposed Budget:

1. To fund ongoing service delivery – business as usual (balanced with greater service demands from residents)
2. To fund renewal of infrastructure and community assets
3. To cope with growth in the population of Darebin residents
4. To cope with cost shifting from the State Government
5. To cope with a reduction in funding from the Commonwealth Government via the Victoria Grants Commission caused by their freezing of indexation of the grant.

This will be a revaluation year. Valuations will be as per the General Revaluation dated 1 January 2016 (as amended by supplementary valuations).

The Victorian State Government has introduced a new model budget which includes mandatory sections for 2016/17. The 2016/2017 Proposed Budget adheres to this model.

Community Submissions

#	Submitter	Issue
1	Jordan Andrews	Upgrade or removal of East Preston Senior Citizens Centre, Donald Street, Preston
2	Vance Duke	Safety at Queen Street, Reservoir
3	Rebecca Milnes	Pedestrian path and fencing to Dennis Station
4	Helen Jennings	Opposing Council's purchase of State Government land next to Merri Creek and Railway
5	Alastair Jaffray	1. Better design of public spaces – Murray Rd market area 2. St Georges Road bike and pedestrian safety
6	Paddy McVeigh	Install 3 portables on vacant block 35 Sturdee Street, Reservoir
7	Colleen Duggan	Acknowledge Council's commitment to Neighbourhood Houses
8	Chris Lombardo	
9	Gina Wittingslow	

10	James Allery	LE Cotchin Reserve: upgrade of cricket nets and centre wicket pitch
11	Penny Jamieson	In support of Darebin contribution towards Christmas decorations
12	Freedom Preston-Clark	Establishment of a casserole club program in Darebin
13	Nell Thompson	<p>Additional funding be allocated to preventative intake strategies for animals consisting of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> targeted desexing program provision of desexing vouchers to carers of cats who might otherwise be impounded
14	Rallou Lubitz	
15	Sarah Spencer	
16	Heather Carmichael	
17	Shannon Stacey	
18	Samantha Henry	
19	Sarah Davidson	
20	Josara de Lange	
21	Lee O'Mahoney	
22	Sonia Kretschmar	
23	Tess Cutler	
24	Douglas Sedunary	
25	Kathleen Chapman	
26	Jacob McGarry	
27	Lachlan Sedunary	
28	Marica Selpietro	
29	Jenny Morris	
30	Aleisha Leonard	Upgrade of WH Robinsons reserve pavilion
31	Maurizio Tagliano	
32	Ken Griffin	
33	Martin & Veronica Pradel	
34	Sue Thornton	
35	Catherine Hill	
36	Rebecca Mayo	
37	Marina Colbasso	
38	Nick Mikropoulos	Opposing the purchase of the Ruthven School Site

39	Aldo Crupi	Purchase of Ruthven Primary School site	
40	Phyllis Vespucci		
41	John Cisternino		
42	Fiona Duncan		
43	Maria Longo		
44	Elena Dajis		
45	Robert Lapenta		
46	Natarajan Balakrishnan		
47	Jane Miller		
48	Gennarino & Giuseppina Cerminara		
49	Bruce & Maria Nedenbousch		
50	Brett Middleton		
51	Ranjit Singh		
52	Serena O'Meley		
53	Josip & Slava Kernjak		
54	Francesca & Giuseppe Risoli		
55	Angela Hung		
56	Darren Chetcuti		
57	Keith Coffey		
58	Peggy Chetcuti		
59	Adele Mach		
60	Mrs Davies		
61	Joe Disco		
62	Josie Iaria		
63	Chris Erlandsen		
64	Maria Poletti		Increase Statutory Planning budget to improve service and planning decisions

