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MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 24 June 2024

Released to the public on 27 June 2024

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



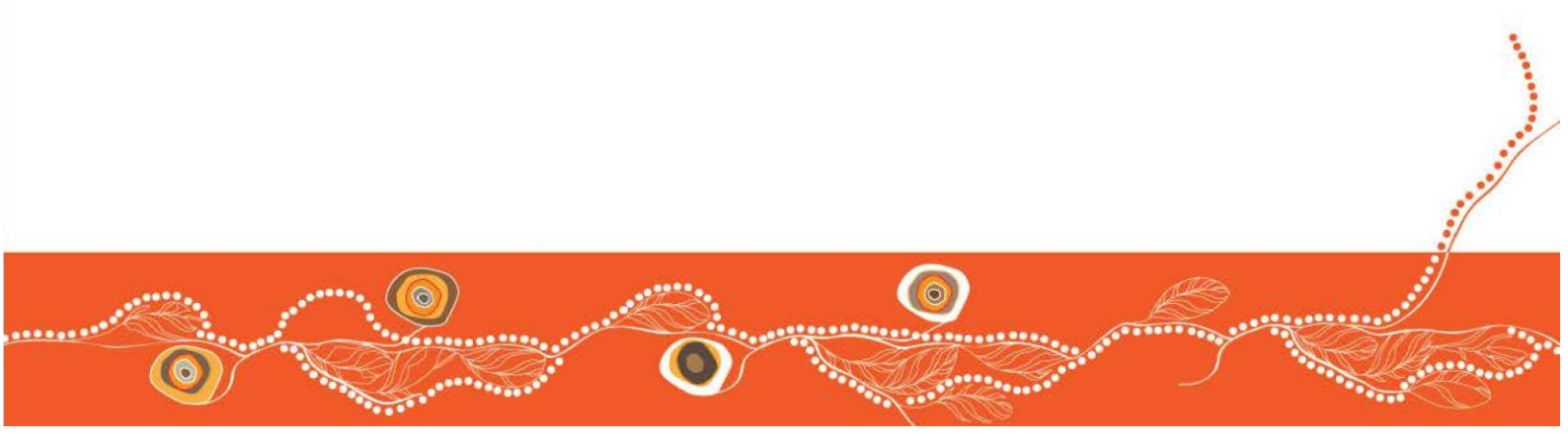
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITIES IN DAREBIN

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.



(2)

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, παρακαλείσθε να καλέσετε το 8470 8888.

Hindi

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

Italian

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

Macedonian

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

Nepali

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

Punjabi

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

Somali

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

Spanish

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

Urdu

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

Vietnamese

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

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MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL, MONDAY 24 JUNE 2024

THE MEETING OPENED AT 6.04PM

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

1. OPENING OF MEETING AND MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

Cr. Susanne Newton (Mayor) (Chairperson)

Cr. Tim Laurence (Deputy Mayor)

Cr. Emily Dimitriadis

Cr. Gaetano Greco

Cr. Tom Hannan

Cr. Trent McCarthy – 6.05pm

Cr. Lina Messina

Cr. Susan Rennie

Cr. Julie Williams

Council Officers

Peter Smith – Chief Executive Officer

Kylie Bennetts – General Manager Community

Enna Giampiccolo – Acting General Manager Customer and Corporate

Rachel Ollivier – General Manager Infrastructure, Operations and Finance

Vanessa Petrie – General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy

Felicity Walsh – Interim Manager Governance and Communications

Anthony Smith – Governance Advisor

Municipal Monitors

June Anstee

Ross Millard

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

The Chairperson, Mayor Newton, 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. From my personal perspective, I also declare my support for Treaty Victoria.

3. APOLOGIES

Nil.

4. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr Susan Rennie disclosed a general conflict of interest in Item 9.1 Adoption of the 2024-25 Budget (Incorporating the 4-Year Financial Outlook) and Associated Documents as she manages the Jika Jika Community Centre which is a subject this report and Item 9.4 Your Street Your Say Round 2 Consultation Findings and Draft Concept Plan for Council Endorsement as she lives in the catchment area of two possible traffic interventions.

Cr Tim Laurence disclosed a general conflict of interest in Item 9.1 Adoption of the 2024-25 Budget (Incorporating the 4-Year Financial Outlook) and Associated Documents as a family member lives near Northcote Golf Course and has a residential amenity interest.

Cr Lina Messina disclosed a general conflict of interest in Item 9.1 Adoption of the 2024-25 Budget (Incorporating the 4-Year Financial Outlook) and Associated Documents as she is the founder and director of aged care companies.

5. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 24-098

MOVED: Cr. G Greco
SECONDED: Cr. J Williams

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 27 May 2024 and the Special Meeting of Council held on 17 June 2024 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. COUNCIL'S OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chairperson, Mayor Newton, made the following statement:

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

It's great to see everyone here this evening. I would like to remind everyone in attendance to be respectful of each other, and as outlined in our Governance Rules, please note the following:

- *A Councillor or any other person who addresses a Meeting must do so in a courteous and respectful manner and must take direction from the Chairperson whenever called on to do so.*
- *Any member of the public physically attending a Meeting must not utter any offensive, indecent, insulting, or objectionable item or words, including words that are racist, sexist or homophobic, or interject or gesticulate offensively in the Council Chamber.*
- *Silence must be preserved by the gallery at all times during a Meeting (other than by a person in the gallery who is invited to address the Meeting).*
- *If any member of the public engages in conduct that is improper or disorderly, the Chairperson may direct that person to cease their conduct and the person must comply with that direction*

7. QUESTION AND SUBMISSION TIME

The following questions were submitted and addressed.

- **Kate Polglaze**

Council has indicated its support for the Aboriginal Women & Girls' Wellness Centre being built at the Aborigines Advancement League in Thornbury. It's an excellent initiative that will address gender disparity in sports while supporting First Nations self-determination, cultural practice, and policies underpinning Closing the Gap targets. How will Council demonstrate its continued support for the Centre and indeed Council's own policies of equity through a gender, diversity, and inclusion lens?

Response from General Manager Community

Council contributed \$200K in 2021 and has supported this important project by auspicing a \$3.9M Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus grant with Sport and Recreation Victoria and is participating on the Project Steering Committee. Council is currently working with the Aborigines Advancement League on whether there is potential for Council to provide in-kind support for the storage of some materials for the project, which could result in a financial saving for the project. With respect to a further financial contribution, that is a matter for Council to consider as part of its budget deliberations this evening.

- **Kelly Destiny**

1. How would the growing community of young families be best placed in Requesting a basketball / netball / downball court or half court be erected near or next to one of the playgrounds either side of Croxton Station?
2. How did the decision to remove the tennis courts come about rather than upgrading them to be multipurpose?

Response from General Manager Infrastructure Operations & Finance

1. We understand the value of these types of facilities for older kids and young adults and that's why we aim to spread facilities around the City. An idea like yours, could be put to Council at any time. The challenge with the Croxton station location is that it is not Council owned land, and therefore it is not a location where we are planning additional facilities. There are Council basketball or netball court facilities at all nations park which is one of Darebin's premier parks and which is just under 1km away from Croxton Station.
2. We understand the tennis court you are asking about is Clyde Street Tennis Court. In 2022 a safety audit of Clyde St Tennis Court found it was unsafe with lots of trip points created by the cracked, sunken and, in some places, slippery surface. That's why Council closed it to the public. Prior to its closure, Council received complaints regarding late night use, noise. Council, like many local governments has a number of sites that are at end of life as there were a lot of facilities built at a similar time. Council is unlikely to be able to fund redevelopment of all the facilities that are at end of life. It will consult with community and clubs about how best to address this challenge at this site and across the City, although we haven't not yet confirmed the timeframe for that sort of consultation. There may well be options to make facilities more multipurpose, so they serve several sports and/or clubs and can be shared.

- **Serena O'Meley**

1. What is the total amount of money currently in the public open space and recreation reserve, and how much of this money is committed to projects in the 2024/2025 draft budget?
2. What is the current percentage of land, or the site value of such land, required to be contributed by developers to the public open space and recreation reserve?
3. Where will the 19 submissions about the draft 2024/2025 budget, which were heard on 3 June 2024, be summarised and responded to on the public record?

Response from General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

1. There is currently \$10.156 million within the public open space and recreation reserve. \$5.8 million of expenditure in the 2024/25 budget has been attributed against the open space reserve and levy.
2. Currently Clause 53.01 of the Darebin Planning Scheme requires open space contributions according to a sliding scale of 2, 3 and 4% (of land value) for subdivisions creating an additional 2, 3 and 4 additional lots, respectively. Subdivision of 5 or more additional lots already contribute at 5%. Council is currently proposing an amendment to the Darebin Planning Scheme (C210dare) which proposes to remove the 2 – 4% contribution rate, allowing Council to determine a rate under the *Subdivision Act 1988* which could be up to 5%.

General Manager Infrastructure Operations & Finance

3. Thank you for the question. Officers will amend our recommendation to Councillors this evening to recommend that this appendix be released publicly following removal of personal and confidential information. Subject to Council's decision, we would publish this on Council's website within 2 weeks.

- **Ruth Jelley**

1. Given that one of the main issues for people who ride in Darebin is the disconnected nature of the overall network, why has Council proposed to not proceed with separated bike lane design for Victoria Road south of Separation Street, which is an important connector to the Heidelberg Rd separated bike lanes, and when evidence shows that separated bike lanes improve safety for people who ride and encourage more women to ride?
2. What are the benefits of having a registered engineer consult on the Your Street Your Say projects and designs, and how does this improve safety outcomes for the Darebin community?
3. Will Council advocate to the state government to address the statewide issue of speeding drivers, considering that this has been raised as an issue throughout Your Street Your Say, and that speeding is reportedly a significant contributor to road deaths in recent years?

Response from General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

1. Thank you for your questions, Ruth. Encouraging safe and well connecting bicycle lanes remains a priority for Council and aligns with the Darebin Transport Strategy. This evening a report that covers this matter is being considered as agenda item 9.4, with the officer recommendation to progress with investigations to develop the bike infrastructure along Victoria Road while limiting the impact on on-street parking.

2. It is a requirement under the *Professional Engineers Registration Act 2019* to be a registered Professional Engineer when providing professional engineering services such as civil engineering, or to be under the direct supervision of a registered engineer.

The benefits of having registered engineers includes;

- Promoting best practice in engineering services.
- Ensuring engineering services are only provided by suitably qualified people.
- Providing appropriate protection to consumers and members of the public.

The above does not preclude Council from seeking feedback or advice by non-engineers.

3. Speeding continues to be a challenge for Darebin. Yes, Council regularly advocates and works with various State agencies, including Victoria Police and the Department of Transport and Planning for enforcement and funding of road safety interventions. Last year, Darebin contributed to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Vulnerable Road Users.

- **Matt Arturi**

1. Despite a community petition in August 2023 and reports of residents falling on uneven footpath in Link Street Kingsbury the only action taken by Council to date is the painting of yellow lines (which has since faded) across the footpath. When will Council acknowledge this petition and what action will be taken to fix the footpath and make it safe for residents/traders?
2. Given the more stringent safety/compliance requirements of Council's new outdoor dining policy, what financial assistance, if any, is available to existing and new traders from council to help them to ensure their parklets continue to operate into the future?
3. Residents with solar panels under Council's solar program have contacted Council about trees on council land overshadowing panels, rendering them almost redundant. Residents are told there's no policy to deal with this - is there Council policy to maintain trees on council land that overshadow solar panels, and if not will Council investigate implementing one?

Response from General Manager Infrastructure Operations & Finance

1. Thank you for your question. We've checked our records and have not found a petition submitted to Council, however we have found the request in our system. We have inspected the site on 21 May 2024. The team have found minor damage in multiple locations, it was minor in nature in that the displacement was less than 25mm (either vertically or horizontally). Therefore we are not intending in doing works at this time. The footpath can be continue to be used and we regard it as generally safe. We will inspect the site periodically as we do with footpaths across the City and if this changes, we'll schedule works.
3. You have asked about solar panels and trees, these topics are areas where Council does a lot of work both to stimulate uptake of solar and to protect trees. Council is passionate about supporting community with solar panels and also about trees. You've highlighted an example of where it is tricky to achieve both things at once. There are currently very few circumstances where an otherwise healthy tree would be pruned or removed – generally we only prune or remove trees for safety reasons. This approach is primarily designed to protect and retain as many trees as possible. With increasing urbanisation reducing trees on private land, protecting trees in council land in streets and parks is regarded as important. Therefore, Council doesn't currently prune trees to prevent overshadowing of residential solar panels, and to do so would require substantial new funding that Council hasn't historically provided for that purpose. At this point in time there aren't plans to review this approach and I would encourage

residents to consider other options such as energy efficiency or purchasing renewable energy from other solar or wind sites in Victoria.

