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MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 27 November 2023

Released to the public on 4 December 2023

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



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 MEETING DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL, MONDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2023

THE MEETING OPENED AT 6.08PM

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

1. OPENING OF MEETING AND MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

Cr. Julie Williams (Mayor) (Chairperson)
Cr. Susanne Newton (Deputy Mayor)
Cr. Emily Dimitriadis
Cr. Gaetano Greco
Cr. Tom Hannan
Cr. Tim Laurence
Cr. Trent McCarthy
Cr. Lina Messina (joined online at 6.56pm)
Cr. Susan Rennie

Council Officers

Peter Smith - Chief Executive Officer
Kylie Bennetts - General Manager Community
Caroline Buisson - General Manager Governance and Engagement
Rachel Ollivier - General Manager Operations and Capital
Vanessa Petrie - General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy
Enna Giampiccolo - Manager Governance and Communications
Bobbie-Lea Bright - Head of Governance and Risk
Jody Brodribb - Coordinator Governance Services

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.

3. APOLOGIES

Nil.

4. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr. Rennie disclosed a conflict of interest in Item 9.5 Leasing and Licensing Policy due to being a manager of a venue which is leased from Council, and which will be subject to the Leasing and Licensing Policy.

Cr. Greco disclosed a conflict of interest in Item 11.2. Extension of Early Years Services Lease Renewal Submissions and submission to 9.5 Leasing and Licensing Policy due to his partner being employed as a casual staff member at the Clifton Street Children's Centre.

Cr. Laurence disclosed a conflict of interest in Item 9.4 Northcote Golf Course due to a family member's residential amenity which is in close proximity to the Northcote Golf Course.

5. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 23-108

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

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 23 October 2023 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. COUNCIL'S OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chairperson, Mayor Williams, made the following statement:

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

7. QUESTION AND SUBMISSION TIME

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

Brian Sanaghan

1. What were the legal costs associated with the matter heard in the Heidelberg Magistrates Court on the 16th of November this year?
2. Was the Mayor aware of the prosecution?

Response from Mayor

Thank you for your questions, Brian, we will take your two questions on notice.

Matt Cowgill

1. 14 months have now passed since Council unanimously endorsed the Your Street, Your Say Group A 2022 concept designs. Can Council please provide an update on what actions, if any, have been taken to progress the implementation of these designs?
2. When, if at all, can Reservoir residents expect action to be taken on the dangerous intersections identified as part of YSYSA consultations such as the Henty-Gilbert and Edwardes-Gilbert roundabouts?

Response from General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy

Thanks for your questions, Matt.

1. **Council will be delivering 4 of the 9 priority projects identified in the YSYS Group A report this financial year.**

Those projects are the:

- **Miller/ Bracken - Pedestrian Operated Signals**
 - **Davidson Street - Raised zebra crossing**
 - **Radford Road (Between Mackenzie and Amery Street) - Slow Point and speed humps and**
 - **Implementing the Northern Reservoir Truck Management Plan. This Management Plan will restrict access for trucks to and from the industrial area via the local road network and allow access via Edwardes Street**
2. **Gilbert/Henty and Edwardes/Gilbert intersection remain a priority for future improvements and will be considered in future budget years.**

Margaret Collaco

1. Why do Council Officers continue to consult on items that are repeatedly endorsed by the community and at the end of a very long and expensive consultation process, they clearly state that there is no capacity to grant more permits (except for carers permits / extenuating circumstances) - even though ALL the consultation was aimed at creating new types of permits?
2. Why did Council Officers seek community feedback on options that they subsequently deem to be unacceptable after repeated community endorsement. The recommended rejection of granting permits to post 2004 duplex properties based on 772 properties potentially generating 1544 permits is information that officers had access to prior to consultation but was still offered as an option in each round of consultation. Has the Council misled the community in undertaking consultation based on inadequate or uninformed preparation?
3. Does Council understand that the way this consultation was presented to community - many options, many of which were supported by the majority of respondents - that are now being "not recommended" by Council Officers, creates mistrust in any and all community consultation done by council?

Response from General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy

Thank you, Margaret, for the questions, regarding your first two questions:

- **Consultation on the draft parking permit policy sought the community's views on how we can update our existing policy to support our diverse community's needs and was a very important input to the review.**

- We also undertook technical assessments, and commissioned independent peer reviews, to inform our advice.
- Officers also undertook multiple briefings with Councillors across the entire policy project.
- On balance, officers have recommended not extending residential permits, because of the risk of increased parking congestion, especially around places that attract parking, like activity centres. Increased parking congestion can create road safety and accessibility impacts.
- The Officer recommended policy includes a new Carer, Daily Visitor, Service and User Pays permits.
- Adopting a policy that does extend residential permits to dual occupancies built between December 2004 and when the policy is adopted, is an alternative option available to Council to consider. Officers have included this option in the report.

Regarding your third question, transparency is very important, and this is why Council has run two rounds of community engagement in an open and transparent manner.

You can find the detailed report of community consultation in tonight's agenda, as well as the final policy analysis and the independent peer review.

Hunter Cullen

1. Why has the Hub's hours been reduced? i.e. In the past year the later 6pm finishing time and more recently Thursday operations have ceased, Outreach still occurs on Thursdays, but this used to occur in addition to full Hub hours.
2. What steps are being made to return The Hub's hours to full operation?
3. When will The Hub's hours be returned to their previous hours at a bare minimum?

Response from General Manager Community

There have been some temporary changes to the delivery of Council's Youth Services due to vacant positions.

The temporary reduction in service was required to ensure adequate staffing ratios to safely operate the service while we completed a recruitment process.

Service provision at The Hub will return to previous levels/hours once the onboarding of new staff has been completed.

Other forms of support have continued to be provided to young people during this period, including referrals to other services.

Bridget Harilaou

1. Could Council please provide an update on the process of updating its Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Action Plan, which was outlined in the Council Plan to be developed in this financial year?
2. Could Council please provide an update on the development of its Civic Flag Policy and have Councillors been briefed on this?
3. Did Council make a submission to the Victorian Government's consultation on strengthening Victoria's laws against hate speech and hate conduct, in line with action 3.5.4 of the Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Action Plan?

Response from General Manager Community

1. Council has committed to developing an Action Plan this financial-year, and engagement is scheduled to take place in 2024.
2. Council is in the process of developing a Flag Policy to provide guidance on the flying of flags. Councillors have been briefed on this several times in 2023 and further consideration will occur in due course.
3. Council has not made a submission to the Victorian Government's consultation on strengthening Victoria's laws against hate speech and hate conduct but is monitoring the reform process and may do so at a later stage.

The Mayor advised that as there had been a number of questions submitted on the topic of Electronic Gaming Machines, in accordance with the Governance Rules 15.2 these questions were grouped together as 'like questions'. The questions of the first person who submitted on this topic, were read out by an officer and a single response was provided by the General Manager Community.

Lucy Cicero

1. Could you please consider allowing senior clubs to hold luncheons at venues that have a gaming area. At senior clubs we are like family and look after one another, and I assure you if any club member, whilst at a gaming venue, sat and played a pokie machine for more than 2 hours, we would talk to them and help them to get off the pokie machine and stop playing. We would supervise and identify any club member who may have a pokie machine issue early and deal with it.

Mrs Chairperson, let senior clubs be part of the solution rather than be seen as part of the problem.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my question and my thoughts on this issue of concern to many senior clubs and their members.

Response from General Manager Community

Council understands and greatly values the significant role that seniors' clubs play in our community. Council will be considering its position on EGMs at their meeting tonight and I am sure they will take your feedback into consideration as part of their deliberations.

The Mayor advised that as there had been a number of questions submitted in relation to the conflict in Israel and Gaza, and in accordance with the Governance Rules 15.2 these questions were grouped together as 'like questions'. The questions of the first person who submitted on this topic, were read out by an officer and a single response was provided by the General Manager Community.

Nina Spinel

1. Under existing Council flag policy, can the Palestinian flag be flown on Council buildings, like we've seen in Merri-Bek, and similar to how we've often shown support for the LGBT community during times of hardship for them?
2. Is Darebin City Council prepared to make a statement to our State or Federal Government calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in regards to the Israel/Palestine conflict?

Response from General Manager Community

In recent weeks, we've seen news reports and images about the conflict in Israel and Gaza. As Darebin is home to and welcomes people from diverse backgrounds, we know that for many members of our community this is a distressing and incredibly difficult time.

To anyone with loved ones, friends and connections in the region, our hearts go out to you.

Our focus with our partners is our local community, to ensure that those affected feel safe and are provided with the support and care they need.

Our community is strong because of its diversity and the respect people share for one another. It is important to support one another in kindness and understanding.

For anyone needing information, we recommend contacting the Australian Government's Consular Emergency Centre and details on how to contact this Centre will be included in the minutes of this meeting.

Australian Government's Consular Emergency Centre +61 2 6261 3305 (for those overseas) and 1300 555 135 (in Australia).

Serena O'Meley

1. On 24 April 2023, I asked a question regarding why the minutes for advisory committee meetings are no longer posted online. This question was taken on notice, but I cannot find a response in subsequent governance reports. Can you please answer the question?
2. On 26 April 2023, I emailed questions from Friends of Wat Ganbo Park to Darebin Council regarding the proposed installation of extensive wetlands in the park. After several follow up attempts, I asked a question at the 24 July 2023 meeting regarding when we could expect an answer to those questions. Following that meeting I was contacted by a council officer. However, it is now the end of November, and we still haven't received a written response to our questions. When can we expect a written response?
3. I note that Darebin Council has a representative on the Darebin Creek Management Committee and that the committee should have been advised prior to the destruction of 3.5ha of native habitat on the corner of Plenty Road and Kingsbury Drive by La Trobe University to make way for a solar farm. Can you please advise which, if any, meetings of Darebin Creek Management Committee were attended by that councillor or councillors since the start of 2023?

Response from General Manager Governance and Engagement

1. Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention. I understand an officer has spoken to you about this matter this morning. Moving forward we will ensure minutes of advisory committee meetings are published on the Darebin website. We can also provide these retrospectively.

Response from General Manager Operations and Capital

2. Thank you for your follow-up inquiry, Serena and I do apologise for the delay in providing a detailed response regarding the proposed wetlands project at Wat Ganbo Park. Officers have carefully reviewed your questions, which encompassed various aspects of the project and required input from different council teams.

A response has been prepared to the questions received, and these are currently undergoing final review before being sent out. You can expect a response no later than 8/12/2023.

3. Thanks again for your question, Serena. We will need to take this question regarding attendance at the management committee on notice and will provide you with a response after we have made enquiries with the DCMC.

Angela Denton

1. What KPI's does City of Darebin's monitor regarding the time frames to respond to CEO , councillor and residents requests for information?
2. What is Darebin City Councils policy for allowing interested parties (ie residents) access to (including photographing) endorsed planning documents and on what grounds is councils policy based (ie regulation)?
3. What is City of Darebin's policy and are there any KPI's which are monitored for the time frames officers should respond to residents' requests for information?

Response from General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy

Thank you for the questions Angela. In response to questions one and three:

I apologise for the delays you've experienced in receiving information about your request.

I have asked the Acting Manager of Climate Emergency and Sustainable Transport to call to discuss this issue with you tomorrow.

Due to the different services Council provides each service type has its own service level agreement in which we aim to close the request by. This can vary from 1 to 14 business days depending on the type of service.

Our customer request system tracks requests, response times and provides visibility to leadership to monitor response times.

Darebin aims to return community members phone calls with 2 business days as stated in our Customer Commitments. Our Customer Experience Strategy is working towards improving the consistency across the organisation.

In relation to your second question, Council must make available to the public planning permits and associated endorsed documents in accordance with the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, members of the community can obtain copies of documents, subject to fees endorsed by Council, which you can find on our website.

Should you wish to request a copy of such documents, please email your request to townplanning@darebin.vic.gov.au

Ethan Grindlay

1. Regarding Agenda Item 9.5, Councillors have stated, that the Council has invested \$8 million into early learning education in Darebin, how much of the \$8 million was provided by either the Federal or State Government if any, and;
2. What did Darebin Council directly invest in?

Response from General Manager Community

Council's four-year capital works plan, adopted in June 2023 as part of the 2023-34 Council budget, includes an allocation of \$8.25 million over four years for the expansion of kindergarten services in Darebin.

Within the capital works budget over this period there is an assumption that 25% of this amount will come from state government grants, with the balance coming from Council funds.

Following Council's endorsement of the Kindergarten Expansion Program at the October 2023 Council meeting, Council is working with the State Government to finalise a Building Blocks Partnership Agreement to agree both the Council and State Government's intended contributions to kindergarten expansions over the next four years.

Owen McCrink

Questions one and two from Owen related to Item 9.5 Leasing and Licensing Policy. The Mayor advised that as there had been a number of questions submitted on this item, as well as conflicts of interest raised by Cr. Greco and Cr. Rennie, these questions were grouped together as 'like questions' and responded to at the end of public question time.

3. Darebin Parks and Open Space conduct routine mowing and spraying of the various sites around Darebin, how does Darebin manage the scheduling of this routine work, including how far in advanced they are scheduled and when staff and external contractors are informed of the schedule?

Response from General Manager Operations and Capital

Thanks for your question, Owen. Maintenance of our Parks & Open Space areas is done through a combination of in-house staff who are supported by contractors depending on the relevant task.

Internal teams have a regular park maintenance schedule which is based on a 4–6-week cycle (depending on the area). Contractors are engaged both proactively on similar cycles (depending on the nature of the work) and reactively in response to things that arise. Contractors are engaged primarily through Councils Open Space tender panel and will often have a schedule of visits programmed over a 12-month period.

PROCEDURAL MOTION TO EXTEND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Council Resolution

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

6.43pm - That Council extend Public Question Time by 30minutes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

John Nugent

1. Could you please advise if the Council will give to Parks Victoria, Bundoora Park, Edwardes Lake Park and all the nations park this saving the Council millions on maintenance costs?
2. Could you please advise was this Council flies minor flags, such as the pride flag LGBTIQ flag and last week the intersex flag but doesn't ever fly the Victorian flag where most people are Victorians who live in this City?
3. Could you please arrange Council Officers to meet me at Donath West so that the unsealed pathways can be measured and costed for next year's budget?