65	Paul Dupes	Building sites on Prospect Hill Drive
66	Kim Le Cerf	Solar saver program
67	Darebin Environmental Reference Group	Commend Council on its commitment to environmental programs
68	Susanne Newton	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase role and funding of Neighbourhood Houses 2. Expand the reach of the Active Spaces program 3. Lease or purchase of Ruthven Primary School site & Lakeside 4. Allocate funds for a common bond fund and temporary housing pilot project using unused apartments and houses for survivors/victims of family violence
69	Stephanie Amir	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase financial commitment to the upgrade of clubrooms and change room facilities at WH Robinson Reserve 2. Signalised crossing at the <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. intersection of Bracken Ave and Miller St b. corner of High and Raglan St, Preston c. Signalised crossing at the corner of Victoria Rd and Clifton St, Richmond 3. Financial support for Mayer Park to <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Erect a mid-height fence for children safety b. Improve lighting to increase opportunities for evening training c. Tripping safety concerns due to hard and uneven surfaces d. Fund a proper playground at Mayer Park e. Continue funding for the Friends of Mayer Park-initiated outdoor cinema nights

Copies of the submissions were circulated separately to Councillors for consideration.

The following submitters appeared before a meeting of Council's Hearing of Submissions Committee on 9 June 2016 to be heard in support of their written submissions:

- Vance Duke (Queen Street Reservoir Residents) – Submission # 2
- Paddy McVeigh (PRACE) – Submission # 6
- Colleen Duggan (SPAN Community House) – Submission # 7
- James Allery (Vice President - Rosebank Cricket Club) – Submission # 10
- Freedom Preston-Clark (Darebin Information Volunteer and Resource Service (DIVRS)) – Submission # 12
- Lee O'Mahoney (animal rescue volunteer) – Submission # 21

- Kathleen Chapman (resident, Save Darebin Pets) – Submission # 25
- Jasmine Hirst (Darebin Women’s Sports Club) – Submission # 30
- Natarajan Balakrishnan (resident) – Submission # 46
- Serena O’Meley (resident) – Submission # 52
- Stephanie Amir (resident) on behalf of Kim Le Cerf (resident) – Submission # 66
- Susanne Newton (resident) – Submission # 68
- Stephanie Amir (resident) – Submission # 69

1: Jordan Andrews

Synopsis of Submission

The submission requests if there is funding in the budget for the upgrade or removal of the East Preston Senior Citizens’ Centre, Donald Street, Preston.

Comments on Submission:

The building is dated and in need of a major refurbishment, with multi-year funding required. No funds allocated or available in the Budget 2016/17. Council will continue to provide maintenance works to the building as required.

No changes are recommended to the 2016/2017 budget arising from this submission.

2: Vance Duke, Queen Street Reservoir Residents

Synopsis of Submission:

The submission requests allocation of funds for safety, speed calming, traffic flow balancing and parking control to be included in the Budget 2016/2017 to address safety concerns in Queen Street, Reservoir. Detail of the recommended expenditure was included in the submission.

Comments on Submission:

Council has allocated \$1,500,000 to traffic management which could be allocated to address this issue if identified by Council as a priority. Officers estimate the cost works to address the issues identified would be in the order of \$100,000.

No changes are recommended to the 2016/2017 budget arising from this submission.

3: Rebecca Milnes

Synopsis of Submission

The submission is requests allocation of funds for a permanent pedestrian path and fencing to Dennis Stationing.

Comments on Submission:

Council has allocated \$50,000 to obtain approvals and undertake design within in the Walking Program in the Budget 2016/2017. Funds for the delivery of the path and fence will be applied for through the 2017/18 budget process.

No changes are recommended to the 2016/2017 budget arising from this submission.

4: Helen Jennings*Synopsis of Submission:*

The submission requests that Council does not allocate funding for the purchase of the State Government owned land next to the railway and Merri Creek as the area is very well served with public open space unlike some other areas in Thornbury, Preston and parts of Reservoir.

Comments on Submission:

Council has yet to make a decision on whether or not to purchase or lease this land from VicTrack. A report will be provided to Council in July 2016.

No changes are recommended to the 2016/2017 budget arising from this submission.

5: Alastair Jaffray*Synopsis of Submission:*

The submission is requests allocation of funding and resources to promote strong public realm design to ensure liveability and access to the Murray Road market area, St Georges Road bicycle path (pedestrian and bike rider safety) and Plenty Road.