Response from General Manager Community

2. Thank you for your second question. Council is providing modest support to current and new parklet hosts in the transitional year of the policy by not charging an application fee. Currently Council is not offering financial assistance for safety or compliance infrastructure associated with the new Policy, with businesses (both existing and new) needing to make a business decision on whether to host a parklet.

• John Nugent

1. Mayor my question is - one would expect the unsealed pavement at Donath West to be the same size as the sealed pavement just purely for financial reasons, Mayor why is this not so?
2. What did Council paid for consultants from 1/7/22 - 30/6/23 and from 1/7/23 - 31/12/23?
3. Mayor, I believe Council is going to continue to charge senior and junior clubs on its present policy. This policy discriminates against junior clubs as junior clubs pay the same as senior clubs. The Council subsidy discriminates against small junior boys club. Mayor, this policy) asked about in December 2023 to bring this policy forward and again on the 25/3/24 Council was asked on the 25/3/24 will this new policy be introduced before winter season?

Response from General Manager Infrastructure Operations & Finance

1. Hi John, I can confirm that the unsealed pavement will be widened to between 1 and 1.5ms, which is what is intended at Donath West. Pavement widths aren't intended to be the same width in all locations. When council is designing a park the choice between types of paths considers several things – how it will be used, what it will look like, maintenance and also the cost.

Response from General Manager Customer & Corporate

2. Thanks for your question about expenditure on consultants. In 22/23, Council spent \$3.9 million on consultants. The expenditure on consultants for this financial year will be published in the 23/24 annual report results.

Response from General Manager Community

3. Thank you for coming to Council this evening and sharing your feedback and perspectives. A report was presented to Council on 29 April 2024, responding to a request from Council to look at Licensing Fees for Sporting Clubs. At the April meeting Council decided to maintain Darebin's current approach and requested that officers commence a wholistic review in 2025, including consultation with sporting clubs. The review of this policy was delayed given other work priorities and unscheduled business.

SUBMISSIONS

The Chairperson, Mayor Newton, invited Emily Ferris to make a 2 minute submission regarding Item 9.3 Special Rate Renewal - Preston, Northcote and Fairfield Business Precincts.

8. PETITIONS

Nil

9. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

9.1 ADOPTION OF THE 2024-25 BUDGET (INCORPORATING THE 4-YEAR FINANCIAL OUTLOOK) AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report recommends that Council adopt its 2024-25 budget (incorporating the 4-year Financial Outlook) & revised 2023-27 Revenue and Rating Plan.

Financial challenges continue to have ongoing impact on financial sustainability with high inflation and construction costs in excess of the State Government set rate cap. These challenges have required the review of the strategic plans and priorities to ensure delivery of projects and priorities that matters most to the Darebin community, whilst being fiscally responsible. The 4 year financial outlook highlights that these challenges will continue in the medium and long term and it has factored savings into the third and fourth years to address this challenge. Council will need to address this long term financial challenge through detailed review of the 10 year Long Term Financial Plan and associated work to develop the next Council Plan and Asset Plan as scheduled in 2025.

A carefully prioritised and financially responsible capital works program focused on renewal of assets and those addressing highest priority needs has been included in the budget. This includes investing in new kindergartens and redeveloping two pavilions throughout the community. Our operating budget has prioritised delivery of community services and programs people rely on, which have the highest impact towards our community's social and sustainability goals, and which provide community support at a time when cost of living pressures are impacting many households and businesses.

Our community has established a clear vision for Darebin in 2041 and the 2024-25 budget for the 4 years ahead is designed to work towards this. Our community sees Darebin in 2041 as "an equitable, vibrant and connected community" which "respects and supports First Nations People, values country, our diverse communities and places." and our community's vision is that "Darebin commits to mitigating the climate emergency, creating prosperity for current and future generations.

The 4-year Budget incorporates provision for investment in core and improved technology and systems which will improve efficiency and reduce costs in the longer term, while also being a necessary renewal of the organisation's IT systems. This investment in contemporary solutions and technology will resolve issues arising from legacy and outdated systems, and significantly enhance the community experience and enable achievement of Council goals and plans more efficiently.

At its meeting on 29 April 2024, Council endorsed the draft 2024-25 budget (incorporating the 4-year Financial Outlook) and Draft Revised 2023-27 Revenue and Rating Plan, to proceed to community exhibition, inviting feedback. Community feedback received has been considered and this report recommends that Council adopt its 2024-25 budget (incorporating the 4-year Financial Outlook) and Revised 2023-27 Revenue and Rating in their final form.

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

- The 2024-25 Budget (incorporating the 4-year Financial Outlook) (**Appendix A**) is an essential planning and resource tool produced each year. The development of a considered budget is vital to the ongoing operational and financial viability of Council. The budget sets out the expected income and expenditure of operational, strategic and capital activities for the coming 4 years and also incorporates Council's rating strategies.
- The Revised Revenue and Rating Plan 2023-27 (**Appendix E**) to:
 - Reflect the expiry and renewal of three special rates & charges in the Preston, Fairfield & Northcote business districts.
 - Reflect adjustments to references to the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Bill 2021 as it relates to Councils approach to setting service charges and rates.
 - Reflect revised pensioner concessions.
- Granting various Rebates & Concessions as detailed below.

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

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

Key features of the budget include:

- \$31.6 million Capital Works Program with a key focus on asset renewal and maintenance
- No additional borrowings to reduce interest repayment expenses
- \$2.3 million Operating new initiatives / projects
- An overall average rate increase of 2.75% in line with the rate cap set by the Victorian State government.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Notes that net expenditure of \$6.6 million for aged care related services has been included in the 2024-25 operating budget.
- (2) Notes that expenditure of \$240,000 for Jika Jika Community Centre works has been included in the 2024-25 financial year of the 4-year Capital Works Program.
- (3) Notes that expenditure of \$600,000 for Northcote Golf Course Eastern Path & Northern Park works has been included in the 2027-28 year of the 4-year Capital Works Program.

ADOPTION OF 2024-25 BUDGET (INCORPORATING THE 4 YEAR FINANCIAL OUTLOOK) & REVISED REVENUE AND RATING PLAN

- (4) Notes that community submissions for the 2024-25 Budget were invited through community consultation from 29 April to 20 May 2024, with all submissions (**Appendix F**) having been considered for the Budget and separately at a Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting held on 3 June 2024.
- (5) Notes the following projects have been amended since the draft budget:
 - a. Removal of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) project: \$40,000
 - b. Removal of E-Scooter project: \$50,000
 - c. Removal of Active Space / Placemaking project: \$175,000
 - d. Removal of Wine & Food Festival project: \$10,000
 - e. Removal of Renaming new park project: \$25,000
 - f. Removal of additional Graffiti project: \$50,000
 - g. Masterplan for the Old Reservoir Library site: \$40,000 (*budget carry forward reduced from \$80k to \$40k*)
- (6) In accordance with Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020* adopts the 2024-25 Budget (incorporating the 4-year financial outlook) (**Appendix A**).
- (7) In accordance with Section 93 of the *Local Government Act 2020* adopts the revised Revenue and Rating Plan 2023-2027 (**Appendix E**).
- (8) In accordance with Section 94 (2)(e) and (h) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, declares the Rates and Annual Service Charges for the 2024-25 rating year commencing 1 July 2024 and ending 30 June 2025 as detailed in the Budget 2024-25.
- (9) Granting of a concession for residential properties with a CIV value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General that equates to 100% of the public waste rate, for the principal place of residence. Automatically applied to principal place of residence for ratepayers.
- (10) Granting of a concession for residential properties with a CIV value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General that caps the kerbside waste collection service fee to a maximum amount of \$50 for residential properties for the principal place of residence. Automatically applied to principal place of residence for ratepayers.
- (11) Notes the Special Charge for the Northcote Business Precinct for 2024-25 will be \$96,555, as reflected in the revised Revenue and Rating Plan at **Appendix E**.
- (12) Notes the Special Rate for the Preston Central Business Precinct for 2024-25 will be \$108,901, as reflected in the revised Revenue and Rating Plan at **Appendix E**.
- (13) Notes that the Special Rate for the Fairfield Business Precinct for 2024-25 will be \$76,500, as reflected in the revised Revenue and Rating Plan at **Appendix E**.
- (14) Notes an administrative oversight has been identified, and the draft consultation budget did not include the new policy fee structure for outdoor trading and dining (parklets) adopted by Council on 25 March 2024, and instead included the current fee structure.
- (15) Notes that included within **Appendix E** is the implementation of an interim fee structure for 2024-25 for parklet permits of \$2.50 per day, per car park space calculated from permit invoice issue date until 30 June 2025.
- (16) Directs the CEO to develop options for presentation to the new Council no later than February 2025 to ensure that the review of the Long-Term Financial Plan is financially sustainable including addressing current structural budget challenges. These options should include, but not be limited to:
 - Considering service delivery efficiencies
 - Considering scope and scale of services

- Exploring timing or staging of major operating or capital projects
- Consolidation of facilities or assets
- Operating models for service delivery
- Partnering approaches for service delivery
- Options for how to best engage with community on these challenges and options.

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

- (17) In accordance with Section 162 of the Local Government Act 1989 declares:
- a. A service rate for Public Waste in the 2024-25 year levied at $0.00005621 \times \text{CIV}$ per rateable property in accordance with the criteria in the Revenue and Rating Plan.
 - b. A service charge for Kerbside Waste Collection Services of \$307.49 in the 2024-25 year in accordance with the criteria in the Revenue and Rating Plan and noting that this charge is subject to concessions.
- (18) In accordance with Section 169 of the Local Government Act 1989, grants the following Concession in relation to the service charge for kerbside waste collection services as follows:
- a. A concession for residential properties with a CIV value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General of Victoria that equates to 100% of the public waste rate. This concession will automatically be applied to the principal place of residence for ratepayers and will not require an application.
 - b. A concession for residential properties with a CIV value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General of Victoria that caps the kerbside waste collection service fee to a maximum amount of \$50 for residential properties. This concession will automatically be applied to the principal place of residence for ratepayers and will not require an application.

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

- (19) In accordance with Section 169 (1d) of the Local Government Act 1989 and Council's 'Statement of Commitment to Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people' and 'Toward Equality Framework', grants a concession of 100% (\$0) for general rates for all properties owned or managed by Aboriginal Housing Victoria as a 'registered agency', relating to the provision of affordable housing.
- (20) A Pensioner Concession of \$200 for pensioners who are holders of an eligible Centrelink or Veteran Affairs Pension Concession Card or a Veteran Affairs Gold Card which stipulates TPI or War Widow for the Kerbside Waste Collection Service Charge. This concession will be provided by direct provision (without application where information is known) for the Kerbside Collection Service Charge on their principal place of residence only.
- (21) A Pensioner Safety Net Concession of \$200 for pensioners who are holders of a Centrelink or Veteran Affairs Pension Concession Card or a Veteran Affairs Gold Card which stipulates TPI or War Widow and who are not eligible for the Pensioner Concession for the Kerbside Waste Collection Service Charge, for the principal place of residence. Ongoing eligibility is maintained, unless rejected by Centrelink or the Department of Veteran Affairs during the annual verification procedure. Upon confirmation of an eligible pensioner concession status, the pensioner concessions deducted from the rate account before payment is required by the ratepayer.

Amended Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Notes that net expenditure of \$6.6 million for aged care related services has been included in the 2024-25 operating budget.
- (2) Notes that expenditure of \$240,000 for Jika Jika Community Centre works has been included in the 2024-25 financial year of the 4-year Capital Works Program.
- (3) Notes that expenditure of \$600,000 for Northcote Golf Course Eastern Path & Northern Park works has been included in the 2027-28 year of the 4-year Capital Works Program.

ADOPTION OF 2024-25 BUDGET (INCORPORATING THE 4 YEAR FINANCIAL OUTLOOK) & REVISED REVENUE AND RATING PLAN

- (4) Notes that community submissions for the 2024-25 Budget were invited through community consultation from 29 April to 20 May 2024, with all submissions (**Appendix F**) having been considered for the Budget and separately at a Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting held on 3 June 2024.
- (4.1) Resolves to make public the summary of community submissions received (Appendix F) with all personal and confidential information redacted, and that this be shared via Council's website in the next 14 days.**
- (5) Notes the following projects have been amended since the draft budget:
 - a. Removal of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) project: \$40,000
 - b. Removal of E-Scooter project: \$50,000
 - c. Removal of Active Space / Placemaking project: \$175,000
 - d. Removal of Wine & Food Festival project: \$10,000
 - e. Removal of Renaming new park project: \$25,000
 - f. Removal of additional Graffiti project: \$50,000
 - g. Masterplan for the Old Reservoir Library site: \$40,000 (*budget carry forward reduced from \$80k to \$40k*)
- (6) In accordance with Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020* adopts the 2024-25 Budget (incorporating the 4-year financial outlook) (**Appendix A**).
- (7) In accordance with Section 93 of the *Local Government Act 2020* adopts the revised Revenue and Rating Plan 2023-2027 (**Appendix E**).
- (8) In accordance with Section 94 (2)(e) and (h) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, declares the Rates and Annual Service Charges for the 2024-25 rating year commencing 1 July 2024 and ending 30 June 2025 as detailed in the Budget 2024-25.
- (9) Granting of a concession for residential properties with a CIV value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General that equates to 100% of the public waste rate, for the principal place of residence. Automatically applied to principal place of residence for ratepayers.
- (10) Granting of a concession for residential properties with a CIV value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General that caps the kerbside waste collection service fee to a maximum amount of \$50 for residential properties for the principal place of residence. Automatically applied to principal place of residence for ratepayers.
- (11) Notes the Special Charge for the Northcote Business Precinct for 2024-25 will be \$96,555, as reflected in the revised Revenue and Rating Plan at **Appendix E**.
- (12) Notes the Special Rate for the Preston Central Business Precinct for 2024-25 will be

\$108,901, as reflected in the revised Revenue and Rating Plan at **Appendix E**.