Response from General Manager Operations and Capital

1. **Thanks for your question, John. Council is constantly looking for ways to improve services and find more effective ways to manage our open space network. With the exception of Bundoora Park, which is Crown Land administered by Council, both Edwardes Lake & All Nations Park are Council owned. All three sites are highly valued by community as important open spaces and Council does not have any plans to reduce its maintenance work at these sites.**
3. **Thanks John – A site meeting won't be necessary for Donath west. Officers will assess the request for works related to the unsealed path networks throughout the reserve as part of development of the 2024-25 Budget. We make assessments each year to help Council decide on what to do first. We assess a range of things such as safety, compliance, community need and expected level of use, and consider any long term plans such as Masterplans. We will share the proposed list of works to be done in 2024-25 as part of the budget consultation process and you and others in the Community will have an opportunity to contribute to this.**

Response from General Manager Community

2. **Thank you for the question, John. Council has previously made a resolution to fly the Rainbow Flag and Intersex Flag. Council is in the process of developing a Flag Policy to provide guidance on the flying of flags. Councillors have been briefed on this several times in 2023 and further consideration will occur in due course.**

6.56pm - Cr. Messina joined the meeting virtually.

The Mayor advised that as there had been a number of questions submitted in relation to Item 9.5 Leasing and Licensing Policy, in accordance with the Governance Rules 15.2, these questions were grouped together as 'like questions'. The questions of the first person who submitted on this topic, were read out by an officer with a single response provided by the General Manager Operations and Capital.

Cr. Rennie disclosed a conflict of interest in Item 9.5 Leasing and Licensing Policy due to being a manager of a venue which is leased from Council and will be subject to the Leasing and Licensing Policy.

Cr. Greco advised that he did not have a conflict in relation to Item 9.5 Leasing and Licensing Policy unless there was a specific question regarding Clifton Street Children's Centre. As the public questions did not relate specifically to Clifton Street Children's Centre, he was not required to leave the meeting.

6.56pm - Cr. Rennie left the meeting.

Rebecca Hale

Since the Kinder community has loudly said that 2+3-year leases aren't appropriate - why can't the council just change the policy to meet the needs of the community, rather than vice versa?

Response from General Manager Operations and Capital

We've received 21 questions about the draft leasing and licencing policy which is on Council's agenda tonight. I am going to respond to these questions together.

I'd like to start by clarifying that there are two related topics on foot at the moment:

Firstly, there are some questions about consultation that is currently underway on a proposal to extend kindergarten and childcare leases at 18 sites. Some of the questions we've received read as more like submissions and we will take these in comments.

I do want to assure people here that Council has a long-term commitment to quality early years education and this is formally enshrined in Council's early years Framework which runs through to 2041. Council knows early years care and education services help give children the best start in life. At its last meeting in October, Council decided to start consultation on the proposal to extend leases at these 18 sites, which I will talk to further in a moment. At the same meeting, Council made a multi-million-dollar commitment to significantly expand kindergarten places over the next 4 years, in partnership with the State Government and I do hope that the level of this investment helps to assure people.

Consultation on the specifics of the proposal to extend the leases is open until tomorrow, with a hearing of Submissions committee meeting on 11 December where submitters can attend and present to Council. At Item 11.2 on Council's agenda tonight, Councillors will consider whether to extend the consultation period further. We encourage anyone with an interest in this matter to make a submission.

We expect Council will make a decision about the Kindergarten and Childcare lease proposal when it can consider all the community feedback at its December meeting.

Secondly, there is an item on Councils' agenda tonight about a draft leasing and licensing policy which is a broader policy covering most of Council's properties and facilities other than recreation and leisure leases and licenses. This evening, Council will consider starting community consultation on this draft Leasing and Licensing Policy.

A long community engagement process is proposed to allow time for questions, discussion and thorough engagement on the policy itself and also on how it would operate in practice. Targeted outreach sessions are planned with community groups who currently occupy Council-owned or managed properties are proposed for after the summer break.

After consultation, Council would consider feedback, and any changes arising from that feedback, at its meeting in March 2024.

Council knows that providing community buildings support many of Darebin's community groups and we regularly receive requests for access to buildings. That's why Council invests so much in providing buildings and why it has drafted a policy – to help provide community and service providers with a consistent and transparent approach to leasing and licensing arrangements.

The proposed policy would cover Council-owned or managed land or buildings occupied by not-for-profit entities, community groups, First Nations groups, commercial businesses and government agencies. It would not apply to seasonal ground licences, agreements on sporting facilities and pavilions and casual hall hire.

The full details of the draft policy are included in the meeting agenda tonight. There are a few matters I would like to specifically mention:

- The draft Policy is not proposed to affect any current agreements and would only be applied at the time an agreement is up for renewal or if a new lease is being established.
- The draft policy proposes that not-for-profit organisations would be on a full rental subsidy in the form of a peppercorn rent.
- It is proposed that lease and licence conditions relating to who covers utilities and maintenance costs would be 'grandfathered' for existing occupiers – meaning that these will remain the same as they are now.
- The draft policy proposes that some not-for-profit organisations with income generating capacity and commercial-like revenue such as advertising revenue or room hire for private purposes, would be asked to share a portion of that commercial-like revenue with Council, usually 10%. The draft policy doesn't suggest revenue from government grants should be shared. We are interested in hearing from community what revenue should and shouldn't be considered 'commercial-like'.
- The draft Leasing and Licensing Policy does not propose any changes in regard to eviction of tenants – this is only possible in a case of a serious breach of lease.
- The draft Policy proposes some additional annual reporting to improve the understanding of community benefits from the services. We aim to balance the need for meaningful information without creating an administrative burden. We're keen to understand the best way to achieve this during the consultation period.
- The draft policy proposes assessment criteria to assess the community benefits proposed by a leasee these would be used to help assess community needs and evaluate applications or responses to expressions of interest processes. We would check if proposed services align with achieving the Community Vision and meeting Darebin community needs.

I will finish by confirming that Council will consider whether to proceed to consultation on the draft leasing and licensing policy in tonight's meeting.

8. PETITIONS

8.1 TABLING OF PETITION

With leave of the Chairperson, Cr Dimitriadis tabled a petition titled "Save our Community Kinders and Childcares from Darebin's Short Term Leases, Rent and Fee Hikes".

Petition

That the petition:

"Early learning centres and kindergartens are crucial pillars of our community. They are safe and inclusive environments that allow our kids to grow, learn and flourish.

In Darebin, we have a strong network of 18 not-for-profit childcares and kindergartens run by hardworking volunteer parent committees.

They've been around for decades, nurturing our kids and setting the standard for best practice early education in our suburbs.

But right now, their future is at risk.

Darebin Council recently voted to cut centre leases down to a mere two years. And if that wasn't enough, they want to burden them with additional rates, taxes, utility, and maintenance costs.

This has left the entire network in a state of extreme uncertainty - and as we've seen in other parts of Melbourne, moves like this have rapidly led to closures and privatisation.

Reduced tenures and rising costs create a precarious situation where centres struggle to retain staff, offer certainty to families, strategically plan or access grant funding.

Families deserve security in where their kids will learn. Early educators deserve security in their employment. And centres deserve security in their funding and planning.

Help us to fight this backwards thinking by signing this petition to protect our community kinders and childcare centres from short term leases, rent and fee hikes!

Why is this important?

On 23 October 2023 the Dare bin Council passed a motion to reduce the lease durations of community early learning centres to two years - with option to extend for another three years under a new leasing policy which they are developing.

Darebin Council has tried to downplay the change - but the new leasing policy is foreshadowed to include making centres responsible for additional rates, taxes, utility and maintenance costs.

It's disgraceful that at a time when the state and federal government are making big investments into free kinder and cheaper childcare, Darebin Council wants to pull funding out of the sector to help its bottom line.

Dozens of community members turned up in support of our early childhood centres to plead with Council not to take this step, and instead provide centres the certainty of 5-year leases on their current terms.

Unfortunately, most Councillors voted to ignore our centres, staff and families.

Soon Darebin Council will start a Community Consultation process which will determine the terms of early learning centre leases beyond two years, and the future viability of this sector.

It's vital that we send a strong message to Darebin Council that our community values not-for-profit early education and care - and we stand against short lease terms, rent and fee hikes that puts them in jeopardy.

Right now our community is reeling from this decision. But with community support we still have a chance to change Darebin Council's mind before it's too late.

We call on council to continue having a minimum of five year leases with these 18 community run child care centres and kindergartens under the current conditions with no added fees."

be tabled and referred to the CEO.

7.09pm – Cr. Greco left the meeting.

As the originator of the petition Emeline Gaske made a 2 minute submission to the petition.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis

SECONDED: Cr. S Rennie

That Council change the order of business to hear 'Item 11.2 Extension of Early Years Services Lease Renewal Submissions' first, followed by 'Item 9.5 Leasing and Licencing Policy' and then to continue with the order of the agenda as published.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11.2 EXTENSION OF EARLY YEARS SERVICES LEASE RENEWAL SUBMISSIONS

Take notice that at the Council Meeting to be held on 27 November 2023, it is my intention to move:

That Council:

1. *Notes that the date for the Hearing of Submissions Meeting for the Early Years Services Lease Renewal is 11 December 2023.*
2. *Notes that under Darebin's Governance Rules section 14.3(1), "Members of the public wishing to make a submission must register their intention to do so before 12 noon on the day of the Ordinary Council Meeting or Hearing of Submissions Meeting and be in attendance on the day of the Meeting to make their submission."*
3. *Extends the submission period for the 'Early Years Services Lease Renewal' Hearing of Submissions Meeting to allow community members to make a paper or online submission by 7 December 2023.*
4. *Ensures that people who wish to make a submission in person can register by 12 noon on 11 December 2023, as per s 14.3(1) of the above Governance Rules.*

Notice Received: 13 November 2023

Notice Given to Councillors 13 November 2023

Date of Meeting: 27 November 2023

Rationale

Many residents have expressed concerns that the timeframe to register to make their submissions for the 'Early Years Services Lease Renewal' Hearing of Submissions Meeting by the current date of 28 November 2023 is too soon and that certain community views may be neglected or disadvantage by not being able to register to make their submissions, despite being allowed to register to make in person submissions by 12 noon on the day of the Hearing of Submissions Meeting.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 23-109

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis

SECONDED: Cr. S Rennie

That Council:

1. Notes that the date for the Hearing of Submissions Meeting for the Early Years Services Lease Renewal is 11 December 2023.
2. Notes that under Darebin's Governance Rules section 14.3(1), "Members of the public wishing to make a submission must register their intention to do so before 12 noon on the day of the Ordinary Council Meeting or Hearing of Submissions Meeting and be in attendance on the day of the Meeting to make their submission."
3. Extends the submission period for the 'Early Years Services Lease Renewal' Hearing of Submissions Meeting to allow community members to make a paper or online submission by 7 December 2023.
4. Ensures that people who wish to make a submission in person can register by 12 noon

on 11 December 2023, as per s 14.3(1) of the above Governance Rules.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

9.5 LEASING & LICENSING POLICY

Cr. Rennie declared a conflict of interest in Item 9.5 Leasing and Licensing Policy due to being a manager of a venue which is leased from Council and will be subject to the Leasing and Licensing Policy.

7.18pm - Cr. Rennie left the meeting.

7.18pm - Cr. Greco returned to the meeting.

7.20pm– Cr. Greco left the meeting.

The following person made a 2-minute verbal submission:

- *Camilla Reehorst*

7.23pm – Cr. Greco returned to the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report recommends that Council endorse a draft Leasing and Licensing Policy (**Appendix A**) to proceed to community consultation. Proceeding to consultation will allow Council to understand community views on the proposed approach to support its community through rental subsidies where tenants deliver high community benefit through the community services they provide.

The establishment of a Leasing and Licensing Policy is important for effective corporate governance across the suite of leases and licenses. It supports decision-making in relation to occupancy agreements on Council owned or managed land in accordance with its obligations under the *Local Government Act 2020* and where applicable, the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*. This will ensure that:

- There is consistency and transparency in the approach to establishing, managing and reviewing leases and licenses.
- There is adequate oversight on compliance to lease and licence conditions.
- There is consideration to provide return on investment to council (whether this be in the form of community benefits and outcomes or financial).
- Our community have visibility as to the expected terms and conditions that will be provided when entering into a lease or licence agreement with council.

The draft Policy does not cover:

- Recreation or Leisure leases or licenses
- Ad-hoc or casual hire of halls or rooms.
- Some other minor exclusions included in the draft Policy.

The draft Policy proposes:

- That Council continue to provide substantial support for not-for-profit organisations in Darebin by supporting our community via access to facilities and properties and where rental would be set on a peppercorn basis, at \$104 per annum (plus GST), incorporating a full rental subsidy contribution from Council.
- That the Policy would be applied to a lease or license when a new agreement is established or when an agreement is renewed. It would not affect current agreements during the current term.
- That there would be no change or increase to outgoings, utilities and maintenance obligations on any existing Tenant or Licensee even if a new Lease/Licence agreements or renewal of Lease/Licence agreements takes place; and
- That the outgoings, utilities and maintenance obligations in a Lease/Licence for any new Tenant or Licensee will be in line with existing Lease/Licence agreement for similar type uses; and
- That for commercial and government tenants/licensees, rent would be set on a commercial basis to ensure that commercial arrangements can benefit community by returning financial benefits to Council for use for community purposes.
- For not-for-profit tenants with income generating capacity and who earn a 'commercial-like' income such as from sub-letting or advertising, a portion of revenue would be shared with Council (10% or 20% depending on the circumstances as detailed in the draft Policy).