Comments on Submission:

While the specific sites are not clear from the submission, Officers note:

- The Preston market and Woolworths area are both in private ownership and therefore not the responsibility of Council
- Plenty Road is subject to the Junction Urban Master Plan which will be implemented in the coming years
- Council is working with Melbourne Water regarding the St Georges Road bicycle path and \$600,000 has been allocated in the budget for pedestrian and cycling works.

No changes are recommended to the 2016/2017 budget arising from this submission.

6: Paddy McVeigh, PRACE*Synopsis of Submission*

The submission requests a reconsideration of a capital works project to provide three portables on the vacant block at 35 Sturdee Street, Reservoir.

Comments on Submission:

Not identified as a priority project for 2016/2017 and the identified funding requirement of \$475,000 available in the Budget 2016/2017. Site not required for the direct delivery of Council services.

No changes are recommended to the 2016/2017 budget arising from this submission.

7 – 9: Colleen Duggan, SPAN, Chris Lombardo, PNH, Gina Wittingslow, Jika Jika CC*Synopsis of Submission*

The submissions acknowledge the commitment that Council has shown to Neighbour Houses and the funding allocated in the Budget 2016/2017.

Comments on Submission:

Council thanks Darebin Neighbourhood House Network comments and looks forward to continue to work with them in future years.

No changes are recommended to the 2016/2017 budget arising from these submissions.

10: James Allery, Rosebank Cricket Club*Synopsis of Submission*

The submission requests Council to fund the upgrade of the cricket nets and the centre wicket pitch at LE Cotchin Reserve to support the 150 members playing in junior and senior competitions as well as the junior development program.

Comments on Submission:

Council has identified the cricket facilities at this ground as requiring an upgrade by 2019. Funds not available in the Budget 2016/17 Budget but will be reconsidered for funding as part of the budget development process for 2017/18.

No changes are recommended to the 2016/2017 budget arising from this submission.

11: Penny Jamieson*Synopsis of Submission*

The submission supports Council's allocation in the Budget 2016/2017 towards Christmas decorations and looks forward to the ongoing partnership between Council and the shopping precincts in Darebin.

Comments on Submission:

Council thanks Penny Jamieson for her comments and looks forward to continue to work with the shopping precincts in Darebin in future years.

No changes are recommended to the 2016/2017 budget arising from this submission.

12: Freedom Preston-Clark, DIVRS*Synopsis of Submission*

The submission requests Council's support for the Darebin Information Volunteer and Resource Service's proposal to establish and operate a Casserole Club in the City of Darebin. The Casserole Club is a meal sharing and community strengthening program that connects people who are happy to share a portion of their home cooked meal with people who may be socially isolated and/or not able to regularly cook for themselves.

Comments on Submission:

An innovative program that supports food security, nutrition and provides further opportunity for volunteering in Darebin, aligning to the 2013-17 Health and Wellbeing Plan and Council Plan Goal Three. The amount requested is substantial and well beyond what can be supported through the allocated 2016/17 food security budget of \$10,253. Further work could be undertaken with DIVRS looking at different ways that funding may be raised to run this program including DIVRS absorbing some of the costs through the annual funding agreement allocated for DIVRS.

No changes are recommended to the 2016/2017 budget arising from this submission.

13 - 29: Additional funding for preventative intake strategies for animal management*Synopsis of Submission*

The submissions received from Nell Thompson (G2Z), Rallou Lubitz, Heather Carmichael, Shannon Stacey, Samantha Henry, Sarah Davidson, Josara de Lange, Lee O'Mahoney, Sonia Kretschmar, Tess Cutler, Douglas Sedunary, Kathleen Chapman, Jacob MGarry, Lachlan Sedunary, Marica Selpietro, and Jenny Morris, request Council to provide additional funding to animal desexing and vet vouchers than the amount of \$20,000 provided in the Budget 2016/2017.