- (13) Notes that the Special Rate for the Fairfield Business Precinct for 2024-25 will be \$76,500, as reflected in the revised Revenue and Rating Plan at **Appendix E**.
- (14) Notes an administrative oversight has been identified, and the draft consultation budget did not include the new policy fee structure for outdoor trading and dining (parklets) adopted by Council on 25 March 2024, and instead included the current fee structure.
- (15) Notes that included within **Appendix E** is the implementation of an interim fee structure for 2024-25 for parklet permits of \$2.50 per day, per car park space calculated from permit invoice issue date until 30 June 2025.
- (16) Directs the CEO to develop options for presentation to the new Council no later than February 2025 to ensure that the review of the Long-Term Financial Plan is financially sustainable including addressing current structural budget challenges. These options should include, but not be limited to:
 - Considering service delivery efficiencies
 - Considering scope and scale of services
 - Exploring timing or staging of major operating or capital projects
 - Consolidation of facilities or assets
 - Operating models for service delivery
 - Partnering approaches for service delivery
 - Options for how to best engage with community on these challenges and options.

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

- (17) In accordance with Section 162 of the Local Government Act 1989 declares:
 - a. A service rate for Public Waste in the 2024-25 year levied at $0.00005621 \times \text{CIV}$ per rateable property in accordance with the criteria in the Revenue and Rating Plan.
 - b. A service charge for Kerbside Waste Collection Services of \$307.49 in the 2024-25 year in accordance with the criteria in the Revenue and Rating Plan and noting that this charge is subject to concessions.
- (18) In accordance with Section 169 of the Local Government Act 1989, grants the following Concession in relation to the service charge for kerbside waste collection services as follows:
 - a. A concession for residential properties with a CIV value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General of Victoria that equates to 100% of the public waste rate. This concession will automatically be applied to the principal place of residence for ratepayers and will not require an application.
 - b. A concession for residential properties with a CIV value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General of Victoria that caps the kerbside waste collection service fee to a maximum amount of \$50 for residential properties. This concession will automatically be applied to the principal place of residence for ratepayers and will not require an application.

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

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a 'registered agency', relating to the provision of affordable housing.

- (20) A Pensioner Concession of \$200 for pensioners who are holders of an eligible Centrelink or Veteran Affairs Pension Concession Card or a Veteran Affairs Gold Card which stipulates TPI or War Widow for the Kerbside Waste Collection Service Charge. This concession will be provided by direct provision (without application where information is known) for the Kerbside Collection Service Charge on their principal place of residence only.
- (21) A Pensioner Safety Net Concession of \$200 for pensioners who are holders of a Centrelink or Veteran Affairs Pension Concession Card or a Veteran Affairs Gold Card which stipulates TPI or War Widow and who are not eligible for the Pensioner Concession for the Kerbside Waste Collection Service Charge, for the principal place of residence. Ongoing eligibility is maintained, unless rejected by Centrelink or the Department of Veteran Affairs during the annual verification procedure. Upon confirmation of an eligible pensioner concession status, the pensioner concessions deducted from the rate account before payment is required by the ratepayer.
- (22) Notes the briefing papers prepared on BT Connor Reserve Lighting Scope (Appendix G) and the Response to Notice of Motion – Community Event Support (Appendix H) as requested by Council.**

The Chairperson, Mayor Newton, advised that points 1, 2, and 3 would be deliberated on separately to allow Councillors with conflicts of interest to participate in the debate for the overall budget.

6.56pm - Cr Messina disclosed a general conflict of interest in point (1) of this item as she is a director of Assista Group Pty Ltd and consults on aged care, and left the meeting.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 24-099

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

That Council:

- (1) Notes that net expenditure of \$6.6 million for aged care related services has been included in the 2024-25 operating budget.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.57pm – Cr Messina returned to the meeting.

6.58pm – Cr Rennie disclosed a general conflict of interest in point (2) of this item as she manages the Jika Jika Community Centre, and left the meeting.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 24-100

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

That Council:

- (2) Notes that expenditure of \$240,000 for Jika Jika Community Centre works has been included in the 2024-25 financial year of the 4-year Capital Works Program.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7pm – Cr Rennie returned to the meeting

7pm – Cr Laurence disclosed a general conflict of interest in point (2) of this item as a family member lives near Northcote Golf Course and has a residential amenity interest, and left the meeting

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 24-101

MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy

SECONDED: Cr. T Hannan

That Council:

- (3) Notes that expenditure of \$600,000 for Northcote Golf Course Eastern Path & Northern Park works has been included in the 2027-28 year of the 4-year Capital Works Program.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion

MOVED: Cr. S Rennie

SECONDED: Cr. J Williams

That Council:

ADOPTION OF 2024-25 BUDGET (INCORPORATING THE 4 YEAR FINANCIAL OUTLOOK) & REVISED REVENUE AND RATING PLAN

- (4) Notes that community submissions for the 2024-25 Budget were invited through community consultation from 29 April to 20 May 2024, with all submissions (**Appendix F**) having been considered for the Budget and separately at a Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting held on 3 June 2024.
- (4.1) Resolves to make public the summary of community submissions received (**Appendix F**) with all personal and confidential information redacted, and that this be shared via Council's website in the next 14 days.
- (5) Notes the following projects have been amended since the draft budget:
- Removal of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) project: \$40,000
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- (6) In accordance with Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020* adopts the 2024-25 Budget (incorporating the 4-year financial outlook) (**Appendix A**).
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- (9) Granting of a concession for residential properties with a CIV value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General that equates to 100% of the public waste rate, for the principal place of residence. Automatically applied to principal place of residence for ratepayers.
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 - (13) Notes that the Special Rate for the Fairfield Business Precinct for 2024-25 will be \$76,500, as reflected in the revised Revenue and Rating Plan at **Appendix E**.
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 - (15) Notes that included within **Appendix E** is the implementation of an interim fee structure for 2024-25 for parklet permits of \$2.50 per day, per car park space calculated from permit invoice issue date until 30 June 2025.
 - (16) Directs the CEO to develop options for presentation to the new Council no later than February 2025 to ensure that the review of the Long-Term Financial Plan is financially sustainable including addressing current structural budget challenges. These options should include, but not be limited to:
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 - b. A service charge for Kerbside Waste Collection Services of \$307.49 in the 2024-25 year in accordance with the criteria in the Revenue and Rating Plan and noting that this charge is subject to concessions.
- (18) In accordance with Section 169 of the Local Government Act 1989, grants the following Concession in relation to the service charge for kerbside waste collection services as follows:
 - a. A concession for residential properties with a CIV value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General of Victoria that equates to 100% of the public waste rate. This concession will automatically be applied to the principal place of residence for ratepayers and will not require an application.
 - b. A concession for residential properties with a CIV value at \$500,000 or less by

the Valuer General of Victoria that caps the kerbside waste collection service fee to a maximum amount of \$50 for residential properties. This concession will automatically be applied to the principal place of residence for ratepayers and will not require an application.

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

- (19) In accordance with Section 169 (1d) of the Local Government Act 1989 and Council's 'Statement of Commitment to Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people' and 'Toward Equality Framework', grants a concession of 100% (\$0) for general rates for all properties owned or managed by Aboriginal Housing Victoria as a 'registered agency', relating to the provision of affordable housing.
- (20) A Pensioner Concession of \$200 for pensioners who are holders of an eligible Centrelink or Veteran Affairs Pension Concession Card or a Veteran Affairs Gold Card which stipulates TPI or War Widow for the Kerbside Waste Collection Service Charge. This concession will be provided by direct provision (without application where information is known) for the Kerbside Collection Service Charge on their principal place of residence only.
- (21) A Pensioner Safety Net Concession of \$200 for pensioners who are holders of a Centrelink or Veteran Affairs Pension Concession Card or a Veteran Affairs Gold Card which stipulates TPI or War Widow and who are not eligible for the Pensioner Concession for the Kerbside Waste Collection Service Charge, for the principal place of residence. Ongoing eligibility is maintained, unless rejected by Centrelink or the Department of Veteran Affairs during the annual verification procedure. Upon confirmation of an eligible pensioner concession status, the pensioner concessions deducted from the rate account before payment is required by the ratepayer.
- (22) Notes the briefing papers prepared on BT Connor Reserve Lighting Scope (**Appendix G**) and the Response to Notice of Motion – Community Event Support (**Appendix H**) as requested by Council.

Cr Greco proposed that point (6) of the motion be amended as follows, which was not accepted by the mover and seconder.

- (6) In accordance with Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020* adopts the 2024-25 Budget (incorporating the 4-year financial outlook) (**Appendix A**) **with the following changes:**
 - a. **To the Operating Projects budget:**
 - i. **Reduction of \$85,000 by reducing Legal costs, consumables or printing costs lost**
 - ii. **Addition of \$80,000 for the Reservoir Leisure Centre concept design project lost**
 - iii. **Addition of \$50,000 for the DIVRS Complex Support Program lost**
 - iv. **Addition of \$15,000 for the Preston Reservoir Athletics Club lighting design project lost**
 - v. **Addition of \$15,000 for the Lakeview Tennis Club lighting design project lost**
 - b. **To the Capital Works Program budget:**
 - i. **Addition of \$10,000 for design of a raised platform at McFadzean Avenue passed**
 - ii. **Reduction of \$10,000 from the 'other' projects program.**

Amended Motion

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

(6) In accordance with Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020* adopts the 2024-25 Budget (incorporating the 4-year financial outlook) (**Appendix A**) with the following changes:

a. To the Operating Projects budget:

i. Reduction of \$85,000 by reducing Legal costs, consumables or printing costs

LOST

For: Crs Dimitriadis, Greco, and Laurence (3)

Against: Crs Hannan, Rennie, Williams, McCarthy, Messina, and Newton (6)

ii. Addition of \$80,000 for the Reservoir Leisure Centre concept design project

LOST

For: Crs Dimitriadis, Greco, Williams, and Laurence (4)

Against: Crs Hannan, Rennie, McCarthy, Messina and Newton (5)

iii. Addition of \$50,000 for the DIVRS Complex Support Program

LOST

For: Crs Dimitriadis, Greco, and Laurence (3)

Against: Crs Hannan, Rennie, Williams, McCarthy, Messina, and Newton (6)

iv. Addition of \$15,000 for the Preston Reservoir Athletics Club lighting design project

LOST

For: Crs Dimitriadis, Greco, and Laurence (3)

Against: Crs Hannan, Rennie, McCarthy, Messina, and Newton (5)

Abstained: Cr Williams (1)

v. Addition of \$15,000 for the Lakeview Tennis Club lighting design project

LOST

For: Crs Dimitriadis, Greco, Williams, and Laurence (4)

Against: Crs Hannan, Rennie, McCarthy, Messina, and Newton (5)

b. To the Capital Works Program budget:

i. Addition of \$10,000 for design of a raised platform at McFadzean Avenue

CARRIED

For: Crs Dimitriadis, Greco, Williams, Messina, and Laurence (5)

Against: Crs Hannan, Rennie, McCarthy, and Newton (4)

- ii. Reduction of \$10,000 from the 'other' projects program.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION THEN READ AS FOLLOWS:

Substantive Motion

That Council:

(4)-(5) as per Motion moved and seconded by Crs Rennie and Williams.

- (6) In accordance with Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020* adopts the 2024-25 Budget (incorporating the 4-year financial outlook) (**Appendix A**) with the following changes:

To the Capital Works Program budget:

- i. Addition of \$10,000 for design of a raised platform at McFadzean Avenue
- ii. Reduction of \$10,000 from the 'other' projects program.

(7)-(22) as per Motion moved and seconded by Crs Rennie and Williams.

Cr Dimitriadis proposed that point (6) of the new substantive motion be amended as follows, which was not accepted by the mover and seconder.