The draft Policy outlines other terms and conditions that are proposed to be managed across Council's leases and licenses.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Notes that establishing a Leasing and Licencing Policy is an action identified in an internal audit Review of Lease Management in November 2021.
- (2) Notes that establishment of a Leasing & Licensing Policy is proposed to provide consistent and transparent management of Council's Lease and Licence portfolio so that tenants, prospective tenants and community have clarity about how Council allocates access to community buildings and about the community benefits that arise from Council's contributions to community groups and activities through provision of rental subsidies and payment of other costs for land, buildings and facilities.
- (3) Reconfirms Council's long standing commitment to supporting community by providing facilities and properties for community uses through leasing and licensing arrangements. This includes making properties available on a peppercorn rental basis with contribution of full rental subsidies to support Darebin not-for-profit organisations.
- (4) Notes that a key purpose of the Policy is to provide greater transparency in regard to the community benefits from the investment by Council on behalf of ratepayers.
- (5) Notes that the draft Leasing & Licensing Policy does not apply to recreation and leisure tenants/licensees (including seasonal ground allocations, agreements on sporting pavilions, sporting facilities), ad-hoc or casual hire of halls, where Council is a Tenant or Licensee, agreements on EV stations and Neighbourhood battery installations.
- (6) Notes that if adopted as proposed, the Leasing and Licensing Policy would mean:
 - (a) for not-for-profit Tenants or Licensees, rental would be set on a peppercorn

- basis, at \$104 per annum (plus GST); and
- i. no change or increase to outgoings, utilities and maintenance obligations on any existing Tenant or Licensee even if a new Lease/Licence agreements or renewal of Lease/Licence agreements takes place; and
 - ii. the outgoings, utilities and maintenance obligations in a Lease/Licence for any new Tenant or Licensee will be in line with existing Lease/Licence agreement for similar type uses; and
- (b) for commercial and government tenants/licensees, rent would be set on a commercial basis; and
- (c) for not-for-profit tenants with income generating capacity and who earn a 'commercial-like' income such as from sub-letting or advertising, a portion of revenue would be shared with Council (10% or 20%).
- (7) Endorses the draft Leasing & Licensing Policy (**Appendix A**) to proceed to community consultation.
- (8) Endorses the community engagement approach, which includes:
- (a) A consultation period open from 4 December 2023 to 3 March 2024.
 - (b) Communications with all tenant organisation in the fortnight starting 28 November 2023 to bring to their attention the consultation period and opportunities to participate.
 - (c) Opportunities for all tenant organisation to meet directly with Council staff and/or to join a workshop to provide feedback.
- (9) Requests a further report be provided to the Council at its Ordinary Council meeting in March 2024 to consider community consultation feedback and any recommended changes to consider incorporating into a final Leasing and Licensing Policy.

Motion

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

That Council:

- (1) Notes that establishing a Leasing and Licencing Policy is an action identified in an internal audit Review of Lease Management in November 2021.
- (2) Notes that establishment of a Leasing & Licensing Policy is proposed to provide consistent and transparent management of Council's Lease and Licence portfolio so that tenants, prospective tenants and community have clarity about how Council allocates access to community buildings and about the community benefits that arise from Council's contributions to community groups and activities through provision of rental subsidies and payment of other costs for land, buildings and facilities.
- (3) Reconfirms Council's long standing commitment to supporting community by providing facilities and properties for community uses through leasing and licensing arrangements. This includes making properties available on a peppercorn rental basis with contribution of full rental subsidies to support Darebin not-for-profit organisations.
- (4) Notes that a key purpose of the Policy is to provide greater transparency in regard to the community benefits from the investment by Council on behalf of ratepayers.
- (5) Notes that the draft Leasing & Licensing Policy does not apply to recreation and leisure tenants/licensees (including seasonal ground allocations, agreements on sporting

pavilions, sporting facilities), ad-hoc or casual hire of halls, where Council is a Tenant or Licensee, agreements on EV stations and Neighbourhood battery installations.

- (6) Notes that if adopted as proposed, the Leasing and Licensing Policy would mean:
- (a) for not-for-profit Tenants or Licensees, rental would be set on a peppercorn basis, at \$104 per annum (plus GST); and
 - i. no change or increase to outgoings, utilities and maintenance obligations on any existing Tenant or Licensee even if a new Lease/Licence agreements or renewal of Lease/Licence agreements takes place; and
 - ii. the outgoings, utilities and maintenance obligations in a Lease/Licence for any new Tenant or Licensee will be in line with existing Lease/Licence agreement for similar type uses; and
 - (b) for commercial and government tenants/licensees, rent would be set on a commercial basis; and
 - (c) for not-for-profit tenants with income generating capacity and who earn a 'commercial-like' income such as from sub-letting or advertising, a portion of revenue would be shared with Council (10% or 20%).
- (7) Endorses the draft Leasing & Licensing Policy (**Appendix A**) to proceed to community consultation.
- (8) Endorses the community engagement approach, which includes:
- (a) A consultation period open from 4 December 2023 to 3 March 2024.
 - (b) Communications with all tenant organisation in the fortnight starting 28 November 2023 to bring to their attention the consultation period and opportunities to participate.
 - (c) Opportunities for all tenant organisation to meet directly with Council staff and/or to join a workshop to provide feedback.
- (9) Requests a further report be provided to the Council at its Ordinary Council meeting in March 2024 to consider community consultation feedback and any recommended changes to consider incorporating into a final Leasing and Licensing Policy.

Cr. Greco foreshadowed that he would move an alternate motion to defer the item if the substantive motion was not successful.

Cr. Dimitriadis proposed an amendment to the mover and seconder. To allow time for clarification, the Mayor adjourned the meeting.

7.53pm – The meeting adjourned for a break.

8.10pm – The meeting resumed.

Cr. Dimitriadis proposed an amendment to the mover and seconder to add point (10) to the motion as follows:

- (10) In the draft Policy, replaces the third paragraph after the fourth dot point in the table, under the sub-heading "Expression of Interest" with:
- "If the above criteria are met and Council is satisfied that community benefit can be achieved, then there is a presumption in favour of negotiating with an existing not-for-profit occupier."

The amendment was accepted by the mover and seconder, and the amended motion read as follows:

Amended Motion

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

That Council:

- (1) Notes that establishing a Leasing and Licencing Policy is an action identified in an internal audit Review of Lease Management in November 2021.
- (2) Notes that establishment of a Leasing & Licensing Policy is proposed to provide consistent and transparent management of Council's Lease and Licence portfolio so that tenants, prospective tenants and community have clarity about how Council allocates access to community buildings and about the community benefits that arise from Council's contributions to community groups and activities through provision of rental subsidies and payment of other costs for land, buildings and facilities.
- (3) Reconfirms Council's long standing commitment to supporting community by providing facilities and properties for community uses through leasing and licensing arrangements. This includes making properties available on a peppercorn rental basis with contribution of full rental subsidies to support Darebin not-for-profit organisations.
- (4) Notes that a key purpose of the Policy is to provide greater transparency in regard to the community benefits from the investment by Council on behalf of ratepayers.
- (5) Notes that the draft Leasing & Licensing Policy does not apply to recreation and leisure tenants/licensees (including seasonal ground allocations, agreements on sporting pavilions, sporting facilities), ad-hoc or casual hire of halls, where Council is a Tenant or Licensee, agreements on EV stations and Neighbourhood battery installations.
- (6) Notes that if adopted as proposed, the Leasing and Licensing Policy would mean:
 - (a) for not-for-profit Tenants or Licensees, rental would be set on a peppercorn basis, at \$104 per annum (plus GST); and
 - i. no change or increase to outgoings, utilities and maintenance obligations on any existing Tenant or Licensee even if a new Lease/Licence agreements or renewal of Lease/Licence agreements takes place; and
 - ii. the outgoings, utilities and maintenance obligations in a Lease/Licence for any new Tenant or Licensee will be in line with existing Lease/Licence agreement for similar type uses; and
 - (b) for commercial and government tenants/licensees, rent would be set on a commercial basis; and
 - (c) for not-for-profit tenants with income generating capacity and who earn a 'commercial-like' income such as from sub-letting or advertising, a portion of revenue would be shared with Council (10% or 20%).
- (7) Endorses the draft Leasing & Licensing Policy (**Appendix A**) to proceed to community consultation.
- (8) Endorses the community engagement approach, which includes:
 - (a) A consultation period open from 4 December 2023 to 3 March 2024.
 - (b) Communications with all tenant organisation in the fortnight starting 28 November 2023 to bring to their attention the consultation period and opportunities to participate.

- (c) Opportunities for all tenant organisation to meet directly with Council staff and/or to join a workshop to provide feedback.
- (9) Requests a further report be provided to the Council at its Ordinary Council meeting in March 2024 to consider community consultation feedback and any recommended changes to consider incorporating into a final Leasing and Licensing Policy.
- (10) In the draft Policy, replaces the third paragraph after the fourth dot point in the table, under the sub-heading “Expression of Interest” with:**
- **“If the above criteria are met and Council is satisfied that community benefit can be achieved, then there is a presumption in favour of negotiating with an existing not-for-profit occupier.”**

The amended motion was put to vote and lost.

LOST

For: Cr’s McCarthy, Hannan, Newton and Messina (4)

Abstained: Cr’s Dimitriadis, Greco, Laurence, and Williams (4)

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

Cr. Greco moved the foreshadowed alternate motion below:

Alternate Motion

MOVED: Cr. G Greco

SECONDED: Cr. E Dimitriadis

That Council defer Item 9.5 Leasing & Licensing Policy to the Council Meeting to be held on 18 December 2023.

The alternate motion was put and carried and became the council resolution as follows:

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 23-110

MOVED: Cr. G Greco

SECONDED: Cr. E Dimitriadis

That Council defer Item 9.5 Leasing & Licensing Policy to the Council Meeting to be held on 18 December 2023.

CARRIED

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

Against: Cr’s Newton, Hannan and McCarthy (3)

8.33pm - Cr. Rennie returned to the meeting.

9.1 GOVERNANCE REPORT - NOVEMBER 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Summary of Advisory Committees, Councillor Briefing and other informal meetings of Councillors (**Appendix A**).
- Reports by Mayor and Councillors.
- Councillor Expenses Report for the quarter 1 July 2023 to 30 September 2023 (**Appendix B**) to this report.
- Darebin Nature Trust – Deferral of appointment of new community members
- Confidential Council resolutions made public (October 2023)

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 23-111

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

That Council:

- (1) Notes the Governance Report – November 2023.
- (2) Notes the summary of attendance at Councillor Briefings at **Appendix A** to this report, for incorporation in the minutes of this meeting.
- (3) Notes 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) Notes the Councillor Expenses Report for the quarter from 1 July 2023 to 30 September 2023 at **Appendix B** to this report.
- (5) Notes the appointment of nine (9) community members to the Darebin Nature Trust (DNT) will be presented to Council at the December 2023 meeting.
- (6) Notes that there was one confidential council resolution made public for the month of October 2023.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**REPORTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS – 27 NOVEMBER 2023****REPORT OF CR. JULIE WILLIAMS, MAYOR**

- 2 x Councillor Briefing Sessions
- 4 x Councillor only meetings
- 2 x Mayor, Deputy Mayor and CEO meetings
- 2 x Mayor and CEO meetings
- 1 x Monthly Council meeting
- 2 x MP Meetings
- 2 x Citizenship Ceremonies
- 2 x Meetings with local resident
- Metropolitan Transport Forum monthly meeting

- Chancellor's Industry Advisory Council Roundtable
- Interview with Renew magazine
- Early Years Awards Presentation
- Remembrance Day Memorial Service and Laying of Wreath
- Filming for NARC
- NARC – Community Open Day
- Leasing and Licencing Policy meeting
- Diwali Festival – Northern Region Indian Seniors' Association
- Reservoir Suburban Revitalisation Board Team (SRBT) meeting
- Pre-Minister meeting briefing
- Official opening event for NARC
- Opening of Tony Birch Library
- 2023 Premier's Sustainability Awards
- Meeting with John Pesutto MP, Leader of the Opposition
- Municipal Forum
- Keon Park Tennis Club – celebrating 70 years
- The Dimitria Festival
- Launch of Transport Priorities and EV Transition Plan
- M9 Mayors & CEO's
- Breakfast with Victorian Shadow Treasurer

REPORT OF CR. LINA MESSINA

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

- Weekly Councillor Meetings
- Councillor briefing
- Meeting with Officers re: Parking Permit Policy and NOMs
- Tarantella Festival at Edwards Lake
- Melbourne Italian Festa at the Exhibition Gardens.
- Meeting with Business owners of Darebin to Discuss economic summit
- Meeting with residents to address graffiti
- Meeting with Kylie Bennetts, General Manager Community
- Meeting with Rachel Ollivier, General Manager Operations and Capital
- Meeting with Cr Greco
- Radio interview Il Globo
- Meeting with trader to discuss up coming Live music NOM
- Eighty Six Festival event
- Discussions with State Member Pascoe Vale Anthony Cianflone MP Office

- Discussions with Northern Metro Member Evan Mullholland MP

REPORT OF CR. GAETANO GRECO

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

- Weekly Councillor Meetings
- Meeting with Italian Ambassador, Melbourne Consul General and Italian Community leaders.
- Meeting with foreign Affairs Ministerial delegation from Italy
- Councillor briefing
- Meeting with Officers re: Parking Permit Policy and NOMs
- Planning Meeting
- Joint Welcoming Cities and Interfaith Committee - Inclusion Workforce Planning workshop
- Dvrse AGM
- Dardi Munroe Meeting with Francesca Albanese, UN Rapporteur on the Occupied Territories of Palestine and Professor Gary Foley
- Briefing Edgars Creek and Edwards Lake Taskforce
- Meeting Edgars Creek and Edwards Lake Task force
- Official opening of the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre
- Pre-Council briefing
- Tarantella Festival at Edwards Lake
- Melbourne Italian Festa at the Exhibition Gardens

REPORT OF CR. TIM LAURENCE

Cr. Laurence did not submit a report.

REPORT OF CR. SUSANNE NEWTON

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

- Speech at LGBTIQA+ Multicultural Fair Day at North West Uniting Church Hall in Preston
- Official Opening Event for the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre
- Community day to open the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre
- Briefing for Edgars Creek and Edwards Lake Taskforce meeting
- Weekly Councillor meetings
- Fortnightly meetings with Mayor Williams and CEO Peter Smith
- Regular Councillor briefings
- Planning Committee meeting
- Pre-Council meeting briefing
- Kingston statutory meeting to see Cr Jenna Davey-Burns elected Mayor.

- Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) meeting
- Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) AGM
- Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) FastTrack Program Civility in Local Government with Minister Melissa Horne
- Williamson final retreat in Marysville and graduation as 'Williamson Fellow'
- Chairing meeting for Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Committee and tour of Intercultural Centre
- Briefing on Leasing and Licencing Policy
- Metropolitan Transport Forum (MTF) meeting
- Mayoral Taskforce Supporting Seeking People Asylum meeting
- Your Community Health AGM

REPORT OF CR. SUSAN RENNIE

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

- Official Opening Event for the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre
- Community day to open the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre
- Weekly Councillor meetings
- Regular Councillor briefings
- Planning Committee meeting
- Pre-Council meeting briefing
- Briefing on Leasing and Licencing Policy
- Sylvester Hive birthday celebration
- Darebin Education Network
- Climate Emergency Advisory Committee
- Food Forrest Launch at VASS
- Council Meeting
- Phone calls and emails with residents

REPORT OF CR. TRENT MCCARTHY

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

- Official Opening Event for the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre
- Community day to open the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre
- Weekly Councillor meetings
- Regular Councillor briefings
- Planning Committee meeting
- Pre-Council Briefing
- Leasing and Licencing Policy briefing
- NAGA Advocacy Working Group meeting

- NAGA Executive meeting
- Climate Emergency Australia Executive meeting
- Climate Emergency Darebin Committee meeting

REPORT OF CR. EMILY DIMITRIADIS

Cr. Dimitriadis did not submit a report.

REPORT OF CR. TOM HANNAN

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

- Contact (phone / online) with residents and businesses about their concerns, e.g., Merri Common, childcare leasing policy, parking, graffiti, building, planning, Darebin Enterprise Bargaining
- Citizenship Ceremony
- Community Open Day for Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre
- Official Opening Event for the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre
- Joint Welcoming Cities and Interfaith Advisory Committee - Inclusive workplace workshop
- Councillor briefings
- Councillor only meetings
- Planning Committee meeting
- Council Ordinary meeting

9.2 2023-24 Q1 PERFORMANCE REPORT (FINANCIAL AND NON-FINANCIAL) ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council is required by the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) to prepare a Council Plan containing the strategic objectives of Council, strategies for achieving those objectives, and indicators to monitor the achievement of those objectives.

The 2023-24 Quarter One (Q1) (July – September 23) Performance Report includes progress of the Council Plan Action Plan (CPAP), Capital Works Program, Council Resolutions, Procurement (**Appendix A**), and Financial Performance (**Appendix B**). The 2023-24 Council Plan Action Plan provides an overview of Council's performance in delivering the year three actions that will contribute to the completion of the four-year strategic actions in the (revised) Council Plan 2021-25.

Overall, the Q1 results indicate that delivery of the 2023-24 Council Plan Action Plan is progressing well, with 82.5% (66 actions) On Track, 5% (4 actions) Delayed, 1.3% (1 action) Off Track, 2.5% (2 actions) Completed, and 8.8% (7) actions Not Started, as detailed in **Appendix A**.

The 2023-24 Quarter One Financial Report in **Appendix B** provides an update of the financial results ending 30 September 2023.

To comply with *the Act*, the report includes the following comparisons for the three months ended 30 September 2023:

- A comparison of actual and budgeted results to date (s.97(2)(a))
- An explanation of any material variations (s.97(2)(b))
- Any other matters prescribed by the regulations (s.97(2)(c))

For the three months ended 30 September 2023, Council has recorded an operating surplus of \$114.93 million, which is \$2.78 million ahead of the year-to-date budget. After eliminating capital and other items, the adjusted underlying surplus is \$114.91 million, which is \$2.76 million more than the year-to-date budget.

An underlying surplus is the net surplus for the year adjusted for non-recurrent capital grants and contributions. It is an accepted measure of financial sustainability as it is not impacted by non-recurring or once-off items of revenue and expenses that can often mask the operating results.

Although Council is reporting a favourable year-to-date operating surplus, at this point in time there are no significant variances forecast compared to the adopted budget.

Significant favourable timing variances between actual results and the adopted YTD budget include;

- Delays in confirmation from insurer of the 2023-24 industrial special risk insurance premium (\$1,046k),
- Costs associated with the state funded Eighty-Six festival project (\$656k), and
- Delays in adoption of the Council's Enterprise Agreement 2022-25 (\$560k)

For the three months ended 30 September 2023, Council has expended \$6.15 million on the capital works program, which is \$0.3 million ahead of the year-to-date budget. Additional carry forwards from 2022-23 and minor changes between projects has increased the adopted capital budget by \$3.25 million to \$33.29 million.

The financial position as at 30 September 2023, shows Council's cash (\$37.53M) and investment (\$13.65M) balance of \$51.18m is ahead of the YTD adopted budget of \$48.99m. YTD net current assets of \$151.35m is ahead of the YTD adopted budget of \$135.78m.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 23-112

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

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the quarter one Performance Report 2023-24 including Council Plan Action Plan Progress at **Appendix A**.
- (2) Notes the quarter one update of the Capital Works program at **Appendix A**.
- (3) Notes the quarter one update on Council Resolutions contained within this report for the current financial year 2023-24.
- (4) Notes the Financial Report for the three months ended 30 September 2023 at **Appendix B**.
- (5) Notes the quarter one Procurement update contained within this report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.3 DAREBIN PARKING PERMIT POLICY 2023 FOR ADOPTION

The following people each made a 2-minute verbal submission:

1. *Tania Mannello*
2. *Ruth Jelley*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Updating the Residential Parking Permit Policy is an action item included in the Council Plan 2021-2025. The project has set out to:

- Improve equity and access to on-street parking permits
- Support Carers and those providing care support
- Manage on-street parking that provides access for a variety of users and ensures a safe street network
- Improve the customer experience by having a parking permit policy that is easy to understand, transparent and consistent in its application.

On-street parking is a community asset and there are often not enough spaces for everyone, especially in streets near shops and public transport. This is when Council needs to manage parking so that spaces are available for those who need them most.

An extensive policy review has been undertaken, including two rounds of community engagement. The results of the second round of engagement are described in this report.

The second round of community engagement sought feedback on a draft policy that included expanding permit access beyond the '2004' rule, where the '2004 rule' only provides permit access for residents living in dwellings built before December 2004.

The expanded access to residential parking permits included dwellings built after December 2004, but before the date of this policy adoption, dwellings with a commercial vehicle, and dwellings that have 2 or more cars that exceeds the number of off-street parking spaces. The draft policy also included allowing single dwelling rebuilds to access a residential permit, a new carers permit, a new services permit, and a user pays permit.

The final policy analysis considered a broad range of evidence, including community engagement, technical transport standards and an independent peer review. The expanded access beyond the '2004' rule risks creating increased permit demand and therefore parking demand. While this is expected to be dispersed throughout the municipality, streets surrounding activity centres, railway stations and other major destinations have a higher risk of increased parking demand. Considering this risk, on balance, the recommended policy does not include expanded access beyond the '2004 rule'.

There is an alternative policy option available for Council consideration that provides the expanded access included in the draft consultation policy. Two alternative policy approaches to achieve this access are set out in this report, including two alternative motions.

For all options, officers recommend undertaking a review after one year of operation and reporting back to Council the effectiveness of operations. This provides an opportunity to adjust the policy should unintended impacts occur.

Finally, this report recommends an implementation approach for the new policy. It is recommended that the new carers policy be made available by December 2023, and that all other residential permits be available from February 2024 onwards, which is when current permits expire.

This report recommends fees, where all fees are the current fees that were set in the 2023-24 budget, noting that future permit fees will be set through the annual budget process. The exception is the service permit, which is a new permit. Officers are recommending setting a fee for this new permit type, so it can be made available in February 2024.

Officers recommend deferring the new daily visitor permits until such time that an e-permit system is introduced. The current, transferable residential permit is recommended to be retained until daily visitor permits are introduced.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Adopts the Darebin Parking Permit Policy 2023 in the form attached to this Officer Report as **Appendix A**.
- (2) Fixes, for the purposes of the Darebin Parking Permit Policy 2023, the fees and charges specified in the table attached to this Officer Report as **Appendix B**.
- (3) Includes the fees and charges fixed under paragraph 2 of this Resolution in Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2023/24.
- (4) Notes that future fees and charges will be set through the annual budget process.
- (5) Directs the Chief Executive Officer to cause the updated Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2023/24 to be published on Council's website.
- (6) Implements the Darebin Parking Permit Policy 2023 in the following manner:
 - a. Make the carers permit available by 1 December 2023
 - b. Make the Service, User-pays and Resident Permits with updated eligibility available by 1 March 2024
 - c. Retain the current Transferrable Resident Permit until an online permit system is created, where the Transferrable Resident Permits:
 - i. Are resident permits that are used by residents and their visitors and can be easily transferred between vehicles.
 - d. Introduce the Daily Visitor Permit bundles following the creation of an online permit system in the future.
 - e. Discontinue the transferable Resident Permit after Daily Visitor Permit bundles have been introduced.
- (7) Directs the Chief Executive Officer to make administrative changes to the Darebin Parking Permit Policy 2023.
- (8) Thanks the community and key stakeholders for providing valuable feedback to the process of developing the Darebin Parking Permit Policy 2023.
- (9) Directs the Chief Executive Officer to bring a report to Council that outlines the effectiveness and impact of the policy after one year of operation.

Extension of Time

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

8.56pm - That the Council meeting continue after 9pm for 30 minutes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cr. Dimitriadis foreshadowed an alternate motion, to move Option 2A of the report, if the substantive motion was lost.

Motion

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

That Council:

- (1) Adopts the Darebin Parking Permit Policy 2023 in the form attached to this Officer Report as **Appendix A**.
- (2) Fixes, for the purposes of the Darebin Parking Permit Policy 2023, the fees and charges specified in the table attached to this Officer Report as **Appendix B**.
- (3) Includes the fees and charges fixed under paragraph 2 of this Resolution in Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2023/24.
- (4) Notes that future fees and charges will be set through the annual budget process.
- (5) Directs the Chief Executive Officer to cause the updated Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2023/24 to be published on Council's website.
- (6) Implements the Darebin Parking Permit Policy 2023 in the following manner:
 - a. Make the carers permit available by 1 December 2023
 - b. Make the Service, User-pays and Resident Permits with updated eligibility available by 1 March 2024
 - c. Retain the current Transferrable Resident Permit until an online permit system is created, where the Transferrable Resident Permits:
 - i. Are resident permits that are used by residents and their visitors and can be easily transferred between vehicles.
 - d. Introduce the Daily Visitor Permit bundles following the creation of an online permit system in the future.
 - e. Discontinue the transferable Resident Permit after Daily Visitor Permit bundles have been introduced.
- (7) Directs the Chief Executive Officer to make administrative changes to the Darebin Parking Permit Policy 2023.
- (8) Thanks the community and key stakeholders for providing valuable feedback to the process of developing the Darebin Parking Permit Policy 2023.
- (9) Directs the Chief Executive Officer to bring a report to Council that outlines the effectiveness and impact of the policy after one year of operation

The motion was put and lost.

LOST

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

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

Abstained: Cr Williams (1)

Cr. Dimitriadis moved the foreshadowed alternate motion, Option 2A of the report, as follows:

Alternate Motion

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis

SECONDED: Cr. G Greco

- (1) Adopts the Darebin Parking Permit Policy 2023 in the form attached to this Officer Report as Appendix A, with the following amendments
 - a) Under the sub-heading 'Eligible dwellings' add the following dot point:
 - "Dwellings built between 20 December 2004 and adoption of this policy in 2023 as part of a new development or subdivision resulting in 2 dwellings on the original lot"
 - b) Under the sub-heading 'Ineligible dwellings' replace "Dwellings built on or after 21 December 2004 as part of a development of 2 or more dwellings on a lot" with:
 - "Dwellings on a lot that make up a development of 3 or more dwellings, where one or more of the dwellings was constructed after 21 December 2004"
 - c) Under the heading "Number of resident permits available" amends the details to reflect the following;
 - The maximum number of resident permits per dwelling is 2. Dwellings with access to off-street parking are required to pay a higher fee to encourage the use of off-street parking
 - For the purposes of this Policy, Off-Street Car Parking means an area on private property designed for parking, including a driveway, garage, or carport that conforms with the relevant Australian Standards.
- (2) Fixes, for the purposes of the Darebin Parking Permit Policy 2023, the fees and charges specified in the table attached to this Officer Report as **Appendix F**.
- (3) Includes the fees and charges fixed under paragraph 2 of this Resolution in Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2023/24.
- (4) Directs the Chief Executive Officer to cause the updated Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2023/24 to be published on Council's website.
- (5) Implements the Darebin Parking Permit Policy 2023 in the following manner:
 - a) Make the carers permit available by 1 December 2023.
 - b) Make the Service, User-pays and Resident Permits with updated eligibility available by 1 March 2024.
 - c) Retain the current transferrable Resident Permit until an online permit system is created, where the Transferrable Resident Permits:
 - i. are resident permits that are for use by residents and their visitors and can be easily transferred between vehicles.
 - d) Introduce the Daily Visitor Permit bundles following the creation of an online permit system in the future.

- e) Discontinue the transferable Resident Permit after Daily Visitor Permit bundles have been introduced.
- (6) Directs the Chief Executive Officer to make administrative changes to the Darebin Parking Permit Policy 2023.
- (7) Thanks, the community and key stakeholders for providing valuable feedback to the process of developing the Darebin Parking Permit Policy 2023.
- (8) Directs the Chief Executive Officer to bring a report to Council that outlines the effectiveness and impact of the policy after one year of operation.

The alternate motion was put and carried and became the council resolution as follows:

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 23-113

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis
SECONDED: Cr. G Greco

That Council:

- (1) Adopts the Darebin Parking Permit Policy 2023 in the form attached to this Officer Report as Appendix A, with the following amendments:
 - a) Under the sub-heading 'Eligible dwellings' add the following dot point:
 - "Dwellings built between 20 December 2004 and adoption of this policy in 2023 as part of a new development or subdivision resulting in 2 dwellings on the original lot"
 - b) Under the sub-heading 'Ineligible dwellings' replace "Dwellings built on or after 21 December 2004 as part of a development of 2 or more dwellings on a lot" with:
 - "Dwellings on a lot that make up a development of 3 or more dwellings, where one or more of the dwellings was constructed after 21 December 2004"
 - c) Under the heading "Number of resident permits available" amends the details to reflect the following;
 - The maximum number of resident permits per dwelling is 2. Dwellings with access to off-street parking are required to pay a higher fee to encourage the use of off-street parking
 - For the purposes of this Policy, Off-Street Car Parking means an area on private property designed for parking, including a driveway, garage, or carport that conforms with the relevant Australian Standards.
- (2) Fixes, for the purposes of the Darebin Parking Permit Policy 2023, the fees and charges specified in the table attached to this Officer Report as **Appendix F**.
- (3) Includes the fees and charges fixed under paragraph 2 of this Resolution in Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2023/24.
- (4) Directs the Chief Executive Officer to cause the updated Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2023/24 to be published on Council's website.
- (5) Implements the Darebin Parking Permit Policy 2023 in the following manner:
 - a) Make the carers permit available by 1 December 2023.