Comments on Submission:

Council allocated \$50,000 in 2015/16 which allowed un-owned and semi-owned cats to be desexed, vaccinated and flea/worm treated. Desexing cats reduces overall cat numbers and reduces the negative impact of cats. An allocation of \$20,000 has been included in the Budget 2016/2017.

No changes are recommended to the 2016/2017 budget arising from these submissions.

30 - 37: Upgrade of WH Robinsons Reserve pavilion*Synopsis of Submission*

The submissions received from Aleisha Leonard, Maurizio Tagliano, Ken Griffin, Martin and Veronica Pradel, Sue Thornton, Catherine Hill, Rebecca Mayo, and Marina Colbasso request Council to provide funding to upgrade the facilities at WH Robinson Reserve including the provision of toilet, shower and change room facilities to support women's sporting activities at this venue.

Comments on Submission:

These works are planned as a multi-year project with \$200,000 has been included in the Budget 2016/2017 and \$900,000 projected for 2017/2018.

No changes are recommended to the 2016/2017 budget arising from these submissions.

38: Nick Mikropoulos*Synopsis of Submission*

The submission outlines that another park is not needed at the site of the former Ruthven Primary School and that the site should be developed for apartments and shops.

Comments on Submission:

Previous analysis has shown that this land, or at least a portion of it, is required for municipal purposes to fill a gap in open space provision in the area.

No changes are recommended to the 2016/2017 budget arising from this submission.

39 – 63 & 69(3): Purchase of the former Ruthven Primary School site*Synopsis of Submission*

The submissions received from Aldo Crupi, Phyllis Vespucci, John Cisternino, Fiona Duncan, Maria Longo, Elena Dagens, Robert Lapenta, Natarajan Balakrishnan, Jane Miller, Gennarino & Giuseppina Cerminara, Bruce and Maria Nedenbousch, Brett Middleton, Ranjit Singh, Serena O'Meley, Josip and Slava Kernjak, Francesca and Giuseppe Risoli, Angela Hung, Darren Chetcuti, Keith Coffey, Peggy Chetcuti, Adele Mach, Mrs Davies, Joe Disco, Josie Iaria, Chris Erlandsen, and Susanne Newton seek Council set aside \$5 million from the Open Space and Recreation Reserve to purchase the former Ruthven Primary School site for public open space. Some of the submissions also request funds for the purchase of the land adjoining the Merri Creek that was formerly part of Lakeside Secondary College.

Comments on Submission:

Cost is currently unknown and valuation needs to be undertaken by the Valuer General Victoria. Funds are held in the Public Open Space and Recreation Reserve do not have to be set aside as part of the budget process.

No changes are recommended to the 2016/2017 budget arising from this submission.

64: Maria Poletti, Darebin Appropriate Development Association*Synopsis of Submission*

The submission requests that Council increase the funding for Statutory Planning from \$3.063 million to \$4 million to fund:

- Increased staff (experienced planners)
- Increased training for statutory planning staff
- Improvements in the online services software
- Better submissions to VCAT and statutory planning bodies.

Comments on Submission:

Council's statutory planning is comparable other councils in terms of general performance and investment. Feedback on the online services software is noted and is identified as an opportunity for improvement.

No changes are recommended to the 2016/2017 budget arising from this submission.

65: Paul Dupes*Synopsis of Submission*

The submission requests that Council take action on building sites in Prospect Hill Drive, Bundoora that have been partially constructed for many years.

Comments on Submission:

Council's building team are actively following this up with the land owners on building compliance.

No changes are recommended to the 2016/2017 budget arising from this submission.

66: Kim Le Cerf*Synopsis of Submission*

The submission requests that Council make a further commitment to the solar saver program for the 2016/2017 financial year.

Comments on Submission:

The 2015/16 solar saver program uptake has been slow and its implementation will continue through to November 2016. Due to time constraints and staff resourcing it is recommended to consider a program for the 2017/18 year as another program would not be able to be completed in 2016/2017.

No changes are recommended to the 2016/2017 budget arising from this submission.

67: Darebin Environmental Reference Group (DERG)*Synopsis of Submission*

The submission congratulates Council on the Budget 2016/2017 and the funding provided to support environmental outcomes.