- (6) Given that there is over \$10 million in surplus, adopts the 2024-25 Budget with the following addition changes:
 - a. \$200,000 towards Victoria's first Aboriginal Women's & Girls Sports and Wellness Centre at Sir Douglas Nicholls Sporting Complex in Thornbury, which is being constructed by the Aborigines Advancement League;
 - b. commits to give \$400,000 for the Aboriginal Women's & Girls Sports and Wellness Centre in the 2025-26 and the 2026-27 operational budgets; and
 - c. to be conditional on a guaranteed commitment from the State and/ or Commonwealth to cover the balance required.

Amended Motion

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

- (6) Given that there is over \$10 million in surplus, adopts the 2024-25 Budget with the following addition:
 - a. \$200,000 towards Victoria's first Aboriginal Women's & Girls Sports and Wellness Centre at Sir Douglas Nicholls Sporting Complex in Thornbury, which is being constructed by the Aborigines Advancement League;
 - b. commits to give \$400,000 for the Aboriginal Women's & Girls Sports and Wellness Centre in the 2025-26 and the 2026-27 operational budgets; and
 - c. to be conditional on a guaranteed commitment from the State and/ or Commonwealth to cover the balance required.

LOST

For: Crs Dimitriadis and Greco (2)

Abstained: Crs Hannan, Rennie, Williams, McCarthy, Messina, Laurence, and Newton (7)

Cr Dimitriadis proposed that point (6) the new substantive motion be amended as follows, which was not accepted by the mover and seconder.

- (6) Given that there is over \$10 million in surplus, adopts the 2024-25 Budget with the following additions:
- a. \$40,000 for broader community consultation to be included in stage one of master planning for 2 Wingrove Street Alphington.
 - b. \$50,000 to unblock the drainage at Pitcher Park in Alphington.
 - c. \$7000 for Project Stationary to minimise stationary wastage in schools and reduce landfill.

Noting that the money can be taken from the \$10,277,000 surplus.

8pm - Cr. McCarthy disclosed a material conflict of interest in relation to point a. of the proposed Amendment as his employment with Melbourne Polytechnic involves contractual and other relationships with individuals and organisations impacted by councils decisions in relation to 2 Wingrove St, Alphington and left the meeting.

The Chairperson, Mayor Newton advised that point a. of the Amended Motion would be voted on separately to enable Cr McCarthy to participate in the debate regarding points b. and c.

Amended Motion

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

(6) Given that there is over \$10 million in surplus, adopts the 2024-25 Budget with the following additions:

- a. \$40,000 for broader community consultation to be included in stage one of master planning for 2 Wingrove Street Alphington.

LOST

For: Crs Dimitriadis and Greco (2)
Against: Crs Hannan, Rennie, Williams, Messina, and Newton (5)
Abstained: Cr Laurence (1)

8.11pm – Cr McCarthy returned to the meeting.

- b. \$50,000 to unblock the drainage at Pitcher Park in Alphington.
- c. \$7000 for Project Stationary to minimise stationary wastage in schools and reduce landfill.

Noting that the money can be taken from the \$10,277,000 surplus.

LOST

For: Crs Dimitriadis and Greco (2)
Against: Crs Hannan, Rennie, Williams, McCarthy, Messina, Laurence, and Newton (7)

Cr Hannan proposed that point (6) of the new substantive motion be amended as follows, which was accepted by the mover and seconder.

- (6) In accordance with Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020* adopts the 2024-25 Budget (incorporating the 4-year financial outlook) (**Appendix A**) with the following changes:
- a. To the Operating Projects budget:
 - i. Addition of \$50,000 to commence the E-scooter Trial project in 2025
 - ii. Addition of \$10,000 for a Treaty Yarns project within the Aboriginal Action Plan
 - iii. Addition of \$30,000 for the Active Spaces/placemaking program
 - iv. Reduction of \$15,000 for additional community engagement for Edwardes Lake Boathouse
 - b. To the Capital Works budget:
 - iii. Bring forward \$100,000 for initial works on Bill Lawry Oval redevelopment to 2024-25, with a corresponding reduction in to this budget in 2026-27
 - iv. Bring forward \$180,000 for rewilding, to establish and maintain healthy indigenous vegetation and biodiversity across the municipality, with a corresponding reduction in the Open Space Improvements Program in 2027-28.
- (7) Notes that the following items are included in the budget for AG Davis Park:
- a. Rewilding – 1000 plants and trees including near nature play features and public toilet area
 - b. Nature Play elements – installation of 1 or 2 additional logs and mulch to continue to build this area
 - c. Rubber will be widened behind the swings to extend this area and improve access by creating a path (\$15,000)
 - d. The drinking fountain will be replaced (\$8,000)
 - e. The basketball backboard and ring will be replaced (\$3,000)
- (8) Notes that in 2024-25 Council is updating its Asset Plan, establishing a Community Infrastructure Plan, and that in 2025 Council will consult, as part of its Council Plan and Budget consultation, on its medium and long term priorities for improvements and renewal of playspaces and parks. This will include identifying highest need locations for renewal and improvements including to cater for growing populations and changing community needs.
- (9) Requests that officers hold discussions with the preferred candidate for the Migration Public Artwork about the most appropriate and prominent location to place this artwork in the municipality and communicate this intention to shortlisted artists.

THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION THEN READ AS FOLLOWS:

Substantive Motion

That Council:

ADOPTION OF 2024-25 BUDGET (INCORPORATING THE 4 YEAR FINANCIAL OUTLOOK) & REVISED REVENUE AND RATING PLAN

- (4) Notes that community submissions for the 2024-25 Budget were invited through community consultation from 29 April to 20 May 2024, with all submissions (**Appendix F**) having been considered for the Budget and separately at a Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting held on 3 June 2024.
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- (16) Notes that the Special Rate for the Fairfield Business Precinct for 2024-25 will be \$76,500, as reflected in the revised Revenue and Rating Plan at Appendix E.
- (17) Notes an administrative oversight has been identified, and the draft consultation budget did not include the new policy fee structure for outdoor trading and dining (parklets) adopted by Council on 25 March 2024, and instead included the current fee structure.
- (18) Notes that included within Appendix E is the implementation of an interim fee structure for 2024-25 for parklet permits of \$2.50 per day, per car park space calculated from permit invoice issue date until 30 June 2025.
- (19) Directs the CEO to develop options for presentation to the new Council no later than February 2025 to ensure that the review of the Long-Term Financial Plan is financially sustainable including addressing current structural budget challenges. These options should include, but not be limited to:
 - Considering service delivery efficiencies
 - Considering scope and scale of services
 - Exploring timing or staging of major operating or capital projects
 - Consolidation of facilities or assets
 - Operating models for service delivery
 - Partnering approaches for service delivery
 - Options for how to best engage with community on these challenges and options.

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

- (20) In accordance with Section 162 of the Local Government Act 1989 declares:
- a. A service rate for Public Waste in the 2024-25 year levied at 0.00005621 x CIV per rateable property in accordance with the criteria in the Revenue and Rating Plan.
 - b. A service charge for Kerbside Waste Collection Services of \$307.49 in the 2024-25 year in accordance with the criteria in the Revenue and Rating Plan and noting that this charge is subject to concessions.
- (21) In accordance with Section 169 of the Local Government Act 1989, grants the following Concession in relation to the service charge for kerbside waste collection services as follows:
- a. A concession for residential properties with a CIV value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General of Victoria that equates to 100% of the public waste rate. This concession will automatically be applied to the principal place of residence for ratepayers and will not require an application.
 - b. A concession for residential properties with a CIV value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General of Victoria that caps the kerbside waste collection service fee to a maximum amount of \$50 for residential properties. This concession will automatically be applied to the principal place of residence for ratepayers and will not require an application.

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

- (22) In accordance with Section 169 (1d) of the Local Government Act 1989 and Council's 'Statement of Commitment to Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people' and 'Toward Equality Framework', grants a concession of 100% (\$0) for general rates for all properties owned or managed by Aboriginal Housing Victoria as a 'registered agency', relating to the provision of affordable housing.
- (23) A Pensioner Concession of \$200 for pensioners who are holders of an eligible Centrelink or Veteran Affairs Pension Concession Card or a Veteran Affairs Gold Card which stipulates TPI or War Widow for the Kerbside Waste Collection Service Charge. This concession will be provided by direct provision (without application where information is known) for the Kerbside Collection Service Charge on their principal place of residence only.
- (24) A Pensioner Safety Net Concession of \$200 for pensioners who are holders of a Centrelink or Veteran Affairs Pension Concession Card or a Veteran Affairs Gold Card which stipulates TPI or War Widow and who are not eligible for the Pensioner Concession for the Kerbside Waste Collection Service Charge, for the principal place of residence. Ongoing eligibility is maintained, unless rejected by Centrelink or the Department of Veteran Affairs during the annual verification procedure. Upon confirmation of an eligible pensioner concession status, the pensioner concessions deducted from the rate account before payment is required by the ratepayer.
- (25) Notes the briefing papers prepared on BT Connor Reserve Lighting Scope (**Appendix G**) and the Response to Notice of Motion – Community Event Support (**Appendix H**) as requested by Council.

8.34pm – *The meeting was adjourned.*

8.43pm – *The meeting resumed.*

The Chairperson, Mayor Newton, advised the points (9) and (19) of the substantive motion would be voted on separately, followed by the remainder of the substantive motion.

**Extension of Time –
8.58pm**

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

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 24-102

MOVED: Cr. S Rennie
SECONDED: Cr. J Williams

That Council:

- (9) Requests that officers hold discussions with the preferred candidate for the Migration Public Artwork about the most appropriate and prominent location to place this artwork in the municipality and communicate this intention to shortlisted artists.

CARRIED

For: Crs Hannan, Rennie, Williams, McCarthy, Messina, Laurence, and Newton (7)

Against: Cr Greco (1)

Abstained: Cr Dimitriadis (1)

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 24-103

MOVED: Cr. S Rennie
SECONDED: Cr. J Williams

- (19) Directs the CEO to develop options for presentation to the new Council no later than February 2025 to ensure that the review of the Long-Term Financial Plan is financially sustainable including addressing current structural budget challenges. These options should include, but not be limited to:

- Considering service delivery efficiencies
- Considering scope and scale of services
- Exploring timing or staging of major operating or capital projects
- Consolidation of facilities or assets
- Operating models for service delivery
- Partnering approaches for service delivery
- Options for how to best engage with community on these challenges and options

CARRIED

For: Crs Hannan, Rennie, Williams, McCarthy, Messina, Laurence, and Newton (7)

Against: Crs Dimitriadis and Greco (2)

THE FINAL SUBSTANTITVE MOTION UPON THE COMPLETION OF VOTING ON ALL AMENDMENTS, THEN READ AS FOLLOWS:

Substantive Motion

That Council:

- (1) Notes that net expenditure of \$6.6 million for aged care related services has been included in the 2024-25 operating budget.
- (2) Notes that expenditure of \$240,000 for Jika Jika Community Centre works has been included in the 2024-25 financial year of the 4-year Capital Works Program.
- (3) Notes that expenditure of \$600,000 for Northcote Golf Course Eastern Path & Northern Park works has been included in the 2027-28 year of the 4-year Capital Works Program.

ADOPTION OF 2024-25 BUDGET (INCORPORATING THE 4 YEAR FINANCIAL OUTLOOK) & REVISED REVENUE AND RATING PLAN

- (4) Notes that community submissions for the 2024-25 Budget were invited through community consultation from 29 April to 20 May 2024, with all submissions (**Appendix F**) having been considered for the Budget and separately at a Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting held on 3 June 2024.
- (4.1) Resolves to make public the summary of community submissions received (Appendix F) with all personal and confidential information redacted, and that this be shared via Council's website in the next 14 days.**
- (5) Notes the following projects have been amended since the draft budget:
 - a. Removal of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) project: \$40,000
 - b. Removal of E-Scooter project: \$50,000
 - c. Removal of Active Space / Placemaking project: \$175,000
 - d. Removal of Wine & Food Festival project: \$10,000
 - e. Removal of Renaming new park project: \$25,000
 - f. Removal of additional Graffiti project: \$50,000
 - g. Masterplan for the Old Reservoir Library site: \$40,000 (*budget carry forward reduced from \$80k to \$40k*)
- (6) In accordance with Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020* adopts the 2024-25 Budget (incorporating the 4-year financial outlook) (**Appendix A**) with the following changes:
 - a. To the Operating Projects budget:
 - i. Addition of \$50,000 to commence the E-scooter Trial project in 2025
 - ii. Addition of \$10,000 for a Treaty Yarns project within the Aboriginal Action Plan
 - iii. Addition of \$30,000 for the Active Spaces/placemaking program
 - iv. Reduction of \$15,000 for additional community engagement for Edwardes Lake Boathouse
 - b. To the Capital Works budget:
 - i. Addition of \$10,000 for design of a raised platform at McFadzean Avenue
 - ii. Reduction of \$10,000 from the 'other' projects program.

