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AGENDA

Hearing of Submissions Committee Meeting to be held
at Darebin Civic Centre,
350 High Street Preston
on Thursday, 31 May 2018
at 6.00pm.

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Agenda

1. MEMBERSHIP

Cr. Kim Le Cerf (Mayor) (Chairperson)

Cr. Gaetano Greco

Cr. Steph Amir

Cr. Tim Laurence

Cr. Trent McCarthy

Cr. Lina Messina (Deputy Mayor)

Cr. Susanne Newton

Cr. Susan Rennie

Cr. Julie Williams

2. APOLOGIES

3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Hearing of Submissions Committee Meeting held on 15 June 2017 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

5. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

5.1 PROPOSED BUDGET 2018/2019

Author: Finance Manager

Reviewed By: General Manager Governance and Engagement

PURPOSE

To seek Council's consideration of the submissions made on the Proposed 2018/19 Budget.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its meeting on 9 April 2018, Council resolved to give public notice of its intention to adopt the proposed 2018/19 Budget at a meeting of Council to be held on 12 June 2018.

Prior to adopting the Budget in its final form, Council placed the Proposed Budget on public display inviting submissions by Friday, 11 May 2018 with any person requesting to be heard in support of their written submission to be heard by Council's Hearing of Submissions Committee at 6.00pm on 31 May 2018.

One hundred and fifty-seven submissions were received by the closing date for submissions including twenty-nine submitters requesting to be heard in support of their written submission. An additional eleven submissions were received after 11 May 2018.

The community submissions in total are requesting an estimated \$9.68 million (\$6.26 million for capital works projects and \$3.42 million for operating projects).

Following the Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting, a report in relation to all submissions received will be submitted for consideration at the meeting of the Council scheduled for 12 June 2018.

Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Receives and notes the written and verbal submissions.
- (2) Thanks all submitters and presenters for addressing the Committee in support of their written responses.
- (3) Refers all submissions for further consideration to the Council meeting to be held on 12 June 2018 as part of Councils deliberations in the adoption of the 2018/19 Budget.

BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION

Council is required to adopt a Budget for each financial year. Prior to adopting the Budget in its final form, Council is required to place the Proposed Budget on public display inviting submissions and then after considering all submissions Council can formally adopt a Budget for the financial year.

This report provides details of the submissions made on the Proposed 2018/19 Budget.

Previous Council Resolution

At its meeting held on 9 April 2018, Council resolved:

That Council:

- (1) *Adopts the draft 2018/19 Budget for the purposes of Section 127 of the Local Government Act 1989.*
- (2) *Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to give public notice in accordance with sections 129 and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 of Council's intention to adopt, at a Council meeting proposed to be held at 6.00 pm on Tuesday 12 June 2018, the 2018/19 Budget (Appendix A) presented to this meeting.*
- (3) *Gives Public Notice in accordance with sections 169 and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 of Council's intention to grant, at a Council meeting proposed to be held at 6.00 pm on Tuesday 12 June 2018, a rate rebate to pensioners in the 2018/19 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.*
- (4) *Notes that any person who makes a written submission in relation to the draft 2018/19 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 6.00 pm on Thursday 31 May 2018.*
- (5) *Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to undertake any and all administrative procedures That Council notes that any person who makes a written submission in relation to the draft 2018/19 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 6.00 pm on Thursday 31 May 2018.'*

COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

Consultation

The Proposed 2018/19 Budget went on public display on 10 April 2018. An extensive community engagement process was implemented, aimed at raising awareness of the draft budget and the opportunity for input. Significantly more consultation occurred this year than in previous years, involving staff from across the organisation and Councillors and included;

- Hosting drop in listening/information posts in each ward (attended by councillors and staff)
- A total of seven information pop-up sessions attended by staff (including libraries and markets)
- Direct consultation at various Council Advisory Committee Meetings with finance and other staff in attendance
- Information mail out sent to more than 420 Darebin community groups
- Development and promotion of a detailed, user friendly, 'yoursaydarebin' web page
- Advertising through traditional media, social media and at customer service centres
- Telephone survey of 1,000 Darebin residents.

- Survey via yoursay survey with 106 responses

ANALYSIS

Alignment to Council Plan / Council policy

Goal 6 - A well governed Council

Environmental Sustainability Considerations

The 2018/19 Proposed Budget continues Council's funding of environmental operations in a range of areas including waste collection, recycling services, street cleaning, litter collection, park and sporting field maintenance and improvements in the context of drought, water-saving and energy efficiency measures.

Equity, Inclusion and Wellbeing Considerations

The Proposed Budget has been prepared using key principles of social inclusion, fairness and equity. These principles determine how Council proposes to raise income and allocate expenditure to fund services and infrastructure.

Around 10,200 eligible Darebin pensioners will receive Council's \$150 rate rebate and one free animal registration.

Cultural Considerations

The 2018/19 Proposed Budget includes approximately \$4.7 million for cultural activities including festivals, arts programs and the management and operation of community venues.

Economic Development Considerations

The 2018/19 Proposed Budget includes approximately \$1.1 million for economic development activities including the Green Business Expo, export program, activation of vacant shops, working with local trader and business associations to help them improve business performance to develop and implement regional economic growth.

Financial and Resource Implications

No changes have been made to the proposed budget arising from the submissions at this time. The submissions in total are requesting an estimated additional \$9.68 million (\$6.26 million for capital works projects and \$3.42 million for operating projects).

The draft budget has been compiled under the relevant financial and human resource limitations. The consideration of all submissions must take into account the finite resources available to Council in particular, Councils limited financial and resource capacity to undertake all desired projects.

Legal and Risk Implications

Aside from meeting the various relevant sections of the Local Government Act, there are no further legal implications. The operational risk of our spending decisions in the draft budget are a key element in the decision making process. Full consideration will be given to the risk impacts.

DISCUSSION

The community response to the expanded consultation process this year has been particularly pleasing. At the time of preparing this report (Friday 25 May 2018), one hundred and fifty-seven written submissions had been received in relation to the draft Budget 2018/19. The process has been resource intensive but rewarding and has resulted in significantly more interest than has been generated in previous years and in turn, reinforced the value of our processes.

A total of twenty nine (29) have requested to be heard in support of their written submissions.

Copies of all submissions have been circulated separately to Councillors for their information.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Details

Following the Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting, a report in relation to all submissions received will be submitted for consideration at the meeting of Council scheduled for 12 June 2018.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Council Meeting Minutes 9 April 2018
- Public Advertisement in 'The Age' on the 11 April 2018.

Attachments

- Listing of Submissions - 31 May 2018 (**Appendix A**)
- Confidential 2018-19 Budget Submissions - 31 May 2018 (**Appendix B**) Confidential - enclosed under separate cover. This item is designated as confidential by the Chief Executive Officer, in accordance with s.77 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, as it relates to 'any other matter which the Council or special committee considers would prejudice the Council or any other person' pursuant to section 89(2)(h) of the *Local Government Act 1989*.
- Budget Submissions 2018/19 (**Appendix C**) Confidential - enclosed under separate cover. This item is designated as confidential by the Chief Executive Officer, in accordance with s.77 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, as it relates to 'any other matter which the Council or special committee considers would prejudice the Council or any other person' pursuant to section 89(2)(h) of the *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.

6. CLOSE OF MEETING