- b) Make the Service, User-pays and Resident Permits with updated eligibility available by 1 March 2024.
 - c) Retain the current transferrable Resident Permit until an online permit system is created, where the Transferrable Resident Permits:
 - i. are resident permits that are for use by residents and their visitors and can be easily transferred between vehicles.
 - d) Introduce the Daily Visitor Permit bundles following the creation of an online permit system in the future.
 - e) Discontinue the transferable Resident Permit after Daily Visitor Permit bundles have been introduced.
- (6) Directs the Chief Executive Officer to make administrative changes to the Darebin Parking Permit Policy 2023.
- (7) Thanks, the community and key stakeholders for providing valuable feedback to the process of developing the Darebin Parking Permit Policy 2023.
- (8) Directs the Chief Executive Officer to bring a report to Council that outlines the effectiveness and impact of the policy after one year of operation.

CARRIED

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

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

9.4**NORTHCOTE GOLF COURSE PROJECT**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its meeting on Monday 23 May 2022 and following an extensive community consultation process, Council endorsed the Northcote Public Golf Course site continuing to operate as a nine-hole golf course while also setting aside 5.72 hectares as dedicated public open space for the community to enjoy.

Since the new arrangements have been in place Golf Course usage has increased and customer satisfaction has been high. Golf rounds for the first quarter 2023 were 27% above the same time last year (7468 more rounds). Additionally, data collected from the Northcote Golf Course operators (Clublinks) suggest that 98% of respondents are either satisfied or highly satisfied with the current Northcote Golf Course:

A customer survey campaign was run and sent to the Northcote Golf players database. The responses realised **84 survey results**, another fantastic result to capture true customer data.

When responders were asked (84 Responses)
"Overall what is your satisfaction level of Northcote Golf Course?"

*43% (36 responses) were highly satisfied;
55% (46 responses) were satisfied;
2% (2 responses) were not satisfied.*

Forward design and due diligence completed

At the Council Meeting on the 27 March 2023, Council resolved to accept a \$200,000 grant from Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) and to commence design and due diligence works for the Northcote Public Golf Course project.

Design and due diligence work has been undertaken. The due diligence work has confirmed that the golf course and new open space areas are functional and safe.

The MasterPlan and other design works completed identify possible future improvements to the site including a new path, a redesign of the golf course, building improvements and the addition of a range of new park assets. These recommendations have merit, although they have different levels of priority and cost-benefit when assessed on need and benefits. Council has planned to allocate \$250,000 for improvements in 2024-25 in its 4 year capital works budget, which would allow it to start some implementation. Some minor new park assets (such as bins or seats) are also expected to be assessed as a high priority for consideration of funding as part of Council's annual parks improvement program.

The total cost to implement all recommendations outlined in the reports is over \$3 million and as with other Masterplans and forward improvements plans across the City, improvements would be made over time and priorities assessed and considered by Council annually through the Budget development process.

The design work completed provides a strong foundation for advocacy to seek external funding to consider bringing forward improvements to nearer term. It is proposed that community engagement on the detailed design of elements occurs once funding has been confirmed through subsequent Annual Budget processes.

Extension of Time

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

That the Council meeting continue after 9.30pm for 30 minutes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cr. Laurence declared a conflict of interest in Item 9.4 Northcote Golf Course due to a family member's residential amenity which is in close proximity to the Northcote Golf Course.

9.25pm – Cr. Laurence left the meeting.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Notes the design and due diligence works funded through the Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) grant have been completed.
- (2) Endorses the designs and concept plans for the purposes of long term planning, budgeting, advocacy or grant applications, and noting that ahead of any works, community consultation with local residents and stakeholders will be undertaken in relation to each project. This includes:
 - a. Northcote Public Golf Course draft masterplan to enhance the layout of the existing nine-hole course.
 - b. Designs of a new eastern pedestrian and cycling pathway (from Warrk-Warrk Bridge to Normanby Avenue).
 - c. Designs for a new Northern Park adjacent to Mayer Park.
 - d. Designs for improvements/modifications to the existing golf course clubrooms and Pro shop to further support community use.
- (3) Notes that the cost of the activities funded through the grant were slightly lower cost than estimated and therefore, delegates the CEO (or delegate) to negotiate with SRV to consider utilising the remaining grant funding for other elements of the Northcote Public Golf Course Project.
- (4) Notes the Business Activation Case for the Northcote Golf Course has been prepared.

Motion

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

That Council:

- (1) Notes the design and due diligence works funded through the Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) grant have been completed.
- (2) Endorses the designs and concept plans for the purposes of long-term planning, budgeting, advocacy, or grant applications, and noting that ahead of any works, community consultation with local residents and stakeholders will be undertaken in

relation to each project. This includes:

- a. Northcote Public Golf Course draft masterplan to enhance the layout of the existing nine-hole course.
 - b. Designs of a new eastern pedestrian and cycling pathway (from Warrk-Warrk Bridge to Normanby Avenue).
 - c. Designs for a new Northern Park adjacent to Mayer Park.
 - d. Designs for improvements/modifications to the existing golf course clubrooms and Pro shop to further support community use.
- (3) Notes that the cost of the activities funded through the grant were slightly lower cost than estimated and therefore, delegates the CEO (or delegate) to negotiate with SRV to consider utilising the remaining grant funding for other elements of the Northcote Public Golf Course Project.
- (4) Notes the Business Activation Case for the Northcote Golf Course has been prepared.

Cr Greco proposed to the mover and seconder to add point (1) and point (4) as follows,

- (1) Notes that at its meeting on Monday 23 May 2022 and following an extensive community consultation process, Council endorsed the Northcote Public Golf Course site continuing to operate as a nine-hole golf course while also setting aside 5.72 hectares as dedicated public open space for the community to enjoy.
- (4) Notes that these designs and concept plans (as above) confirm Council's commitment to the new Parkland, to the Northcote Golf Course and to the balance of land distribution between these facilities. Notes that community consultation will be undertaken ahead of the detailed design stage and that if there are minor adjustments or improvements that can be made at that time, which achieve the overall vision for both the Park and Golf Course, these options will be provided to Council to consider.

The amendments were not accepted by the mover and seconder.

Amendment

MOVED: Cr. G Greco
SECONDED: Cr. E Dimitriadis

That Council:

- (1) **Notes that at its meeting on Monday 23 May 2022 and following an extensive community consultation process, Council endorsed the Northcote Public Golf Course site continuing to operate as a nine-hole golf course while also setting aside 5.72 hectares as dedicated public open space for the community to enjoy.**
- (2) Notes the design and due diligence works funded through the Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) grant have been completed.
- (3) Endorses the designs and concept plans for the purposes of long term planning, budgeting, advocacy or grant applications, and noting that ahead of any works, community consultation with local residents and stakeholders will be undertaken in relation to each project. This includes:
 - a. Northcote Public Golf Course draft masterplan to enhance the layout of the existing nine-hole course.
 - b. Designs of a new eastern pedestrian and cycling pathway (from Warrk-Warrk Bridge to Normanby Avenue).

- c. Designs for a new Northern Park adjacent to Mayer Park.
 - d. Designs for improvements/modifications to the existing golf course clubrooms and Pro shop to further support community use.
- (4) **Notes that these designs and concept plans (as above) confirm Council's commitment to the new Parkland, to the Northcote Golf Course and to the balance of land distribution between these facilities. Notes that community consultation will be undertaken ahead of the detailed design stage and that if there are minor adjustments or improvements that can be made at that time, which achieve the overall vision for both the Park and Golf Course, these options will be provided to Council to consider.**
- (5) Notes that the cost of the activities funded through the grant were slightly lower cost than estimated and therefore, delegates the CEO (or delegate) to negotiate with SRV to consider utilising the remaining grant funding for other elements of the Northcote Public Golf Course Project.
- (6) Notes the Business Activation Case for the Northcote Golf Course has been prepared.

CARRIED

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

Against: Cr's Newton, McCarthy, Hannan (3)

Abstained: Cr. Rennie (1)

The amendment formed the substantive motion and was put to vote and became the council resolution as follows:

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 23-114

MOVED: Cr. G Greco
SECONDED: Cr. E Dimitriadis

That Council:

- (1) Notes that at its meeting on Monday 23 May 2022 and following an extensive community consultation process, Council endorsed the Northcote Public Golf Course site continuing to operate as a nine-hole golf course while also setting aside 5.72 hectares as dedicated public open space for the community to enjoy.
- (2) Notes the design and due diligence works funded through the Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) grant have been completed.
- (3) Endorses the designs and concept plans for the purposes of long term planning, budgeting, advocacy or grant applications, and noting that ahead of any works, community consultation with local residents and stakeholders will be undertaken in relation to each project. This includes:
 - a. Northcote Public Golf Course draft masterplan to enhance the layout of the existing nine-hole course.
 - b. Designs of a new eastern pedestrian and cycling pathway (from Warrk-Warrk Bridge to Normanby Avenue).
 - c. Designs for a new Northern Park adjacent to Mayer Park.
 - d. Designs for improvements/modifications to the existing golf course clubrooms and Pro shop to further support community use.

- (4) Notes that these designs and concept plans (as above) confirm Council's commitment to the new Parkland, to the Northcote Golf Course and to the balance of land distribution between these facilities. Notes that community consultation will be undertaken ahead of the detailed design stage and that if there are minor adjustments or improvements that can be made at that time, which achieve the overall vision for both the Park and Golf Course, these options will be provided to Council to consider.
- (5) Notes that the cost of the activities funded through the grant were slightly lower cost than estimated and therefore, delegates the CEO (or delegate) to negotiate with SRV to consider utilising the remaining grant funding for other elements of the Northcote Public Golf Course Project.
- (6) Notes the Business Activation Case for the Northcote Golf Course has been prepared.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.38pm - Cr. Laurence returned to the meeting.

**9.6 DAREBIN LIBRARIES AND LEARNING STRATEGY 2020-24
- OUTCOMES REPORT 2022-23**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Darebin Libraries and Learning Strategy 2020-24* (Strategy) directs the focus of Darebin Libraries services, programs, technology, and spaces over the life of the Strategy. Annual action plans bring the Strategy to life operationally, delivering on community priorities and responding to emerging issues and community feedback.

This is the third annual report on the Strategy's progress and outcomes, addressing the 2022-23 action plan.

The 2022-23 financial year has been the first year uninterrupted by lockdowns since the beginning of the pandemic. The ability to offer undisrupted services has seen Darebin Libraries re-engage with our community through targeted programming, promotions, and outreach activities with great success.

Key outcomes achieved during 2022-23 are outlined below and in **Appendix B** *Darebin Libraries and Learning Strategy 2020-24 Outcomes 2022-23*.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 23-115

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

That Council notes the Darebin Libraries and Learning Strategy 2020-24 Outcomes 2022-23 (**Appendix B**).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.7 DAREBIN'S ELECTRONIC GAMBLING POLICY AND ACTION PLAN 2023 - 2027

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement of the **Minimising Harm from Poker Machines: Darebin Electronic Gaming Machines Policy 2023-2027 (the Policy) and Electronic Gaming Machine Action Plan (the Action Plan)**.

The Policy (**Appendix A**) reflects Council's commitment to minimising gambling harm associated with Electronic Gaming Machines (EGM) within the Darebin community. The policy will be implemented through an Action Plan (**Appendix B**).

The Policy was informed by a literature review on gambling harm (**Appendix C**), community engagement on gambling harm in the community (**Appendix D**), and a report of the community feedback on the draft Policy (**Appendix E**).

The Policy will be enacted through five priority areas and strategies that seek to maximise Council's investment and influence and provide a structure to guide future actions.

1. **Organisational Leadership** - Take a whole of organisation approach to minimise harm from EGMs. This includes ensuring that Councillors and Council officers lead by example through their official duties and that any of our actions aim to minimise harm from EGMs.
2. **Legislation Regulation** - Exercise the full extent of regulatory and legislative mandate to minimise harm from EGMs.
3. **Advocacy and Partnership** - Maintain strategic partnerships and undertake advocacy to minimise gambling harm.
4. **Awareness and Education** - Educate the community about the imbalance between EGMs harms and benefits. This is critical to ensure that community members have an informed perception of EGMs.
5. **Funding and Resourcing** - Dedicate resources and source funding to minimise harm from EGMs in the community.

The Policy proposes a move from a developmental approach to one that seeks compliance and outlines a process for Council to make decisions when a breach of the policy occurs.

The report also presents an overview of some of the broader policy changes announced by the Victorian Government in relation to Electronic Gaming Machines and outlines advocacy priorities.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 23-116

MOVED: Cr. S Rennie**SECONDED: Cr. G Greco****That Council:**

- (1) Thanks members of the community who have provided feedback to inform the review and development of the Minimising Harm from Poker Machines: Darebin Electronic Gaming Machines Policy 2023 – 2027 and Action Plan.
- (2) Endorses the Minimising Harm from Poker Machines: Darebin Electronic Gaming Machines Policy 2023 – 2027 (**Appendix A**) and Action Plan (**Appendix B**).
- (3) Writes to the Premier and the Minister for Casino, Gaming and Liquor Regulation and local Members of Parliament to:
 - a. Acknowledge the Victorian Government's proposed reforms to reduce gambling related harm announced in July 2023.
 - b. Request further information on timelines for implementation of the reforms.
 - c. Share Council's Minimising Harm from Poker Machines: Darebin Electronic Gaming Machines Policy 2023-2027.
 - d. Request the Victorian Government continues to work with Council to take proactive steps to reform and minimise gambling harm in the City of Darebin.
- (4) Requests that the CEO (or delegate) shares Council's decision to endorse the Minimising Harm from Poker Machines: Darebin Electronic Gaming Machines Policy 2023-2027, and commitment to advocate for gambling reforms and minimise gambling harm through Council's established communication channels.
- (5) Requests that the CEO (or delegate) uses best endeavours to contact those who participated in community engagement to provide an update on how their feedback has been incorporated and outline the actions Council will implement over the life of the Policy to alleviate concerns.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. ITEMS TO BE TABLED

Nil.