-
- iii. Bring forward \$100,000 for initial works on Bill Lawry Oval redevelopment to 2024-25, with a corresponding reduction in to this budget in 2026-27
 - iv. Bring forward \$180,000 for rewilding, to establish and maintain healthy indigenous vegetation and biodiversity across the municipality, with a corresponding reduction in the Open Space Improvements Program in 2027-28.
- (7) Notes that the following items are included in the budget for AG Davis Park:
- a. Rewilding – 1000 plants and trees including near nature play features and public toilet area
 - b. Nature Play elements – installation of 1 or 2 additional logs and mulch to continue to build this area
 - c. Rubber will be widened behind the swings to extend this area and improve access by creating a path (\$15,000)
 - d. The drinking fountain will be replaced (\$8,000)
 - e. The basketball backboard and ring will be replaced (\$3,000)
- (8) Notes that in 2024-25 Council is updating its Asset Plan, establishing a Community Infrastructure Plan, and that in 2025 Council will consult, as part of its Council Plan and Budget consultation, on its medium and long term priorities for improvements and renewal of playspaces and parks. This will include identifying highest need locations for renewal and improvements including to cater for growing populations and changing community needs.
- (9) Requests that officers hold discussions with the preferred candidate for the Migration Public Artwork about the most appropriate and prominent location to place this artwork in the municipality and communicate this intention to shortlisted artists.
- (10) In accordance with Section 93 of the Local Government Act 2020 adopts the revised Revenue and Rating Plan 2023-2027 (**Appendix E**).
- (11) In accordance with Section 94 (2)(e) and (h) of the Local Government Act 2020, declares the Rates and Annual Service Charges for the 2024-25 rating year commencing 1 July 2024 and ending 30 June 2025 as detailed in the Budget 2024-25.
- (12) Granting of a concession for residential properties with a CIV value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General that equates to 100% of the public waste rate, for the principal place of residence. Automatically applied to principal place of residence for ratepayers.
- (13) Granting of a concession for residential properties with a CIV value at \$500,000 or less by the Valuer General that caps the kerbside waste collection service fee to a maximum amount of \$50 for residential properties for the principal place of residence. Automatically applied to principal place of residence for ratepayers.
- (14) Notes the Special Charge for the Northcote Business Precinct for 2024-25 will be \$96,555, as reflected in the revised Revenue and Rating Plan at **Appendix E**.
- (15) Notes the Special Rate for the Preston Central Business Precinct for 2024-25 will be \$108,901, as reflected in the revised Revenue and Rating Plan at **Appendix E**.
- (16) Notes that the Special Rate for the Fairfield Business Precinct for 2024-25 will be \$76,500, as reflected in the revised Revenue and Rating Plan at **Appendix E**.
- (17) Notes an administrative oversight has been identified, and the draft consultation budget did not include the new policy fee structure for outdoor trading and dining (parklets) adopted by Council on 25 March 2024, and instead included the current fee structure.
- (18) Notes that included within Appendix E is the implementation of an interim fee structure for 2024-25 for parklet permits of \$2.50 per day, per car park space calculated from permit invoice issue date until 30 June 2025.
-

- (19) Directs the CEO to develop options for presentation to the new Council no later than February 2025 to ensure that the review of the Long-Term Financial Plan is financially sustainable including addressing current structural budget challenges. These options should include, but not be limited to:
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DECLARATION OF THE KERBSIDE WASTE SERVICE CHARGE AND PUBLIC WASTE SERVICE RATE AND ASSOCIATED CONCESSIONS

- (20) In accordance with Section 162 of the *Local Government Act 1989* declares:
- a. A service rate for Public Waste in the 2024-25 year levied at $0.00005621 \times \text{CIV}$ per rateable property in accordance with the criteria in the Revenue and Rating Plan.
 - b. A service charge for Kerbside Waste Collection Services of \$307.49 in the 2024-25 year in accordance with the criteria in the Revenue and Rating Plan and noting that this charge is subject to concessions.
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- (22) In accordance with Section 169 (1d) of the *Local Government Act 1989* and Council's 'Statement of Commitment to Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people' and 'Toward Equality Framework', grants a concession of 100% (\$0) for general rates for all properties owned or managed by Aboriginal Housing Victoria as a 'registered agency', relating to the provision of affordable housing.
- (23) A Pensioner Concession of \$200 for pensioners who are holders of an eligible Centrelink or Veteran Affairs Pension Concession Card or a Veteran Affairs Gold Card which stipulates TPI or War Widow for the Kerbside Waste Collection Service Charge. This concession will be provided by direct provision (without application where information is known) for the Kerbside Collection Service Charge on their principal place of residence only.

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- (25) Notes the briefing papers prepared on BT Connor Reserve Lighting Scope (**Appendix G**) and the Response to Notice of Motion – Community Event Support (**Appendix H**) as requested by Council.

THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION WAS PUT AND CARRIED AND BECAME THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 24-104

MOVED: Cr. S Rennie
SECONDED: Cr. J Williams

That Council:

- (1) Notes that net expenditure of \$6.6 million for aged care related services has been included in the 2024-25 operating budget.
- (2) Notes that expenditure of \$240,000 for Jika Jika Community Centre works has been included in the 2024-25 financial year of the 4-year Capital Works Program.
- (3) Notes that expenditure of \$600,000 for Northcote Golf Course Eastern Path & Northern Park works has been included in the 2027-28 year of the 4-year Capital Works Program.

ADOPTION OF 2024-25 BUDGET (INCORPORATING THE 4 YEAR FINANCIAL OUTLOOK) & REVISED REVENUE AND RATING PLAN

- (4) Notes that community submissions for the 2024-25 Budget were invited through community consultation from 29 April to 20 May 2024, with all submissions (**Appendix F**) having been considered for the Budget and separately at a Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting held on 3 June 2024.
- (4.1) Resolves to make public the summary of community submissions received (**Appendix F**) with all personal and confidential information redacted, and that this be shared via Council's website in the next 14 days.
- (5) Notes the following projects have been amended since the draft budget:
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 - f. Removal of additional Graffiti project: \$50,000
 - g. Masterplan for the Old Reservoir Library site: \$40,000 (*budget carry forward reduced from \$80k to \$40k*)

- (6) In accordance with Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020* adopts the 2024-25 Budget (incorporating the 4-year financial outlook) (**Appendix A**) with the following changes:
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DECLARATION OF PENSIONER CONCESSION AND CONCESSION FOR PROPERTIES OWNED AND MANAGED BY ABORIGINAL HOUSING VICTORIA

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- (25) Notes the briefing papers prepared on BT Connor Reserve Lighting Scope (**Appendix G**) and the Response to Notice of Motion – Community Event Support (**Appendix H**) as requested by Council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PROCEDURAL MOTION TO CHANGE ORDER OF BUSINESS

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy
SECONDED: Cr. J Williams

That the order of business be amended to consider Item 9.4 Your Street Your Say Round 2 Consultation Findings and Draft Concept Plan for Council Endorsement before Item 9.2 Adoption of 2024-25 Council Plan Action Plan.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.4 YOUR STREET YOUR SAY ROUND 2 CONSULTATION FINDINGS AND DRAFT CONCEPT PLAN FOR COUNCIL ENDORSEMENT

9.04pm - Cr. Susan Rennie disclosed a general conflict of interest in relation to points g. and p. of the Officers Recommendation for Item 9.4 Your Street Your Say Round 2 Consultation Findings and Draft Concept Plan for Council Endorsement as she lives in the catchment area of two possible traffic interventions and left the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents round 2 community consultation feedback, updated proposed projects with draft concept plans and a recommended prioritised list of projects for delivery, for the Your Street, Your Say (YSYS) Group B areas.

The YSYS program supports an integrated, networked approach to transport planning and operations, informed by inclusive community engagement and underpinned by the Darebin Transport Strategy. This approach aligns with the objectives of the *Transport Integration Act 2010 (Appendix F)*, which supports all aspects of the community through a safe transport network that is accessible for people with all abilities.

The second round of community engagement on the YSYS Group B areas was held from 1 March 2024 to 14 April 2024. The community were invited to provide feedback on 22 projects, 11 operational projects and two questions about speed limit changes.

Significant effort was made in delivering an inclusive and welcoming engagement approach. There were 691 people actively engaged across all engagement activities with 597 online responses and over 2,000 pieces of information received.

The round 2 community consultation summary including number of responses for each project and percentage of support, and is included as **Appendix A**.

There have been changes made to some proposals, and removal of one project, as a result of consultation feedback, a 27 May Petition, and technical assessment (including internal review and safe system assessments). The changes were made under the supervision of a registered professional engineer. The full list of updated projects and draft concept plans is included at **Appendix B**.

Consultation also included the Federally funded blackspot project at the intersection of Victoria Road and Mitchell Street. Community feedback has been reviewed and taken into account. After careful consideration of both feedback and the engineering assessment, it is recommended to progress with this blackspot project. Not proceeding with this project carries a significant risk for community, given the historical crash patterns at the location and noting that the proposed treatment is supported by DTP and will be fully funded by the Federal Government.

Following confirmation of significant community interest, officers are recommending implementing additional 40km/h speed limits on local roads and to trial 30km/h zones around activity centres and schools in the Group B area.

Following further investigation, Council endorsement is sought to modify the project description at Broadhurst / Massey intersection in YSYS Group A, to a raised intersection with traffic signals. This approach is required due to the original proposal not sufficiently managing identified safety issues.

This report recommends the Group B *high* and *other priority* projects are endorsed to progress through to the design and implementation stages as funding becomes available through the annual budget process and through grant opportunities.

The Chairperson, Mayor Newton, advised that points g. and p. of the motion would be voted on separately to allow Cr Rennie to participate in the debate of the remaining items.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the *Your Street, Your Say Group B* concept designs as provided in **Appendix B** for design and delivery subject to the annual budget process. The top 8 projects in the following list are high priority and the remainder being other priority projects:
 - a. Install a trial solution along South Crescent near Mason Street to deter rat-running traffic. If the trial is unsuccessful, remove all parking from the south side of South Crescent between Mason Street and Plant Street.
 - b. Investigate a separated bike lane on Dundas Street, between Victoria and Matisi Street.
 - c. Investigate options to improve road safety along Victoria Road between South Crescent and Separation Street (feasibility study), but not physically separated bike lanes.
 - d. Investigate options for separated bike lanes on Victoria Road, between Darebin Road and Separation Street (near Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre) and investigate further treatments to provide safe crossing for bicyclists near the entrance to the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre.
 - e. Design and construct a signalised pedestrian crossing on Victoria Road, south of Clifton St (near the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre).
 - f. Install a raised zebra crossing on Clarendon Street, east of High Street.
 - g. Install a raised zebra crossing on Newcastle Street, south of Young Street.
 - h. Install intersection traffic signals at Breavington Way.
 - i. Install raised crossing at Raleigh Street and two speed humps towards the roundabout at St David Street.
 - j. Consult the school and undertake surveys to understand whether people are mostly entering the school off Matisi Street near Collins Street or north of Theobald Street. Reposition and construct the wombat crossing to suit desire-line.
 - k. Investigate and design the most appropriate options for road safety treatment on Separation Street between Hopetoun Street to Bennet Street.
 - l. Install a raised intersection at Jones Street and Collins Street, with zebra crossings across all four sides of the intersection.
 - m. Design and construct raised intersection traffic lights at the intersection of

Dundas Street and Newcastle Street.