Comments on Submission:

Council thanks DERG for their comments and looks forward to continuing working with DERG.

No changes are recommended to the 2016/2017 budget arising from this submission.

68: Susanne Newton*Synopsis of Submission*

The submission requests the funding for the following:

- (1) Increase the role and funding to Darebin's Neighbourhood Houses
- (2) Expand the reach of the Active Spaces program across Darebin
- (3) Allocate funding for former Ruthven Primary School site and former Lakeside Secondary College site to be used as public open space
- (4) Allocate \$100,000 for a common bond fund and temporary housing pilot project where unused apartment and housing in Darebin is made available as temporary accommodation for survivors/victims of family violence.

Comments on Submission:

- (1) CPI increase of 2.5% has been applied to all neighbourhood houses for 2016/17. Alphington Community Centre has had its funding increased to parity with other houses. Approximately \$200K has been allocated in the Budget 2016/2017 for renewal works at Neighbourhood Houses. Annual action plan between Council and network to expand and develop the role of Neighbourhood Houses in supporting the delivery of Council's goals.
- (2) Current funding for Active Spaces is satisfactory and the results so far have been very good. Business Development does not have any additional resources to support the expansion of this program further.
- (3) Cost is currently unknown and valuation needs to be undertaken by the Valuer General Victoria. Funds are held in the Public Open Space and Recreation Reserve do not have to be set aside as part of the budget process.
- (4) This model has been piloted and has not succeeded. This model is not supported by community housing associations or the local emergency relief network without having some end point for these families.

The Community Wellbeing team will continue to consider and where appropriate seek to implement findings of the Royal Commission into Family Violence (including consideration of housing options) through existing resources and State Government resources that may become available.

No changes are recommended to the 2016/2017 budget arising from this submission.

69: Stephanie Amir*Synopsis of Submission*

The submission requests the funding for the following:

- (1) Increase financial commitment to the upgrade of clubrooms and change room facilities at WH Robinson Reserve.
- (2) Signalised crossing at the
 - (a) Intersection of Bracken Ave and Miller St
 - (b) Corner of High and Raglan St, Preston
 - (c) Corner of Victoria Rd and Clifton St, Northcote
- (3) Financial support for Mayer Park to
 - (a) Erect a mid-height fence for children safety
 - (b) Improve lighting to increase opportunities for evening training

- (c) Tripping safety concerns due to hard and uneven surfaces
- (d) Fund a proper playground at Mayer Park
- (e) Continue funding for the Friends of Mayer Park-initiated outdoor cinema.

Comments on Submission:

- (1) These works are planned as a multi-year project with \$200,000 has been included in the Budget 2016/2017 and \$900,000 projected for 2017/2018.
- (2) Significant investment has been made or will be made shortly in all three of these locations to implement pedestrian refuges to improve pedestrian safety. Whilst these locations are important pedestrian links, there are a number of other locations that require pedestrian improvements that would generate greater benefit from this funding than these sites.
- (3) Would need a masterplan (requirement) for Mayer Park before any works undertaken. Leisure has grants that can be applied for during the year to cover some of what is being requested.

No changes are recommended to the 2016/2017 budget arising from this submission.

Options for Consideration

- Adopt the Budget 2016/2017 without amendment. This is the recommended option.
- Adopt the Budget 2016/2017 with amendment. This option is not recommended.

Financial and Resource Implications

All matters raised in this report which have a financial implication have been reflected in the Budget 2016/2017.

Risk Management

The Budget 2016/2017 has been prepared in the context of minimising and mitigating the risks associated with Council's delivery of services and infrastructure to the community.

Policy Implications

Economic Development

The Budget 2016/2017 includes approximately \$1.2 million for Economic Development. Economic development activities proposed for 2016/2017 include maintenance of Wifi in retail strips, activation of vacant shops, working with local trader and business associations to help them improve business performance, and with neighbouring municipalities to develop and implement regional economic growth.