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

11.1 GRAFFITI MANAGEMENT

Take notice that at the Council Meeting to be held on 27 November 2023, it is my intention to move:

That Council:

- (1) *Notes that Graffiti has social and economic implications, which are acknowledged in the Graffiti Prevention Act 2007.*
- (2) *Notes that the Graffiti Prevention Act 2007 imposes significant penalties for graffiti crime, including imprisonment for up to two years, and grants general enforcement powers to Victoria Police and Protective Service Officers.*
- (3) *Notes that Council acknowledges the difference between public street art and vandalism, which includes placing images and text on other people's property without permission.*
- (4) *Writes to the Premier, the Opposition Leader, the Victorian Minister for Police and Minister for Crime Prevention, the Shadow Minister for Police, The Member for Northcote, the Member for Preston, and all Members for the Northern Region:*
- (5) *Advocating for increased action on graffiti, including enforcement*
- (6) *Advocating for the State Government to fund a pilot place-based graffiti taskforce in Darebin, to test a place-based and multi-disciplinary approach to graffiti prevention and law enforcement that could be deployed across other municipalities*
- (7) *seeking a meeting between senior State and Council officers to discuss and progress enforcement and a place-based graffiti pilot.*
- (8) *Writes to the Municipal Association of Victoria, the Northern Council Alliance, and the M9 Alliance, to ask that they support Darebin's calls for the State Government to increase action on graffiti, including enforcement.*
- (9) *Writes to the LXP, asking that they urgently remove graffiti from the Reservoir Train Station and surrounding precinct infrastructure, and that they take steps to ensure prevention and the swift clean-up of future graffiti.*
- (10) *Writes to the Lord Mayors of all Australian Capital cities, asking that they advocate to their respective State Governments that graffiti is a serious issue that needs to be prioritised.*
- (11) *Explores the effectiveness of the current Darebin General Local Law No. 1 in preventing graffiti through its Local Law Review project*

Notice Received: 10 November 2023

Notice Given to Councillors 10 November 2023

Date of Meeting: 27 November 2023

With leave of the Chairperson, Cr. Messina moved Notice of Motion Item 11.1, with amendments shown below:

Motion

MOVED: Cr. L Messina

SECONDED: Cr. G Greco

That Council:

- (1) Notes that Graffiti has social and economic implications, which are acknowledged in the Graffiti Prevention Act 2007.
- (2) Notes that the Graffiti Prevention Act 2007 imposes significant penalties for graffiti crime, including imprisonment for up to two years, and grants general enforcement powers to Victoria Police and Protective Service Officers.
- (3) Notes that Council acknowledges the difference between public street art and vandalism, which includes placing images and text on other people's property without permission.
- (4) **Calls for a report to establish a Pilot Based Graffiti Task force in Darebin.**
 - a. **This report to be considered as part of the Budget deliberations for 23/24.**
 - b. **The report should explore the effectiveness of the current Darebin General Local Law No. 1 in preventing graffiti through its Local Law Review project.**
 - c. **The report should also include other projects that have worked to address graffiti vandalism.**
- (5) Writes to the Premier, the Opposition Leader, the Victorian Minister for Police and Minister for Crime Prevention, the Shadow Minister for Police, The Member for Northcote, the Member for Preston, and all Members for the Northern Region:
 - a) Advocating for increased action on graffiti, including enforcement.
 - b) Seeking a meeting between senior State and Council officers to **discuss and partner with us for a place-based graffiti pilot.**
- ~~(6) advocating for the State Government to fund a pilot place-based graffiti taskforce in Darebin, to test a place-based and multi-disciplinary approach to graffiti prevention and law enforcement that could be deployed across other municipalities.~~
- ~~(7) seeking a meeting between senior State and Council officers to discuss and progress enforcement and a place-based graffiti pilot.~~
- (6) Writes to the Municipal Association of Victoria, the Northern Council Alliance, and the M9 Alliance, to ask that they support Darebin's calls for the State Government to increase action on graffiti, including enforcement.
- (7) Writes to the LXP, asking that they urgently remove graffiti from the Reservoir, **Preston and Bell** train stations and surrounding precinct infrastructure, and that they take steps to ensure prevention and the swift clean-up of future graffiti.
- ~~(10) Writes to the Lord Mayors of all Australian Capital cities, asking that they advocate to their respective State Governments that graffiti is a serious issue that needs to be prioritised.~~
- ~~(11) Explores the effectiveness of the current Darebin General Local Law No. 1 in preventing graffiti through its Local Law Review project.~~

The motion was put and carried and became the council resolution as follows:

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 23-117**MOVED: Cr. L Messina****SECONDED: Cr. G Greco****That Council:**

- (1) Notes that Graffiti has social and economic implications, which are acknowledged in the Graffiti Prevention Act 2007.
- (2) Notes that the Graffiti Prevention Act 2007 imposes significant penalties for graffiti crime, including imprisonment for up to two years, and grants general enforcement powers to Victoria Police and Protective Service Officers.
- (3) Notes that Council acknowledges the difference between public street art and vandalism, which includes placing images and text on other people's property without permission.
- (4) Calls for a report to establish a Pilot Based Graffiti Task force in Darebin.
 - d. This report to be considered as part of the Budget deliberations for 23/24.
 - e. The report should explore the effectiveness of the current Darebin General Local Law No. 1 in preventing graffiti through its Local Law Review project.
 - f. The report should also include other projects that have worked to address graffiti vandalism.
- (5) Writes to the Premier, the Opposition Leader, the Victorian Minister for Police and Minister for Crime Prevention, the Shadow Minister for Police, The Member for Northcote, the Member for Preston, and all Members for the Northern Region:
 - c) Advocating for increased action on graffiti, including enforcement.
 - d) Seeking a meeting between senior State and Council officers to discuss and partner with us for a place-based graffiti pilot.
- (6) Writes to the Municipal Association of Victoria, the Northern Council Alliance, and the M9 Alliance, to ask that they support Darebin's calls for the State Government to increase action on graffiti, including enforcement.
- (7) Writes to the LXP, asking that they urgently remove graffiti from the Reservoir, Preston and Bell train stations and surrounding precinct infrastructure, and that they take steps to ensure prevention and the swift clean-up of future graffiti.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11.3 BILL LAWRY OVAL STATUS

Take notice that at the Council Meeting to be held on 27 November 2023, it is my intention to move:

That Council:

- (1) Notes that in 2018, Darebin received \$500,000 in funding from the State Government for Female Friendly Facilities at Bill Lawry Oval <https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/northcote-scores-female-friendly-sporting-facilities/>
- (2) Notes that the (then) Premier stated that “This project will extend and refurbish the existing pavilion including the change rooms and public amenities, and provide a new fourth change room, medical room, accessible toilet and storage”.
- (3) Notes that the State Government has provided the funds to Council for Female Friendly Facilities at Bill Lawry Oval and Council has not acted to acquit to deliver the project.
- (4) Notes that as of the November 2023, which is five years after the announcement of the grant, Bill Lawry Oval is still lacking Female Friendly Facilities.
- (5) Requests a report to be presented to the February 2024 on the status of the funding, along with current plans and options to provide Female Friendly Facilities at Bill Lawry Oval.

Notice Received: 13 November 2023

Notice Given to Councillors: 13 November 2023

Date of Meeting: 27 November 2023

Rationale

In 2018, it was announced that Darebin would receive a significant grant to provide female friendly facilities at Bill Lawry Oval. This is over five years ago now and the community is still waiting for the important Female Friendly Facilities to be delivered at Bill Lawry Oval. Based on discussions with the community, I believe it is unclear to many community members, the status of Darebin’s commitment to providing Female Friendly Facilities at Bill Lawry Oval.

With leave of the Chairperson, Cr. Dimitriadis, moved her Notice of Motion with the amendments shown below:

Motion

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis

SECONDED: Cr. G Greco

That Council:

- (1) Notes that in 2018, Darebin received \$450,000 in funding from the State Government for Female Friendly Facilities at Bill Lawry Oval <https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/northcote-scores-female-friendly-sporting-facilities/>
- (2) Notes that the Victorian Government media release stated that “This project will extend and refurbish the existing pavilion including the change rooms and public amenities, and provide a new fourth change room, medical room, accessible toilet and storage”.

- (3) Notes that the State Government has provided the funds to Council for Female Friendly Facilities at Bill Lawry Oval and Council **has not acquitted the money** to deliver the project.
- (4) Notes that as of the 27 November 2023, which is five years after the announcement of the grant, Bill Lawry Oval is still lacking Female Friendly Facilities.
- (5) Responds to the Minister by 30 November 2023 to confirm our commitment to use the \$500,000 funds from the State Government to build permanent Female Friendly Facilities at Bill Lawry Oval, **only if it is not dollar-for-dollar funding and capped at \$500,000.**
- (6) Receives a report to be presented to a council meeting in early 2024 subject to the Minister's favourable response, that will outline the design and costs associated to build permanent Female Friendly Facilities at Bill Lawry Oval within the total \$500,000 funding envelope from the State Government, that can later be integrated with any new development at the Bill Lawry Oval site.

PROCEDURAL MOTION**MINUTE NO. 23-118**

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

That Council defers Items 11.4 through to 11.8 to the Council Meeting to be held on 18 December 2023.

CARRIED

For: Cr's McCarthy, Hanna, Rennie, Laurence, Newton
Against: Cr's Dimitriadis, Messina, Greco, Williams

Cr. McCarthy foreshadowed an amendment, if the motion was debated, to consider that Council also make available in the next report, that Council receive both the original motion that considers Bill Lawry Oval, the reasons for not proceeding and also the letter received from the minister.

The CEO advised that he would check with the Minister's office prior to releasing the letter.

Cr. Hannan proposed an amendment, to include additional points (7) and (8) to the substantive motion which was not accepted by the mover and seconder:

- (7) Notes that the construction of Bill Lawry Oval Pavilion was considered by Council in a confidential meeting on 25 January 2023, and that in February 2023 Darebin Council communicated to the relevant clubs, members of Parliament, local residents and general community that the project had been postponed due to financial reasons; and
- (8) In the interests of public transparency, Council resolves to make publicly available the minutes of the 25 January 2023 meeting in relation to the Bill Lawry Oval Pavilion, while withholding any details which may be commercially confidential.

Amendment

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

That Council:

- (1) Notes that in 2018, Darebin received \$450,000 in funding from the State Government for Female Friendly Facilities at Bill Lawry Oval <https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/northcote-scores-female-friendly-sporting-facilities/>
- (2) Notes that the Victorian Government media release stated that “This project will extend and refurbish the existing pavilion including the change rooms and public amenities, and provide a new fourth change room, medical room, accessible toilet and storage”.
- (3) Notes that the State Government has provided the funds to Council for Female Friendly Facilities at Bill Lawry Oval and Council has not acquitted the money to deliver the project.
- (4) Notes that as of the 27 November 2023, which is five years after the announcement of the grant, Bill Lawry Oval is still lacking Female Friendly Facilities.
- (5) Responds to the Minister by 30 November 2023 to confirm our commitment to use the \$500,000 funds from the State Government to build permanent Female Friendly Facilities at Bill Lawry Oval, only if it is not dollar-for-dollar funding and capped at \$500,000.
- (6) Receives a report to be presented to a council meeting in early 2024 subject to the Minister’s favourable response, that will outline the design and costs associated to build permanent Female Friendly Facilities at Bill Lawry Oval within the total \$500,000 funding envelope from the State Government, that can later be integrated with any new development at the Bill Lawry Oval site.
- (7) Notes that the construction of Bill Lawry Oval Pavilion was considered by Council in a confidential meeting on 25 January 2023, and that in February 2023 Darebin Council communicated to the relevant clubs, members of Parliament, local residents and general community that the project had been postponed due to financial reasons; and**
- (8) In the interests of public transparency, Council resolves to make publicly available the minutes of the 25 January 2023 meeting in relation to the Bill Lawry Oval Pavilion, while withholding any details which may be commercially confidential.**

The amendment was put and lost.

LOST

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

Against: Cr. Messina (1)

Abstained: Cr’s Dimitriadis, Greco, Laurence, and Williams (4)

Cr. McCarthy proposed to the mover and seconder that an additional point be added to the substantive motion as follows:

- (7) Seeks the Minister’s approval to publicly release her recent letter to Council in relation to Female Friendly Facilities.

The amendment was not accepted by the mover and the seconder.

Procedural Motion

MOVED: Cr. S Rennie

That Council call for a Special Council Meeting to be held at 5pm on Thursday 30 November 2023 to consider Item 11.3 Bill Lawry Oval Status.

LOST

For: Cr. Rennie (1)

Against: Cr's Dimitriadis and Greco (2)

Abstained: Cr's Newton, Laurence, Hannan, McCarthy, Williams, and Messina (5)

The Mayor ruled that Cr. McCarthy's amendment (to include point (7)) be put to vote.

Amendment

MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy

SECONDED: Cr. S Newton

That Council:

- (1) Notes that in 2018, Darebin received \$450,000 in funding from the State Government for Female Friendly Facilities at Bill Lawry Oval <https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/northcote-scores-female-friendly-sporting-facilities/>
- (2) Notes that the Victorian Government media release stated that "This project will extend and refurbish the existing pavilion including the change rooms and public amenities, and provide a new fourth change room, medical room, accessible toilet and storage".
- (3) Notes that the State Government has provided the funds to Council for Female Friendly Facilities at Bill Lawry Oval and Council **has not acquitted the money** to deliver the project.
- (4) Notes that as of the 27 November 2023, which is five years after the announcement of the grant, Bill Lawry Oval is still lacking Female Friendly Facilities.
- (5) Responds to the Minister by 30 November 2023 to confirm our commitment to use the \$500,000 funds from the State Government to build permanent Female Friendly Facilities at Bill Lawry Oval, **only if it is not dollar-for-dollar funding and capped at \$500,000.**
- (6) Receives a report to be presented to a council meeting in early 2024 subject to the Minister's favourable response, that will outline the design and costs associated to build permanent Female Friendly Facilities at Bill Lawry Oval within the total \$500,000 funding envelope from the State Government, that can later be integrated with any new development at the Bill Lawry Oval site.
- (7) **Seeks the Minister's approval to publicly release her recent letter to Council in relation to Female Friendly Facilities.**

The amendment was put to vote.