- n. Design and install a raised zebra crossing (wombat crossing) on Clarendon Street, east of St David Street in addition to the central median and speed cushions on the concept plan. Also, investigate traffic calming measures along Wales Street and deliver at the same time as the Clarendon Street changes.
 - o. Install a trial one-way (westbound) on Railway place between Station Street to Gillies Street. If safety assessment following the trial still requires the zebra crossing on Railway Place near Gillies Street to be straightened and raised then this should be considered for future funding.
 - p. Design and install road safety treatments along Newcastle Street between Walton Avenue and Raglan Street.
 - q. Design and install raised zebra crossings on all four sides of the intersection at Raglan Street and Newcastle Street.
 - r. Design and install a wombat crossing across Union Street east leg at High Street.
 - s. Remove all left turn slip lanes at the intersection of Separation Street and Northcote Plaza through an intersection remodel.
 - t. Design and install raised zebra crossings on all four sides of the roundabouts at the intersection of Newcastle Street and Pender Street
 - u. Design and install raised zebra crossings on all four sides of the roundabouts at the intersection of Newcastle Street and Collins Street.
 - v. Investigate and design a T-intersection at Wingrove Street and Arthur Street with raised pedestrian crossing on Wingrove Street and on Arthur Street to the north of Wingrove Street.
 - w. Design and install a raised intersection at Separation Street and Perry Street with zebra crossings across all four sides of the intersection (subject to Department of Transport and Planning approval).
 - x. Construct footpath connections and pram ramps for Habitat Link to be connected safely to the footpath on the south side of Main Drive to the east of Ernest Jones Drive.
 - y. Design and install a raised zebra crossing on Rossmoyne St, to connect Olver Reserve and Jones Reserve.
 - z. Design and install a raised zebra crossing on Gooch St, to connect Jones Reserve and Harry Reserve.
 - aa. Design and install further road safety treatments at Flinders Street near Roberts Reserve.
 - bb. Upgrade raised pedestrian crossing on Mansfield St, between Roberts Reserve and Olver Reserve, to a raised zebra crossing.
 - cc. Design and install a raised zebra crossing across Separation St, east of Sparks Ave (near Alfred Nuttall Memorial Kindergarten).
- (2) Notes that the timelines for design and delivery of projects are subject to annual budget processes and budget availability, including successful grant applications.
- (3) Makes the *Your Street, Your Say Group B Round 2 engagement report* at **Attachment C** publicly available via the Darebin website.
- (4) Endorses the operational project proposals with any proposed changes, if any, as shown in **Appendix A** to be delivered through operating budgets or grant funding.

- (5) Endorses a further reduction in speed limit to 40km/h on local roads, and a trial 30km/h zone around activity centres and schools in the Group B area.
- (6) Notes the consultation for *Your Street Your Say Group C* (Reservoir East, Preston East, and Northcote West) will proceed as soon as practical in 2024/25, but after the caretaker period.
- (7) Thanks community members for their feedback and participation throughout the two rounds of consultation for *Your Street Your Say Group B*.
- (8) Endorses the delivery of the raised crossing on Newcastle Street near Young Street in 2024/25, if the final adopted 2024/25 annual budget includes an additional \$100,000 capital works allocation for delivery of Your Street Your Say Group B projects.
- (9) Endorses the update to the project scope of the Your Street, Your Say Group A project at the intersection of Massey and Broadhurst Avenue to a raised signalised intersection.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 24-105

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

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the *Your Street, Your Say Group B* concept designs as provided in **Appendix B** for design and delivery subject to the annual budget process. The top 8 projects in the following list are high priority and the remainder being other priority projects:
 - g. Install a raised zebra crossing on Newcastle Street, south of Young Street.
 - p. Design and install road safety treatments along Newcastle Street between Walton Avenue and Raglan Street.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.16pm - Cr Rennie returned to the meeting.

Cr Dimitriadis proposed an amendment (see below) to the mover and seconder, which was not accepted.

Amended Motion

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

That Council:

- (1) **Notes the Australian Bureau of Statistics data that the most recent census identified that 38.5% of people in Darebin travelled to work in a private car and 2.4% rode a bike to work.**
- (2) **Notes that according to the latest TAC statistics, “Pedestrians make up around 15% of the total number of road deaths each year” with the most common types of crashes resulting from crossing the road. These statistics from the TAC are significantly higher than those relating to bicycle riders.**
- (3) **Notes that the decision to prioritise the Your Street Your Say project was based**

-
- on council's strategic direction (weighted at 25%) and then a safety assessment (20%) and consideration whether the project was "value for money" (20%).
- (4) Notes that council decided to reprioritise the Your Street Your Say projects on the 8 January 2024 to ensure children's safety was in the top 5 list of priorities in order to allow children to safely walk, cycle, take public transport or get dropped off at their school, kindergarten or childcare centre.
- (5) Notes that from community consultation, people expressed most support with the safety projects around schools, kindergarten and childcare centre:
- a. The raised zebra crossings near Preston South Primary School on Newcastle Street received 90% support.
 - b. The raised zebra crossing outside Thornbury High School on Matisi Street received 88% support.
 - c. The raised zebra crossings outside Perry Street childcare received 86% support.
 - d. The signalised intersection outside Thornbury Kindergarten on Newcastle Street received 85% support.
 - e. The raised intersection at Jones St and Collins St outside Thornbury High School received 84% support.
- (6) Notes that from community consultation, people expressed less support for projects involving bike lanes:
- a. Separated bike lanes on Victoria Rd before Separation St received 34% support.
 - b. Separated bike lanes on Victoria Rd after Separation St received 55% support.
 - c. Installing a bike lane on Dundas street received 71% support.
 - d. Removal of parking on South Crescents to make way for bike riders received 67% support.
- (7) Notes that the top four priorities in the Your Street Your Say program are those listed in point 6 (above).
- (8) ~~(4)~~ Prioritises school, kindergarten and childcare crossings listed in point 5 (above) to become the highest priorities in the Your Street Your Say Group B program so as to replace the current top four bike lane priorities, and endorses the concept designs as provided in Appendix B for design and delivery subject to the annual budget process. The top 8 13 projects in the following list are high priority and the remainder being other priority projects:
- a. Design and install raised zebra crossings on all four sides of the intersection at Raglan Street and Newcastle Street.
 - b. Consult the school and undertake surveys to understand whether people are mostly entering the school off Matisi Street near Collins Street or north of Theobald Street. Reposition and construct the wombat crossing to suit desire-line.
 - c. Design and install a raised intersection at Separation Street and Perry Street with zebra crossings across all four sides of the intersection (subject to Department of Transport and Planning approval).
 - d. Design and construct raised intersection traffic lights at the intersection of Dundas Street and Newcastle Street.
-

-
- e. Install a raised intersection at Jones Street and Collins Street, with zebra crossings across all four sides of the intersection.
 - f. **(a) Install a trial solution along South Crescent near Mason Street to deter rat-running traffic. If the trial is unsuccessful, remove all parking from the south side of South Crescent between Mason Street and Plant Street.**
 - g. ~~(b)~~ Investigate a separated bike lane on Dundas Street, between Victoria and Matisi Street.
 - h. ~~(c)~~ Investigate options to improve road safety along Victoria Road between South Crescent and Separation Street (feasibility study), but not physically separated bike lanes.
 - i. ~~(d)~~ Investigate options for separated bike lanes on Victoria Road, between Darebin Road and Separation Street (near Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre) and investigate further treatments to provide safe crossing for bicyclists near the entrance to the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre.
 - j. ~~(e)~~ Design and construct a signalised pedestrian crossing on Victoria Road, south of Clifton St (near the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre).
 - k. ~~(f)~~ Install a raised zebra crossing on Clarendon Street, east of High Street.
 - l. ~~(g)~~ Install a raised zebra crossing on Newcastle Street, south of Young Street.
 - m. ~~(h)~~ Install intersection traffic signals at Breavington Way.
 - n. ~~(i)~~ Install raised crossing at Raleigh Street and two speed humps towards the roundabout at St David Street.
 - o. ~~(k)~~ Investigate and design the most appropriate options for road safety treatment on Separation Street between Hopetoun Street to Bennet Street.
 - p. ~~(n)~~ Design and install a raised zebra crossing (wombat crossing) on Clarendon Street, east of St David Street in addition to the central median and speed cushions on the concept plan. Also, investigate traffic calming measures along Wales Street and deliver at the same time as the Clarendon Street changes.
 - q. ~~(o)~~ Install a trial one-way (westbound) on Railway place between Station Street to Gillies Street. If safety assessment following the trial still requires the zebra crossing on Railway Place near Gillies Street to be straightened and raised then this should be considered for future funding.
 - r. ~~(p)~~ Design and install road safety treatments along Newcastle Street between Walton Avenue and Raglan Street.
 - s. ~~(r)~~ Design and install a wombat crossing across Union Street east leg at High Street.
 - t. ~~(s)~~ Remove all left turn slip lanes at the intersection of Separation Street and Northcote Plaza through an intersection remodel.
 - u. ~~(t)~~ Design and install raised zebra crossings on all four sides of the roundabouts at the intersection of Newcastle Street and Pender Street.
 - v. ~~(u)~~ Design and install raised zebra crossings on all four sides of the roundabouts at the intersection of Newcastle Street and Collins Street.
 - w. ~~(v)~~ Investigate and design a T-intersection at Wingrove Street and Arthur Street with raised pedestrian crossing on Wingrove Street and on Arthur Street to the north of Wingrove Street.
 - x. Construct footpath connections and pram ramps for Habitat Link to be connected safely to the footpath on the south side of Main Drive to the east of Ernest Jones Drive.
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- y. Design and install a raised zebra crossing on Rossmoyne St, to connect Olver Reserve and Jones Reserve.
- z. Design and install a raised zebra crossing on Gooch St, to connect Jones Reserve and Harry Reserve.
- aa. aa. Design and install further road safety treatments at Flinders Street near Roberts Reserve.
- bb. bb. Upgrade raised pedestrian crossing on Mansfield St, between Roberts Reserve and Olver Reserve, to a raised zebra crossing.
- cc. cc. Design and install a raised zebra crossing across Separation St, east of Sparks Ave (near Alfred Nuttall Memorial Kindergarten).
- (9) ~~(2)~~ Notes that the timelines for design and delivery of projects are subject to annual budget processes and budget availability, including successful grant applications.
- (10) ~~(3)~~ **Makes the Your Street, Your Say Group B Round 2 engagement report at Attachment C publicly available via the Darebin website.**
- (11) ~~(4)~~ **Endorses the operational project proposals with any proposed changes, if any, as shown in Appendix A to be delivered through operating budgets or grant funding.**
- (12) ~~(5)~~ **Endorses a further reduction in speed limit to 40km/h on local roads, and a trial 30km/h zone around activity centres and schools in the Group B area.**
- (13) ~~(6)~~ **Notes the consultation for Your Street Your Say Group C (Reservoir East, Preston East, and Northcote West) will proceed as soon as practical in 2024/25, but after the caretaker period.**
- (14) ~~(7)~~ **Thanks community members for their feedback and participation throughout the two rounds of consultation for Your Street Your Say Group B.**
- (15) ~~(8)~~ **Endorses the delivery of the raised crossing on Newcastle Street near Young Street in 2024/25, if the final adopted 2024/25 annual budget includes an additional \$100,000 capital works allocation for delivery of Your Street Your Say Group B projects.**
- (16) ~~(9)~~ **Endorses the update to the project scope of the Your Street, Your Say Group A project at the intersection of Massey and Broadhurst Avenue to a raised signalised intersection.**

LOST

For: Cr Dimitriadis (1)

Against: Crs Hannan, Rennie, Williams, McCarthy, Messina, and Newton (6)

Abstained: Crs Greco and Laurence (2)

THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION WAS PUT AND CARRIED AND BECAME THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 24-106

MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy

SECONDED: Cr. T Hannan

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the *Your Street, Your Say Group B* concept designs as provided in **Appendix B** for design and delivery subject to the annual budget process. The top 8

projects in the following list are high priority and the remainder being other priority projects:

- a. Install a trial solution along South Crescent near Mason Street to deter rat-running traffic. If the trial is unsuccessful, remove all parking from the south side of South Crescent between Mason Street and Plant Street.
- b. Investigate a separated bike lane on Dundas Street, between Victoria and Matisi Street.
- c. Investigate options to improve road safety along Victoria Road between South Crescent and Separation Street (feasibility study), but not physically separated bike lanes.
- d. Investigate options for separated bike lanes on Victoria Road, between Darebin Road and Separation Street (near Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre) and investigate further treatments to provide safe crossing for bicyclists near the entrance to the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre.
- e. Design and construct a signalised pedestrian crossing on Victoria Road, south of Clifton St (near the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre).
- f. Install a raised zebra crossing on Clarendon Street, east of High Street.
- g. Install a raised zebra crossing on Newcastle Street, south of Young Street.
- h. Install intersection traffic signals at Breavington Way.
- i. Install raised crossing at Raleigh Street and two speed humps towards the roundabout at St David Street.
- j. Consult the school and undertake surveys to understand whether people are mostly entering the school off Matisi Street near Collins Street or north of Theobald Street. Reposition and construct the wombat crossing to suit desire-line.
- k. Investigate and design the most appropriate options for road safety treatment on Separation Street between Hopetoun Street to Bennet Street.
- l. Install a raised intersection at Jones Street and Collins Street, with zebra crossings across all four sides of the intersection.
- m. Design and construct raised intersection traffic lights at the intersection of Dundas Street and Newcastle Street.
- n. Design and install a raised zebra crossing (wombat crossing) on Clarendon Street, east of St David Street in addition to the central median and speed cushions on the concept plan. Also, investigate traffic calming measures along Wales Street and deliver at the same time as the Clarendon Street changes.
- o. Install a trial one-way (westbound) on Railway place between Station Street to Gillies Street. If safety assessment following the trial still requires the zebra crossing on Railway Place near Gillies Street to be straightened and raised then this should be considered for future funding.
- p. Design and install road safety treatments along Newcastle Street between Walton Avenue and Raglan Street.
- q. Design and install raised zebra crossings on all four sides of the intersection at Raglan Street and Newcastle Street.
- r. Design and install a wombat crossing across Union Street east leg at High Street.