Environmental Sustainability

The Budget 2016/2017 continues Council's funding of environmental operations in a range of areas including waste collection and recycling services, street cleaning, litter collection, park and sporting field maintenance and improvements in the context of drought, water-saving and energy efficiency measures. Funding has also been included to enhance Council's active work with the community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The Council Plan 2013-2017 contains a number of policy directions specifically designed to reflect Council's commitment to social inclusion and diversity, and the Budget 2016/2017 has been prepared in this context. Social inclusion, fairness and equity have been key principles in Council determining how to raise income and allocate expenditure to fund the many services it delivers and infrastructure it maintains and upgrades.

Other

The Budget 2016/2017 has been prepared to give financial effect in the coming year to the objectives set out in the proposed Council Plan 2013-2017 and Strategic Resource Plan.

Future Actions

Following adoption of the Budget 2016/2017, the following actions are required:

- Advise the submitters of Council's decision in relation to the Budget 2016/2017 and the reasons for the decision.
- Give public notice of adoption of the Budget 2016/2017.
- Make a copy of the Budget 2016/2017 available for the public at Customer Service Centres and on Council's website.
- Submit a copy of the Budget 2016/2017 to the Minister for Local Government.
- Forward rate notices for 2016/2017.

Consultation and Advocacy

- Councillors
- Chief Executive
- Directors
- Managers and Coordinators

Related Documents

- Budget 2016/2017 (Appendix A)
- Council Plan 2013-2017
- 2016-2020 Strategic Resource Plan

Disclosure of Interest

Section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

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

4.3 STRATEGIC RESOURCE PLAN 2016 – 2020: REVISION FOLLOWING ADOPTION OF PROPOSED BUDGET 2016/2017

Author: Chief Financial Officer

Reviewed By: Director Corporate Services

Report Background

As the Budget 2016/2017 year is the first year of the Strategic Resource Plan, the previously adopted Strategic Resource Plan must be revised.

This report re-presents the Strategic Resource Plan 2016-2020 and recommends that Council adopt it as its Strategic Resource Plan 2016-2020 and that it forms part of its Council Plan 2013-2017.

The Strategic Resource Plan supports and is consistent with the Council strategic and policy objectives contained in the 2013-2017 Council Plan.

The *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) requires that Councils review and adopt a Strategic Resource Plan not later than 30 June each year. The Strategic Resource Plan outlines the resources required to achieve the strategic objectives articulated in the Council Plan and its format and contents are governed by section 126 of the Act.

Previous Council Resolution

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

Previous Briefings

This matter has not previously been to a Councillor briefing.

Council Plan Goal/Endorsed Strategy

Open and Accountable Democracy

Summary

The *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) requires that Councils review and adopt a Strategic Resource Plan not later than 30 June each year.

Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Adopts the Strategic Resource Plan 2016-2020 (**Appendix A**) as its Strategic Resource Plan for the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2020 including updates to reflect any consequential changes to the Budget 2016/2017 made at time of adoption.
- (2) Adjusts the Council Plan 2013-2017 by replacing the existing Strategic Resource Plan with the Strategic Resource Plan 2016-2020 (**Appendix A**).

- (3) Makes the Strategic Resource Plan 2015/2019 available to the public at its Customer Service Centres and on its website.

Introduction

The Council Plan 2013-2017 was adopted in June 2013, which included the Strategic Resource Plan (SRP) for 2013-2017. Each year, when the annual budget is prepared it is prudent to review the SRP.

That review has been carried out in conjunction with the development of the City of Darebin Budget 2016/2017, and has resulted in a new Strategic Resource Plan, for the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2020.

Issues and Discussion

The attached Strategic Resource Plan 2016-2020 (Appendix A) is consistent with the Budget 2016/2017.

In respect of the next four financial years the Strategic Resource Plan contains:

- The financial statements describing the required financial resources in the form and containing the information required by the Local Government (Finance and Planning) Regulations 2014.
- Statements describing the required non-financial resources, including human resources.

The Strategic Resource Plan assists Council in adopting a budget within a longer term prudent financial framework. The key objective of the Strategic Resource Plan is financial sustainability in the medium to long term, whilst still achieving the Council's strategic objectives as specified in the Council Plan.