CARRIED

For: Cr's Hannan, McCarthy, Rennie, Laurence, Newton (5)

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

The substantive motion then read as follows:

Motion

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis

SECONDED: Cr. G Greco

That Council:

- (1) Notes that in 2018, Darebin received \$450,000 in funding from the State Government

for Female Friendly Facilities at Bill Lawry Oval
<https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/northcote-scores-female-friendly-sporting-facilities/>

- (2) Notes that the Victorian Government media release stated that “This project will extend and refurbish the existing pavilion including the change rooms and public amenities, and provide a new fourth change room, medical room, accessible toilet and storage”.
- (3) Notes that the State Government has provided the funds to Council for Female Friendly Facilities at Bill Lawry Oval and Council has not acquitted the money to deliver the project.
- (4) Notes that as of the 27 November 2023, which is five years after the announcement of the grant, Bill Lawry Oval is still lacking Female Friendly Facilities.
- (5) Responds to the Minister by 30 November 2023 to confirm our commitment to use the \$500,000 funds from the State Government to build permanent Female Friendly Facilities at Bill Lawry Oval, only if it is not dollar-for-dollar funding and capped at \$500,000.
- (6) Receives a report to be presented to a council meeting in early 2024 subject to the Minister’s favourable response, that will outline the design and costs associated to build permanent Female Friendly Facilities at Bill Lawry Oval within the total \$500,000 funding envelope from the State Government, that can later be integrated with any new development at the Bill Lawry Oval site.
- (7) Seeks the Minister’s approval to publicly release her recent letter to Council in relation to Female Friendly Facilities.

The motion was put to vote and became the council resolution as follows:

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 23-119

MOVED: Cr. E Dimitriadis
SECONDED: Cr. G Greco

That Council:

- (1) Notes that in 2018, Darebin received \$450,000 in funding from the State Government for Female Friendly Facilities at Bill Lawry Oval
<https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/northcote-scores-female-friendly-sporting-facilities/>
- (2) Notes that the Victorian Government media release stated that “This project will extend and refurbish the existing pavilion including the change rooms and public amenities, and provide a new fourth change room, medical room, accessible toilet and storage”.
- (3) Notes that the State Government has provided the funds to Council for Female Friendly Facilities at Bill Lawry Oval and Council has not acquitted the money to deliver the project.
- (4) Notes that as of the 27 November 2023, which is five years after the announcement of the grant, Bill Lawry Oval is still lacking Female Friendly Facilities.
- (5) Responds to the Minister by 30 November 2023 to confirm our commitment to use the \$500,000 funds from the State Government to build permanent Female Friendly Facilities at Bill Lawry Oval, only if it is not dollar-for-dollar funding and capped at \$500,000.
- (6) Receives a report to be presented to a council meeting in early 2024 subject to the Minister’s favourable response, that will outline the design and costs associated to build permanent Female Friendly Facilities at Bill Lawry Oval within the total \$500,000 funding envelope from the State Government, that can later be integrated with any new development at the Bill Lawry Oval site.

- (7) Seeks the Minister's approval to publicly release her recent letter to Council in relation to Female Friendly Facilities.

CARRIED

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

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

**11.4 VICTORIAN FOOD SYSTEMS CONSENSUS STATEMENT,
TOWARDS A HEALTHY, REGENERATIVE AND EQUITABLE
FOOD SYSTEM IN VICTORIA**

DEFERRED TO 18 DECEMBER 2023, REFER TO MINUTE NO. 23-118

Take notice that at the Council Meeting to be held on 27 November 2023, it is my intention to move:

That Council:

- (1) *notes that this motion moves to confirm support for the Victorian Food Systems Consensus Statement, Towards A Healthy, Regenerative and Equitable Food System in Victoria, facilitated by VicHealth and in carriage with Sustain: The Australian Food Network.*
- (2) *brings forward a report that considers options for Darebin to:*
 - a. *affirm a commitment to the leverage points laid out in the Consensus Statement, including:*
 - i. *The legislation of the Right to Food in Victoria*
 - ii. *Establishing a governmental food systems committee to undertake a food systems inquiry and subsequently develop a Victorian food systems plan*
 - iii. *The advancement of a comprehensive food systems monitoring framework*
 - iv. *Regenerative and agroecological food production*
 - v. *The creation of a local food investment fund*
 - vi. *That all public sector food procurement and retail is healthy and sustainable*
 - vii. *Strengthening food literacy in schools in collaboration with educators*
 - viii. *Resourcing and empowerment of local councils to lead food system strategies*
 - ix. *The revision of the Victorian planning provisions legislation to promote health*
 - x. *Improving dignified access to healthy food through the food relief sector*
 - b. *undertake the VicHealth “building better food systems for healthier communities” module.*
- (3) *supports the Food Systems and Food Security Working Group's advocacy efforts to lobby state politicians to begin a Food Systems Inquiry similar to the Food Production and Supply Inquiry in NSW (2021-22), including writing to the Victorian Minister for Health. This motion will be used for this end*

Notice Received: 13 November 2023

Notice Given to Councillors 13 November 2023

Date of Meeting: 27 November 2023

Rationale

A commitment to these actions and leverage points will lead to a better food system for the LGA and more Victoria more broadly. A food system that is healthy, regenerative and equitable for the decades to come. One that guarantees a right to food for all and fosters a resilient, thriving community. Amid the sky-rocketing cost of living crisis and speculation on vital agricultural land in Victoria, it is imperative that we commit to strategies that enable access to food for all, protect our food production industries and regenerate the land.

Victoria's food system is in urgent need of an overhaul. We are currently facing unprecedented levels of food insecurity amidst the worst cost of living crisis in recent memory, an escalating ecological catastrophe and an uncertain global geopolitical stage.

A core component of the cost-of-living crisis is the unchecked inflation of food prices. Over the last year, the price of staple groceries has increased between 5%-15%, with quarterly inflation still at 8%. In conjunction with mortgage and rent payments, energy bills, and transportation costs all increasing, more and more households are becoming financially unstable.

These cost of living pressures are a primary cause of the alarming 21% rise in Food Bank distributions over the 2021-2022 period, with demand for food relief growing every month. Additionally, Over 365,000 children in Victoria have experienced severe food insecurity, drastically impacting their ability to engage and learn at school in the same period. FoodBank data shows that 70% of those facing food insecurity also experience high levels of psychological distress, particularly among parents. With the RBA interest rate increases continuing, and inflation showing little sign of slowing, these statistics are likely to undervalue the current state of food insecurity.

The cost-of-living crisis has only added to already high levels of food insecurity in part due to the devastating fires, floods, and droughts experienced over large parts of Australia in the last 5 years. With the climate crisis accelerating, these disasters are likely to become more prevalent, further plunging the food system into catastrophe. The events affect not only our food producing land, but also supply and distribution chains, leading to shortages in isolated areas.

Lastly, the current global geopolitical environment is one of high volatility and uncertainty. The ongoing consequences of Russia's invasion of Ukraine has drastically increased the price of wheat (a core ingredient in many staple and processed foods, as well as livestock feed), fertilisers (on which our current agricultural system is reliant), and fuel (used for farm machinery and freight). All of these factors lead to shortages and price increases, which in turn reduce access to food for a large number of Victorians.

We need a food system that is resilient to these shocks, one that will ensure food security to all for generations to come. Fortunately, in the last few years, high quality research led by food systems practitioners, community organisers, councils and academics, has been conducted to address these challenges. In particular, the Victorian Food Systems Consensus Statement (<https://vicfoodsystem.org.au/>) and the Melbourne Food System Resilience Report (https://science.unimelb.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/4128795/Foodprint-Resilience-Report-2022_double_page.pdf).

They call for the following actions:

1. Legislate the Right to Food in Victoria
2. Establish a government food systems enquiry to further the existing research and implement recommendations
3. Support First Nations Foodways and Sovereignty
4. Advance a comprehensive food systems monitoring framework

5. Shift to regenerative and agroecological food production – soil, carbon, health, profit
6. Create a local food investment fund
7. That all public sector food procurement and retail is healthy and sustainable
8. Strengthen food literacy in schools in collaboration with educators
9. Resource and empower local councils to lead food system strategies
10. Revise the Victorian planning provisions legislation to promote health
11. Improve dignified access to healthy food through the food relief sector
12. Protect peri-urban agricultural land from development and speculation
13. Diversify the Victorian food system – (locations of production, storage, retail; scale of enterprises involved in the systems, increased biodiversity – crops, forestry, livestock; distribution networks)
14. Strengthen local and regional food production rather than rely on imports
15. Decentralise food production, storage and retail options
16. Create a circular economy in which waste is put back into the system

A food system that incorporates all of these evidenced based best practices will create an environment in which all Victorians can thrive. we will be resilient to climate, economic, and geopolitical stresses. It will foster a closer connection between humans and the ecology of which we are a part. Communities will be stronger and more resilient, and we will be physically and mentally healthier.

I acknowledge the work of Nick Rose and Sustain (and the incredible example of the Oakhill Food Justice Farm on the border of Preston and Reservoir) in shaping this motion

Motion

That Council:

- (1) *notes that this motion moves to confirm support for the Victorian Food Systems Consensus Statement, Towards A Healthy, Regenerative and Equitable Food System in Victoria, facilitated by VicHealth and in carriage with Sustain: The Australian Food Network.*
- (2) *brings forward a report that considers options for Darebin to:*
 - a. *affirm a commitment to the leverage points laid out in the Consensus Statement, including:*
 - i. *The legislation of the Right to Food in Victoria*
 - ii. *Establishing a governmental food systems committee to undertake a food systems inquiry and subsequently develop a Victorian food systems plan*
 - iii. *The advancement of a comprehensive food systems monitoring framework*
 - iv. *Regenerative and agroecological food production*
 - v. *The creation of a local food investment fund*
 - vi. *That all public sector food procurement and retail is healthy and sustainable*
 - vii. *Strengthening food literacy in schools in collaboration with educators*

- viii. Resourcing and empowerment of local councils to lead food system strategies*
 - ix. The revision of the Victorian planning provisions legislation to promote health*
 - x. Improving dignified access to healthy food through the food relief sector*
 - b. undertake the VicHealth “building better food systems for healthier communities” module.*
- (3) supports the Food Systems and Food Security Working Group's advocacy efforts to lobby state politicians to begin a Food Systems Inquiry similar to the Food Production and Supply Inquiry in NSW (2021-22), including writing to the Victorian Minister for Health. This motion will be used for this end*

11.5 ADDRESSING THE HOUSING CRISIS

DEFERRED TO 18 DECEMBER 2023, REFER TO MINUTE NO. 23-118

Take notice that at the Council Meeting to be held on 27 November 2023, it is my intention to move:

That Council

- (1) *Acknowledges that the diversity of Darebin is our greatest strength, and that we must do all we can to ensure that people of all backgrounds and incomes are able to live and thrive in Darebin, and that providing housing to those in need is crucial to maintaining the rich diversity of the Darebin community now and into the future.*
- (2) *Acknowledges we are in a housing crisis and reaffirms its commitment to addressing housing affordability, social housing needs and homelessness.*
- (3) *Calls on the Victorian Government to increase public, social housing, affordable housing and homeless services in Darebin and across the state to help reduce the long waitlist of 65,195 people in Victoria seeking housing (June 2023 figure from the Applications on the Victorian Housing Register (VHR)).*
- (4) *Notes the recent State Government announcement to demolish and redevelop 44 public housing towers across the state, including the tower in Darebin at 1 Holmes Street, Northcote and seeks information from the Minister for Housing about the timeline for when the residents of 1 Holmes Street Northcote are to be relocated and when the tower is due to be demolished.*
- (5) *Notes that two of the key risks of public housing redevelopment, include:*
 - 5.1 *The risk of existing tenants not being relocated back into the community and consequently, losing their existing community support and social networks; and*
 - 5.2 *The risk of reduced Public Housing yield due to the sell-off of public land to developers to fund the redevelopment through private housing when greater yield could be achieved through direct funding of new public housing by the State Government.*
- (6) *Notes the State Government's recent Housing Statement, included a number of measures that remove planning powers from Council and reduce local government's role in influencing development, and limit and reduce the community's ability to participate in engagement and object to applications.*
- (7) *Requests the CEO to review the impacts of these announcements, brief Council on these impacts and provide a report to Council in early 2024, including:*
 - 7.1 *Recommendations for revised or amended policy and advocacy positions that could be adopted by Council to mitigate the risks and impacts of State Government initiatives and to leverage opportunities to increase social housing in Darebin.*
 - 7.2 *Recommendations for additional initiatives that could be implemented by Council to address the housing crisis, including recommended amendments to the Darebin Housing Strategy.*

Notice Received: 13 November 2023

Notice Given to Councillors 13 November 2023

Date of Meeting: 27 November 2023

Rationale

The Victorian Government should be increasing public housing to address the housing crisis. Instead, the Victorian Housing Statement (https://content.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-09/DTP0424_Housing_Statement_v6_FA_WEB.pdf) shows the Victorian Government plans to demolish 44 public housing towers, increase the amount of people living on the sites from 10,000 to 30,000 and to replace public housing with social and private housing, on public land. The housing statement mentions it wants to “Expedite zoning, planning and land release for social and affordable housing” but misses an opportunity to mandate inclusionary zoning.

The Good Decisions, Made Faster reforms will make it much harder for local people and communities and local governments to participate in decision making around planning, and reduce their ability to oppose developments. The changes will also make it harder to implement Darebin’s good design guide.

The Victorian Government has not consulted adequately on these major changes.

We must consider the implications of these major changes on the growing level of homelessness in Victoria that this plan will further exacerbate, the disregard of the tenants’ human rights to a secure and permanent home, and the removal of Council’s statutory authority role in the planning of Darebin’s future development.