-
- s. Remove all left turn slip lanes at the intersection of Separation Street and Northcote Plaza through an intersection remodel.
 - t. Design and install raised zebra crossings on all four sides of the roundabouts at the intersection of Newcastle Street and Pender Street.
 - u. Design and install raised zebra crossings on all four sides of the roundabouts at the intersection of Newcastle Street and Collins Street.
 - v. Investigate and design a T-intersection at Wingrove Street and Arthur Street with raised pedestrian crossing on Wingrove Street and on Arthur Street to the north of Wingrove Street.
 - w. Design and install a raised intersection at Separation Street and Perry Street with zebra crossings across all four sides of the intersection (subject to Department of Transport and Planning approval).
 - x. Construct footpath connections and pram ramps for Habitat Link to be connected safely to the footpath on the south side of Main Drive to the east of Ernest Jones Drive.
 - y. Design and install a raised zebra crossing on Rossmoyne St, to connect Olver Reserve and Jones Reserve.
 - z. Design and install a raised zebra crossing on Gooch St, to connect Jones Reserve and Harry Reserve.
 - aa. Design and install further road safety treatments at Flinders Street near Roberts Reserve.
 - bb. Upgrade raised pedestrian crossing on Mansfield St, between Roberts Reserve and Olver Reserve, to a raised zebra crossing.
 - cc. Design and install a raised zebra crossing across Separation St, east of Sparks Ave (near Alfred Nuttall Memorial Kindergarten).
- (2) Notes that the timelines for design and delivery of projects are subject to annual budget processes and budget availability, including successful grant applications.
- (3) Makes the *Your Street, Your Say Group B Round 2 engagement report* at **Attachment C** publicly available via the Darebin website.
- (4) Endorses the operational project proposals with any proposed changes, if any, as shown in **Appendix A** to be delivered through operating budgets or grant funding.
- (5) Endorses a further reduction in speed limit to 40km/h on local roads, and a trial 30km/h zone around activity centres and schools in the Group B area.
- (6) Notes the consultation for *Your Street Your Say Group C* (Reservoir East, Preston East, and Northcote West) will proceed as soon as practical in 2024/25, but after the caretaker period.

CARRIED

For: Crs Hannan, Rennie, Greco, Williams, McCarthy, Messina, and Newton (7)

Against: Cr Dimitriadis (1)

Abstained: Cr Laurence (1)

9.2 ADOPTION OF 2024-25 COUNCIL PLAN ACTION PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks that Council adopt the 2024-25 Council Plan Action Plan (**Appendix A**).

The 2024-25 Council Plan Action Plan delivers Year 4, the final year, of the revised Council Plan 2021-25 (incorporating the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan) adopted by Council on 26 June 2023.

On 29 April 2024, the draft 2024-25 Council Plan Action Plan, alongside the draft 2024-25 Budget and associated documents, was endorsed for public exhibition and community feedback for a period of 21 days from 30 April to 20 May 2024.

During the public exhibition period 102 submissions were received in response to the draft 2024-25 Budget and associated documents and draft 2024-25 Council Plan Action Plan. Of the 102 submissions received, 19 related to the draft 2024-25 Council Plan Action Plan. This report does not propose any changes in response to the feedback received.

Community members requesting to speak to their submission were heard at a Hearing of Submissions Committee Meeting on 3 June 2024. Council considered the submissions received at a Briefing on 11 June 2024.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Notes the draft 2024-25 Council Plan Action Plan was out on exhibition seeking community feedback during the period 30 April to 20 May 2024.
- (2) Acknowledges the community feedback provided and note officers will write thanking individuals for their time in responding to the draft 2024-25 Council Plan Action Plan.
- (3) Adopts the 2024-25 Council Plan Action Plan at **Appendix A**.
- (4) Authorises the CEO to amend the 2024-25 Council Plan Action Plan to reflect any amendments resolved by Council in the 2024-25 Budget.

Amended Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Notes the draft 2024-25 Council Plan Action Plan was out on exhibition seeking community feedback during the period 30 April to 20 May 2024.
- (2) Acknowledges the community feedback provided and note officers will write thanking individuals for their time in responding to the draft 2024-25 Council Plan Action Plan.
- (3) Adopts the 2024-25 Council Plan Action Plan at **Appendix A**.
- (4) Authorises the CEO to amend the 2024-25 Council Plan Action Plan to reflect any amendments resolved by Council in the 2024-25 Budget.

(5) Amends the 2024-25 Council Plan Action Plan at Appendix A:

- a. To reflect actions due to be completed by the end of 2023-24 but which will carry forward into 2024-25, by including the following actions:
 - i. Finalise and implement the Contaminated Land Framework.
 - ii. Finalise a Lease and Licensing Policy, with consideration to the inputs provided through deliberative engagement to inform the Council Plan.
- b. To remove action '2-27 Actively participated in the Reservoir Revitalisation Board to improve outcomes for the Reservoir community' as the Board has been dissolved.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. L Messina
SECONDED: Cr. J Williams

That Council:

- (1) Notes the draft 2024-25 Council Plan Action Plan was out on exhibition seeking community feedback during the period 30 April to 20 May 2024.
- (2) Acknowledges the community feedback provided and note officers will write thanking individuals for their time in responding to the draft 2024-25 Council Plan Action Plan.
- (3) Adopts the 2024-25 Council Plan Action Plan at **Appendix A**.
- (4) Authorises the CEO to amend the 2024-25 Council Plan Action Plan to reflect any amendments resolved by Council in the 2024-25 Budget.
- (5) Amends the 2024-25 Council Plan Action Plan at Appendix A:
 - a. To reflect actions due to be completed by the end of 2023-24 but which will carry forward into 2024-25, by including the following actions:
 - i. Finalise and implement the Contaminated Land Framework.
 - ii. Finalise a Lease and Licensing Policy, with consideration to the inputs provided through deliberative engagement to inform the Council Plan.
 - b. To remove action '2-27 Actively participated in the Reservoir Revitalisation Board to improve outcomes for the Reservoir community' as the Board has been dissolved.
- (6) **Notes that the Northern Bullants play in the national VFL competition as a standalone club and refers for consideration in 2025 as part of developing the next Council Plan development of a Master Plan to set out long term improvements for Preston City Oval such as enhancements to external and internal amenities, improved lighting. Consideration should be given to establishing a committee with partners and stakeholders to build a shared vision and collaborative implementation. This committee could include state and federal members of parliament, local council, the club, the AFL and community representatives.**

THE MOTION WAS PUT AND CARRIED AND BECAME THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 24-107****MOVED: Cr. L Messina****SECONDED: Cr. J Williams****That Council:**

- (1) Notes the draft 2024-25 Council Plan Action Plan was out on exhibition seeking community feedback during the period 30 April to 20 May 2024.
- (2) Acknowledges the community feedback provided and note officers will write thanking individuals for their time in responding to the draft 2024-25 Council Plan Action Plan.
- (3) Adopts the 2024-25 Council Plan Action Plan at **Appendix A**.
- (4) Authorises the CEO to amend the 2024-25 Council Plan Action Plan to reflect any amendments resolved by Council in the 2024-25 Budget.
- (5) Amends the 2024-25 Council Plan Action Plan at Appendix A:
 - a. To reflect actions due to be completed by the end of 2023-24 but which will carry forward into 2024-25, by including the following actions:
 - i. Finalise and implement the Contaminated Land Framework.
 - ii. Finalise a Lease and Licensing Policy, with consideration to the inputs provided through deliberative engagement to inform the Council Plan.
 - b. To remove action '2-27 Actively participated in the Reservoir Revitalisation Board to improve outcomes for the Reservoir community' as the Board has been dissolved.
- (6) Notes that the Northern Bullants play in the national VFL competition as a standalone club and refers for consideration in 2025 as part of developing the next Council Plan development of a Master Plan to set out long term improvements for Preston City Oval such as enhancements to external and internal amenities, improved lighting. Consideration should be given to establishing a committee with partners and stakeholders to build a shared vision and collaborative implementation. This committee could include state and federal members of parliament, local council, the club, the AFL and community representatives.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.3 SPECIAL RATE RENEWAL - PRESTON, NORTHCOTE AND FAIRFIELD BUSINESS PRECINCTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides background to support the declaration of the proposed renewal of the Special Rate Levy 2024-2029 for the business precincts in Fairfield, Northcote, and Preston.

Following the Council Briefing on 15 April 2024, Council officers commenced the process for renewing the Special Rate Levy for the rateable properties within these business precincts that relate to the Northcote Business Association, Preston Central Business Association and Fairfield Traders Association, collectively referred to in this paper as 'the Traders Associations.'

A report summarising business and property owner survey findings on the proposed renewal of the Special Rate Levy was presented at Council Briefing on 11 June 2024.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 24-108

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

That Council:

- (1) Notes the Rating and Revenue Plan 2023-2027 as it relates to the special rate levy for rateable properties within the Fairfield, Northcote, and Preston business precincts.
 - (2) Having considered all submissions and objections received and having complied with the requirements of sections 163A, 163B and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989, declares a Special Rate and Charge Scheme (Special Rate) under section 163(1) of the Act for the purposes of defraying expenses to be incurred by Council in providing funds to:
 - (a) The incorporated body known and operating as the Fairfield Traders Association (for all rateable land in the geographic area identified in **Appendix A** for this Special Rate) for a period of five years commencing on 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2029 to levy an amount of \$76,500 in year one, increasing by \$2,500 in each subsequent year.
 - (b) The incorporated body known and operating as the Preston Central Business Association (for all rateable land in the geographic area identified in **Appendix A** for this Special Rate) for a period of five years commencing on 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2029 to levy an amount of \$108,901 in year one, increasing according to CPI in each subsequent year.
 - (c) The incorporated body known and operating as the Northcote Business Association (for all rateable land in the geographic area identified in **Appendix A** for this Special Rate) for a period of five years commencing on 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2029 to levy an amount of \$96,555 in year one, increasing by Darebin City Council rate cap in each subsequent year.
 - (3) Declares that for the period of the Special Rate Scheme, the Special Rate will be assessed on the rateable properties in the geographic area and the land for which the Special Rate is declared, as detailed within the Revenue and Rating Plan 2023-2027.
 - (4) Delegates to the CEO or delegate the preparation of related funding agreements
-

between the Council and the aforementioned Traders Associations by which administrative arrangements in relation to the Special Rate are confirmed, such agreement being to ensure that at all times, and as a precondition to the payment of any funds by Council to the Association, Council is, and remains, legally responsible for approving, directing and controlling the expenditure of the proceeds of the Special Rate in accordance with its obligations under the *Local Government Act 1989* to do so, and such funding agreement to be executed by the Chief Executive Officer under delegation.

- (5) Delegates to the CEO or delegate to provide notice to all owners and occupiers of properties included in the Scheme and all persons who have lodged a submission and/or an objection in writing of the decision of Council to declare and levy the Special Rate commencing on 1 July 2024, and the reasons for the decision.
- (6) For the purposes of the preceding paragraph, the reasons for the decision of Council to declare the Special Rate are that:
- a. There is minimal objection to the Scheme and it is otherwise considered that there is a broad level of support for the Special Rate from all property owners and occupiers;
 - b. Council considers that it is acting in accordance with the functions and powers conferred on it under the *Local Government Act 1989*, having regard to its role, purposes, and objectives under the Act, particularly in relation to the encouragement of commerce, retail activity and employment opportunities in and around the Scheme area;
 - c. All persons who are liable or required to pay the Special Rate and the properties respectively owned or occupied by them will receive a special benefit in the form of an enhancement or maintenance in land values and/or a maintenance or enhancement in the use, occupation, and enjoyment of the properties; and
 - d. The basis of the distribution of the Special Rate amongst those persons who are liable or required to pay the Special Rate is considered to be fair and reasonable.
- (7) Delegates to the CEO to contact the Traders' Associations to advise of Council's decision and the requirement to enter into a funding agreement with Council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

EXTENSION OF TIME – 9.27PM

Council Resolution

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

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.5 REVIEW OF ELECTION PERIOD POLICY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pursuant to Section 60 of *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) the Election Period Policy resides within Council's Governance Rules (Chapter 11 – Election Periods).

The Election Period Policy was reviewed and adopted by Council on 23 October 2023, however, due to an administrative oversight, a community engagement process was not undertaken as is required for the Governance Rules.