The Strategic Resource Plan has been updated through a rigorous process, using the current financial position as a base and factoring in assumptions regarding future increases in income and expenditure for each program and service provided by Council.

The table below provides a summary of the key financial objectives which underpin the Strategic Resource Plan and the outcomes of the Strategic Resource Plan in response to each of these objectives.

Strategic Resource Plan objective	Strategic Resource Plan outcomes
Maintain the scope and standard of ongoing services provided to the Darebin community and be flexible to address changing community needs with innovative services and facilities.	Service levels have been maintained throughout the four year period and a number of new initiatives have been included within the 2015/2016 year.

Strategic Resource Plan objective	Strategic Resource Plan outcomes
Focus on renewing community assets such as roads, footpaths, open space and buildings to ensure they are maintained at an appropriate standard to meet required service levels.	Capital Works funding over the four year period exceeds asset depreciation in each year.
Ensure that Council generates sufficient ongoing income to fund its services and capital works commitments over the longer term.	<p>Operating surpluses have been achieved in each year of the Strategic Resource Plan.</p> <p>The rate increase percentage has been maintained at 2.5% across the 2016 to 2020 Strategic Resource Plan.</p> <p>It should be noted that an underlying operating surplus is only achieved in 2016/2017 and that the forecast underlying deficits will need to be addressed in future periods.</p>
Ensure Council holds sufficient cash and other assets in order to meet payment obligations to suppliers and employees.	Council's forecast liquidity ratios are in excess of 1.50.

It is recommended Council replace the existing the Strategic Resource Plan with the attached Strategic Resource Plan 2015-2019 (**Appendix A**).

No changes have been made to the 2013-2017 Council Plan during the recent review of the Council Plan required under the Act. The Strategy Resource Plan supports and is consistent with the Council strategic and policy objectives contained in the 2013-2017 Council Plan.

Should there be any change to the City of Darebin Council Plan 2013-2017 then the Strategic Resource Plan may also require amendment to reflect the resource consequences.

Options for Consideration

- Adopt the Strategic Resource Plan 2016-2020 without amendment. This is the recommended option.
- Adopt the Strategic Resource Plan 2016-2020 with amendment. This option is not recommended.

Financial and Resource Implications

All matters raised in this report which have a financial implication have been reflected in the Budget 2016/2017 and the Strategic Resource Plan 2016-2020.

Risk Management

The Strategic Resource Plan 2016-2020 has been prepared in the context of minimising and mitigating the risks associated with Council's delivery of services and infrastructure to the community.

Policy Implications

Economic Development

The Strategic Resource Plan 2016-2020 includes ongoing funding for Economic Development initiatives.

Environmental Sustainability

The Strategic Resource Plan 2016-2020 includes ongoing funding of environmental operations in a range of areas including waste collection and recycling services, street cleaning, litter collection, park and sporting field maintenance and improvements in the context of drought, water-saving and energy efficiency measures. Funding has also been included to enhance Council's active work with the community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The Council Plan 2013-2017 contains a number of policy directions specifically designed to reflect Council's commitment to social inclusion and diversity, and the Strategic Resource Plan 2016-2020 has been prepared in this context. Social inclusion, fairness and equity have been key principles in Council determining how to raise income and allocate expenditure to fund the many services it delivers and infrastructure it maintains and upgrades.

Other

The Strategic Resource Plan 2016-2020 has been prepared to give financial effect in the coming four years to the objectives set out in the Council Plan 2013-2017.

Future Actions

Following adoption of the Strategic Resource Plan 2016-2020, the following actions will be undertaken:

- Make a copy of the Strategic Resource Plan 2016-2020 available for the public at Customer Service Centres and on Council's website.

Consultation and Advocacy

- Corporate Services Director

Related Documents

- 2016-2020 Strategic Resource Plan (Appendix A)
- Budget 2016/2017
- Council Plan 2013-2017

Disclosure of Interest

Section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

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

5. CLOSE OF MEETING