Further reading

<https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/northcote-housing-development-creates-two-classes-of-resident-20190613-p51xc5.html>

<https://www.homes.vic.gov.au/applications-victorian-housing-register-vhr>

Motion

That Council

- (1) *Acknowledges that the diversity of Darebin is our greatest strength, and that we must do all we can to ensure that people of all backgrounds and incomes are able to live and thrive in Darebin, and that providing housing to those in need is crucial to maintaining the rich diversity of the Darebin community now and into the future.*
- (2) *Acknowledges we are in a housing crisis and reaffirms its commitment to addressing housing affordability, social housing needs and homelessness.*
- (3) *Calls on the Victorian Government to increase public, social housing, affordable housing and homeless services in Darebin and across the state to help reduce the long waitlist of 65,195 people in Victoria seeking housing (June 2023 figure from the Applications on the Victorian Housing Register (VHR)).*
- (4) *Notes the recent State Government announcement to demolish and redevelop 44 public housing towers across the state, including the tower in Darebin at 1 Holmes Street, Northcote and seeks information from the Minister for Housing about the timeline for when the residents of 1 Holmes Street Northcote are to be relocated and when the tower is due to be demolished.*

- (5) *Notes that two of the key risks of public housing redevelopment, include:*
- 5.1 *The risk of existing tenants not being relocated back into the community and consequently, losing their existing community support and social networks; and*
 - 5.2 *The risk of reduced Public Housing yield due to the sell-off of public land to developers to fund the redevelopment through private housing when greater yield could be achieved through direct funding of new public housing by the State Government.*
- (6) *Notes the State Government's recent Housing Statement, included a number of measures that remove planning powers from Council and reduce local government's role in influencing development, and limit and reduce the community's ability to participate in engagement and object to applications.*
- (7) *Requests the CEO to review the impacts of these announcements, brief Council on these impacts and provide a report to Council in early 2024, including:*
- 7.1 *Recommendations for revised or amended policy and advocacy positions that could be adopted by Council to mitigate the risks and impacts of State Government initiatives and to leverage opportunities to increase social housing in Darebin.*
 - 7.2 *Recommendations for additional initiatives that could be implemented by Council to address the housing crisis, including recommended amendments to the Darebin Housing Strategy.*

11.6**86 FESTIVAL**

DEFERRED TO 18 DECEMBER 2023, REFER TO MINUTE NO. 23-118

Take notice that at the Council Meeting to be held on 27 November 2023, it is my intention to move:

That Council

- (1) *Congratulates the Festival producers on the success of the 86 Festival held in October 2023, showcasing the vibrant live music precincts of Darebin.*
 - (2) *Writes to the Minister for Creative Industries to:*
 - a. *Thank the State Government for the funding support it provided to enable the inaugural 86 Festival to be held in October 2023*
 - b. *Call on the State Government to provide future funding to Festival producers to enable them to deliver future events in Darebin in 23/24*
 - (3) *Writes to Festival producers, Principal Partner Creative Victoria and event sponsor Yarra Trams to thank them for their role in delivering this unique event within Darebin*
 - (4) *Requests that the CEO completes an evaluation report of the 86 Festival and presents this back to Council at the earliest possible with the report to include:*
 - a. *Analysis of the economic impact within Darebin from 86 Festival visitation and local spend*
 - b. *An overview of the benefits of the 86 Festival for Darebin*
 - c. *An overview of the lessons learned (eg noise impacts, waste dumping, communications etc) and future mitigation strategies that could be implemented to improve large scale events and Festivals within Darebin*
-

Notice Received: 13 November 2023

Notice Given to Councillors 13 November 2023

Date of Meeting: 27 November 2023

Rationale

Rationale for Celebrating Arts and Culture in our Local Community

1. Enriching Cultural Fabric:

Community Identity: The vibrant arts and cultural scene on high streets like St, Station St, Plenty Rd, Edwards, Broadway, Gilbert Rd, and Murray Rd contributes significantly to shaping the identity of our municipality. It fosters a sense of pride and belonging among residents, creating a unique and memorable community character.

2. Economic Benefits:

Local Business Growth: The presence of artistic and cultural activities attracts visitors, contributing to increased foot traffic and economic activity for local businesses. This, in turn, stimulates economic growth and fosters entrepreneurship, making these areas hubs of culinary and artistic delights.

3. Community Engagement:

Social Cohesion: Arts and cultural events provide opportunities for community members to come together, fostering social cohesion and interaction. Shared cultural experiences promote understanding, tolerance, and unity among diverse groups within the community.

4. Need for Clear Policies:

Permitting Process: Establishing a clear and well-defined permitting process is crucial for sustaining the vibrancy of these cultural hubs. Such a process should consider the interests of business owners, residents, and visitors alike.

Waste Management: A robust policy should address waste management to ensure that events and businesses do not negatively impact the local environment. Proper disposal and recycling measures can mitigate the environmental footprint of cultural activities.

5. Balancing Interests:

Noise Levels and Operating Hours: Striking a balance between celebrating culture and respecting the needs of residents requires clear guidelines on noise levels and operating hours. A thoughtful policy should consider the diverse needs of both business owners and residents, promoting harmony within the community.

6. Supporting Local Businesses:

Community Support: A well-crafted policy should not only regulate but also actively support local businesses. This includes providing resources, assistance, and incentives to ensure that these cultural hubs continue to thrive and contribute positively to the local economy.

7. Showcasing Community Diversity:

Colour and Sound of 86 Festival: Events like the 86 Festival exemplify the diversity and creativity within our community. A clear policy framework can elevate and celebrate these cultural expressions, encouraging further participation and investment in local arts and cultural initiatives.

Conclusion:

Celebrating arts and culture is not just about entertainment; it is about nurturing a vibrant, inclusive, and economically thriving community. A well-defined policy for permits, waste management, and community support is essential to ensure that our cultural hubs continue to flourish, providing a rich tapestry of experiences for residents and visitors alike. By fostering a dynamic and supportive environment, we can strengthen the cultural identity of our municipality and create lasting benefits for all stakeholders.

Motion

That Council

- (1) *Congratulates the Festival producers on the success of the 86 Festival held in October 2023, showcasing the vibrant live music precincts of Darebin.*
 - (2) *Writes to the Minister for Creative Industries to:*
 - a. *Thank the State Government for the funding support it provided to enable the inaugural 86 Festival to be held in October 2023*
 - b. *Call on the State Government to provide future funding to Festival producers to enable them to deliver future events in Darebin in 23/24*
 - (3) *Writes to Festival producers, Principal Partner Creative Victoria and event sponsor Yarra Trams to thank them for their role in delivering this unique event within Darebin*
 - (4) *Requests that the CEO completes an evaluation report of the 86 Festival and presents this back to Council at the earliest possible with the report to include:*
 - a. *Analysis of the economic impact within Darebin from 86 Festival visitation and local spend*
 - b. *An overview of the benefits of the 86 Festival for Darebin*
 - c. *An overview of the lessons learned (eg noise impacts, waste dumping, communications etc) and future mitigation strategies that could be implemented to improve large scale events and Festivals within Darebin*
-

11.7

ENGAGEMENT OF POST-WAR MIGRANTS BY COUNCIL

DEFERRED TO 18 DECEMBER 2023, REFER TO MINUTE NO. 23-118

Take notice that at the Council Meeting to be held on 27 November 2023, it is my intention to move:

That Council calls for a report at the earliest possible opportunity on ways that Council can enhance the way it engages with post-war migrants so their views and experiences are incorporated in Council programs, services and projects including the Migration Monument, Country of Origin Signage and Place naming projects.

Notice Received: 13 November 2023

Notice Given to Councillors 13 November 2023

Date of Meeting: 27 November 2023

Rationale

Rationale for Elevating Post-War Migration Voices in Council Decision-Making

1. Rich Multicultural Fabric:

Diversity as an Asset: Our community is woven with the threads of diverse cultures, particularly those of post-war migrants who have significantly contributed to shaping the local identity. Recognizing and elevating these voices adds richness to the cultural tapestry that defines our municipality.

2. Historical Contribution:

Legacy of Post-War Migrants: Post-war migrants have played a pivotal role in building and sustaining our community. Their experiences, perspectives, and contributions have left a lasting imprint on our society, making it essential to include their voices in decision-making processes.

3. Inclusivity and Representation:

Reflecting the Population: Council decisions impact all members of the community, and a diverse range of voices ensures that decisions are reflective of the entire population. Inclusivity in decision-making promotes a sense of belonging and representation for all, fostering social cohesion.

4. Unique Insights and Experiences:

Diverse Perspectives: Post-war migrants bring unique insights and experiences that can offer fresh perspectives on various issues. Their distinct cultural backgrounds can contribute to more comprehensive and nuanced decision-making, addressing the needs of a broader range of residents.

5. Strengthening Social Bonds:

Building Bridges: Elevating the voices of post-war migrants in decision-making processes can help bridge any existing gaps between different communities. It fosters understanding, tolerance, and unity, creating a stronger and more connected local society.

6. Addressing Invisibility:

Overcoming Silence: Despite the richness of our multicultural fabric, the voices of post-war migrants often remain unheard. Elevating these voices acknowledges their significance and actively works towards addressing historical invisibility in decision-making forums.

7. Community Empowerment:

Empowering Communities: Involving post-war migrants in decision-making empowers these communities to actively participate in shaping the future of the municipality. It fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility, encouraging ongoing engagement in civic affair.

In conclusion

Elevating the voices of post-war migration communities in council decision-making processes is not just a matter of diversity; it is a strategic imperative for building a stronger, more inclusive, and harmonious municipality. By actively involving these voices, we not only honour the historical contributions of post-war migrants but also ensure that our decisions are informed by the diverse experiences that enrich our community.

Motion

That Council calls for a report at the earliest possible opportunity on ways that Council can enhance the way it engages with post-war migrants so their views and experiences are incorporated in Council programs, services and projects including the Migration Monument, Country of Origin Signage and Place naming projects.

11.8 RESERVOIR BOATHOUSE

DEFERRED TO 18 DECEMBER 2023, REFER TO MINUTE NO. 23-118

Take notice that at the Council Meeting to be held on 27 November 2023, it is my intention to move:

That Council:

- (1) *Notes its commitment in its 2021-25 Council Plan to activate Edwardes Lake Boat House in Reservoir and that Council has been working towards finding a commercial lease to bring it to life as a venue or business.*
- (2) *Notes that Council has progressed work towards this including planning for works at the site in 2025-26 to make it suitable for an operator by including toilets, air conditioning, plumbing, new windows and doors to the deck, and deck extension.*
- (3) *Notes that in its due diligence work, Council has identified an old covenant on the land that would not allow an operator to serve alcohol. Council is currently seeking to have this removed, however the timeframe for this, and whether the covenantor will ultimately agree to removal is uncertain and not in Council's control.*
- (4) *Calls for a report about what options Council has for progressing further at this time towards its aim of finding a commercial operator to bring the Boathouse to life as a venue or business, including:*
 - a. *The option of calling for expressions of interest in 2024 for operators of the venue on the basis that they would invest in any necessary works to the building*

Notice Received: 13 November 2023

Notice Given to Councillors 13 November 2023

Date of Meeting: 27 November 2023

Rationale:

Rationale for Elevating Reservoir Boathouse to an Iconic Destination

1. Historic Significance:

Cultural Heritage: The Reservoir Boathouse stands as a testament to the cultural and historical heritage of the area. Elevating it to an iconic destination provides an opportunity to showcase and celebrate the local history, creating a bridge between the past and the present.

2. Potential as a Hub for Leisure:

Idyllic Location: Situated amidst picturesque parklands, the Reservoir Boathouse has the potential to become a hub for leisure and relaxation. Its serene surroundings make it an ideal location for people to dine, unwind, and enjoy the natural beauty of the area.

3. Economic and Social Impact:

Community Hub: Transforming the boathouse into an iconic destination can stimulate economic growth by attracting visitors to the area. This, in turn, can support local businesses and create job opportunities. Additionally, it can become a social hub, fostering community engagement and a sense of togetherness.

4. Overcoming Historical Constraints:

Old Covenant Discovery: The recent discovery of an old covenant has posed a challenge to the progress of improving the boathouse. However, by addressing this hurdle transparently and responsibly, we can demonstrate a commitment to historical preservation while still moving forward with the necessary improvements.

5. Cultural and Culinary Experience:

Dining and Celebration Venue: The Reservoir Boathouse has the potential to be a unique dining destination, offering a blend of culinary delights and cultural experiences. By curating events and celebrations, it can attract people from both the local community and beyond, becoming a sought-after venue for various occasions.

6. Transparency and Accountability:

Ensuring Progress: This report emphasizes the importance of transparency and adherence to due process. By outlining a clear plan and addressing any historical constraints openly, we aim to ensure that the community is well-informed about the efforts being made to bring the boathouse to life.

7. Collaboration for Success:

Community Involvement: Involving the community in the revitalization of the boathouse is crucial. Collaborative efforts, including public consultations and engagement, can generate ideas, garner support, and contribute to the success of the project.

Conclusion:

The Reservoir Boathouse, with its historical significance and idyllic location, holds immense potential to become an iconic destination for dining, leisure, and celebration. Overcoming challenges transparently, fostering community involvement, and highlighting the cultural and economic benefits will ensure the success of this endeavor. By elevating the boathouse to an iconic status, we not only enhance the local landscape but also create a lasting legacy for generations to come.

Motion

That Council:

- (1) Notes its commitment in its 2021-25 Council Plan to activate Edwardes Lake Boat House in Reservoir and that Council has been working towards finding a commercial lease to bring it to life as a venue or business.*
- (2) Notes that Council has progressed work towards this including planning for works at the site in 2025-26 to make it suitable for an operator by including toilets, air conditioning, plumbing, new windows and doors to the deck, and deck extension.*
- (3) Notes that in its due diligence work, Council has identified an old covenant on the land that would not allow an operator to serve alcohol. Council is currently seeking to have this removed, however the timeframe for this, and whether the covenantor will ultimately agree to removal is uncertain and not in Council's control.*
- (4) Calls for a report about what options Council has for progressing further at this time towards its aim of finding a commercial operator to bring the Boathouse to life as a venue or business, including:
 - a. The option of calling for expressions of interest in 2024 for operators of the venue on the basis that they would invest in any necessary works to the building**

12. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

13. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL

Nil.

14. CLOSE OF MEETING


The meeting closed at 10.15pm.

**CITY OF
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