A community engagement process was subsequently undertaken from 20 May 2024 to 10 June 2024.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 24-109

MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy
SECONDED: Cr. J Williams

That Council:

- (1) Notes the submission received and thanks the submitter.
- (2) Endorses the Election Period Policy 2024 attached at **Appendix A** to this report.
- (3) Authorises the CEO to make the necessary administrative changes to the Policy if the provisions of the *Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Bill 2024* relating to the election period are enacted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.6 SOLAR SAVER REVIEW

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Solar Saver program has been reviewed, and changes to the eligibility criteria are recommended to improve the efficiency of the program for the 2024/25 financial year.

The year 3 Council Plan Action Plan required a review of the Solar Saver program. This action was included to ensure the program was still achieving its intended outcome and providing the best value for the Darebin community.

If endorsed by Council, the recommended changes to the Solar Saver program 2024/25 will still focus on supporting people experiencing disadvantage and support the market maturation of electrical technologies. The changes include:

- an increase to the household income eligibility to \$160,000
- the introduction of a 5% processing fee
- addition of hot water heat pump products, and
- an increase in the system cost cap to \$10,000 with the ability for participants to provide up-front payments.

The draft Climate Emergency Plan (CEP) that was taken to community consultation in March included an action that supports household electrification through funding and tailored advice. If included in the final CEP, this new approach to supporting people experiencing disadvantage and accelerating market maturation of electrical technology in response to climate change would take effect from year 2 of CEP.

Officer Recommendation

That Council endorse:

- (1) The revised Solar Saver program (Special Charge) eligibility criteria for 2024-25 at **Attachment A**.
- (2) Increasing the financial cap per household from \$6,000 to \$10,000, and give households the option to make upfront payments on-top of the cap if they wish to install approved products that would exceed the \$10,000 cap.
- (3) Making the following products available for Special Charge customers:
 - a. Solar panels
 - b. Split system air conditioning and heating
 - c. Hot water heat pump systems.
- (4) Allowing former Darebin Solar Saver residential customers who have completely paid back their debt to Council to apply to participate in the special charge program again.
- (5) Introducing a 5% processing fee for Special Charge customers, where customers pay a processing fee that is equal to 5% of the value of the product/s they are having installed through the Special Charge scheme.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy

SECONDED: Cr. J Williams

That Council endorse:

- (1) The revised Solar Saver program (Special Charge) eligibility criteria for 2024-25 at **Attachment A**.
- (2) Increasing the financial cap per household from \$6,000 to \$10,000, and give households the option to make upfront payments on-top of the cap if they wish to install approved products that would exceed the \$10,000 cap.
- (3) Making the following products available for Special Charge customers:
 - a. Solar panels
 - b. Split system air conditioning and heating
 - c. Hot water heat pump systems.
- (4) Allowing former Darebin Solar Saver residential customers who have completely paid back their debt to Council to apply to participate in the special charge program again.
- (5) Introducing a 5% processing fee for Special Charge customers, where customers pay a processing fee that is equal to 5% of the value of the product/s they are having installed through the Special Charge scheme.

Cr Hannan proposed to the mover and seconder that the motion be amended as follows, which was accepted:

That Council endorse:

- (1) **Endorse** the revised Solar Saver program (Special Charge) eligibility criteria for 2024-25 at Attachment A.
- (2) **Endorse** increasing the financial cap per household from \$6,000 to \$10,000, and give households the option to make upfront payments on-top of the cap if they wish to install approved products that would exceed the \$10,000 cap.
- (3) **Endorse** making the following products available for Special Charge customers:
 - a. Solar panels
 - b. Split system air conditioning and heating
 - c. Hot water heat pump systems.
- (4) **Endorse** allowing former Darebin Solar Saver residential customers who have completely paid back their debt to Council to apply to participate in the special charge program again.
- (5) **Endorse** Introducing a 5% processing fee for Special Charge customers, where customers pay a processing fee that is equal to 5% of the value of the product/s they are having installed through the Special Charge scheme.
- (6) **Request that the final Climate Emergency Plan include options to support Darebin Households to electrify, including electrified transport options, with a focus on improving access to affordable clean energy and mobility for low income residents**

THE MOTION WAS PUT AND CARRIED AND BECAME THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 24-110****MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy****SECONDED: Cr. J Williams****That Council:**

- (1) Endorse the revised Solar Saver program (Special Charge) eligibility criteria for 2024-25 at Attachment A.
- (2) Endorse increasing the financial cap per household from \$6,000 to \$10,000, and give households the option to make upfront payments on-top of the cap if they wish to install approved products that would exceed the \$10,000 cap.
- (3) Endorse making the following products available for Special Charge customers:
 - d. Solar panels
 - e. Split system air conditioning and heating
 - f. Hot water heat pump systems.
- (4) Endorse allowing former Darebin Solar Saver residential customers who have completely paid back their debt to Council to apply to participate in the special charge program again.
- (5) Endorse Introducing a 5% processing fee for Special Charge customers, where customers pay a processing fee that is equal to 5% of the value of the product/s they are having installed through the Special Charge scheme.
- (6) Request that the final Climate Emergency Plan include options to support Darebin Households to electrify, including electrified transport options, with a focus on improving access to affordable clean energy and mobility for low income residents.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.7 GOVERNANCE REPORT - JUNE 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Summary of attendance at Advisory Committees Meetings, Councillor Briefings, and other informal meetings of Councillors (**Appendix A**)
- Activity Reports by Mayor and Councillors
- Responses to public questions taken on notice at the Council Meeting held 27 May 2024 (**Appendix B**)
- General Planning Information - Applications determined by VCAT (**Appendix C**)

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 24-111

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

That Council:

- (1) Notes the Governance Report – June 2024.
- (2) Notes the Summary of attendance at Advisory Committees Meetings, Councillor Briefings, and other informal meetings of Councillors 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 responses to the public questions taken on notice at the Council Meeting on 27 May 2024. (**Appendix B**).
- (5) Notes the General Planning Information – Applications determined by VCAT, May 2024 (**Appendix C**).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ACTIVITY REPORTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS – 24 JUNE 2024**REPORT OF CR. SUSANNE NEWTON, MAYOR**

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

- Sylvester Hive community garden BBQ in Preston
- Gamelan Dananda concert (Indonesian music) at Thornbury Bowls Club
- Weekly meetings with CEO, Peter Smith
- Weekly meetings with Cr Tom Hannan
- Weekly meetings with Governance team
- Weekly meetings with Communications team
- Weekly meetings with Executive Assistant
- Weekly Councillor- only meetings
- Councillor-only budget discussions x 2

- Weekly Councillor briefings
- Meeting with Pathways to Politics for Women mentee
- Monthly meeting with David Toscano
- Refugee week dinner and speech
- Filming video for refugee week and the Back your Neighbour campaign
- Meeting with North Foundation
- Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) board meeting
- Economic framework workshop with Darebin business owners on Exploring Darebin's priorities
- Chairing meeting for the Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum
- Friends of Baucau meeting
- Darebin Families, Youth & Children Strategy Community Summit – Stage 2 - welcome speech
- Meeting with Honorary Consul to Thailand in Melbourne
- Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee meeting
- Reservoir Suburban Revitalisation Board final meeting
- Meeting with representatives at the Aboriginal Advancement League
- Special Council meeting – 17 June 2024
- The Preston Symphony Orchestra concert - Dancing across continents
- Conducted Citizenship Ceremony
- Welcome speech at Families, Youth and Children strategy youth roundable (second stage of consultation)
- Chaired Darebin Art & Heritage Advisory Panel meeting
- Speech at launch of Warm, Safe, Home exhibition at Preston Library
- Meeting with councils with 'activity centres' to coordinate a response to the Victorian Government, led by Hume
- Interview with RMIT Student Journalist about High Street being named the 'coolest street in the world'
- Briefing on the public housing inquiry
- Meeting with Mayor Adam Pulford
- Speech at Sustainability Matters event
- VFL Charity round between Northern Bullants and Carlton
- 2024 Victorian Aboriginal Remembrance Service
- M9 Meeting
- Meeting with Sofia Kotanidis about Migration Artwork
- High Life Expo
- Speech at Melbourne Design Week - Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre tour and panel
- Your Street, Your Say site tour - Victoria Road

REPORT OF CR. TIM LAURENCE

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

- Special Council meeting online 17/6/24
- Planning Meeting online
- Councillor briefings online
- Consultation with Residents re housing issues
- Consultation with Residents re planning issues
- Consultation with golfers re Bundoora meeting rooms

REPORT OF CR. EMILY DIMITRIADIS

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

- Attended Council briefings
- Attended Councillor-only meetings
- Attended Official Council meeting
- Attended Special Council meeting - 17 June 2024
- Attended 2024/25 budget briefing workshops
- Attended the Northern Bullants vs Carlton Football Club fundraiser for Project Us Foundation
- Attended Darebin Nature Trust advisory committee meeting
- Attended the Roads to Reconciliation summit
- Attended Submissions of Hearing meeting
- Attended meeting with the Fairfield Traders
- Attended Northcote City vs Preston Lions soccer match at John Cain Memorial Park
- Attended the 2024 Refugee Week event hosted by Darebin Interfaith Advisory Council

REPORT OF CR. GAETANO GRECO

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

- Briefing – Edwardes Lakee advisory committee
- Welcoming cities Advisory committee
- Northern Bull Ants Charity Lunch
- Festa della Repubblica
- Councillor Briefing
- Hearing of submissions
- Active Healthy Ageing Advisory Committee
- Interfaith advisory committee
- Weekly councillor meeting
- Review of budget meeting

- Special meeting
- Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee
- Refugee week community dinner
- Meeting with monitors

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., street cleaning, sporting ground allocations, parking restrictions and permits
- Darebin Welcoming Cities Community Reference Group
- Special Audit & Risk Committee Meeting
- Hearing of Budget Submissions
- Meeting with Monitors
- Councillor briefings
- Special meeting
- Councillor only meetings
- Meetings with Mayor
- Ordinary Council meeting

REPORT OF CR. TRENT MCCARTHY

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

- Council Briefing Session
- Hearing of Submissions Committee
- Weekly Councillor Catch Up
- Meeting re Active Spaces
- Special Council Meeting – 17 June 2024
- Councillor Budget Discussions
- Introductory Meeting with Municipal Monitors

REPORT OF CR. LINA MESSINA

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

- Councillor Briefing Sessions
- Pre-Council Briefings
- Monthly Council Meeting
- Special Council Meeting – 17 June 2024
- Weekly Councillor Meetings
- Councillor Budget Sessions

- PLFC VFL Charity round between Northern Bullants and Carton
- Meeting with local resident
- Meeting with local business x 4
- Discussions with Preston Lions, Northcote City FC, Northern Bullants
- Meetings with AG Davis residents

REPORT OF CR. SUSAN RENNIE

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

- Council meeting
- Special Council meeting - 17 June 2024
- Hearing of Submissions
- Councillor briefings
- Weekly Councillor catch ups
- DAAC
- Refugee Week Dinner
- Meeting with the Mayor and CEO at AAL
- Your Street Your Say site tour and discussion

REPORT OF CR. JULIE WILLIAMS

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

- Councillor Briefing Sessions
- Pre-Council Briefings
- Monthly Council Meeting
- Special Council Meeting - 17 June 2024
- Weekly Councillor Meetings
- Councillor Budget Sessions
- PLFC VFL Charity round between Northern Bullants and Carlton
- Meeting with local resident
- Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee
- MTF – Metropolitan Transport Forum
- Darebin Disability Committee
- Hearing of Submissions
- Chinese Elders Group

9.8 CT202365 CONTRACT AWARD - PANEL FOR THE PROVISION OF MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The current contracts for Mechanical and Electrical Maintenance Services (CT2019180 and CT2019181) are due to expire on August 13, 2024, with an option for a one-year extension. After facing challenges with the existing panel arrangements post Covid-19, a recommendation was made to the Chief Executive Officer in June 2023 which proposed developing new comprehensive contract documents, conducting a public tender, and planning for a transition of service providers to ensure effective management of Council's current contract arrangements and develop a revised strategic approach for mechanical and electrical services provision.

Council initiated a public tender seeking mechanical and electrical services providers capable of performing building refurbishments and maintenance works. The Request for Tender (RFT) for CT202365 for the Provision of Mechanical & Electrical Services was advertised publicly on March 9, 2024, and closed on April 11, 2024, receiving a total of seventeen submissions.

A three-stage evaluation methodology was implemented, with stage one ensuring compliance with minimum quality standards, stage two involving a qualitative review, and stage three including a final round of checks and validations by the panel.

The contract is structured into two packages: Package A for Mechanical services and Package B for Electrical services. After evaluations, the panel recommended three contractors for each package. Package A includes contractors for both Preventative Maintenance and Reactive Maintenance and Capital Renewals, while Package B entails contractors for similar services. This approach establishes a limited pre-approved panel for quoting capital works and projects, offering Council flexibility in engaging contractors for maintenance or capital works projects across the municipality.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 24-112

MOVED: Cr. S Rennie
SECONDED: Cr. J Williams

That Council:

- (1) Awards contract CT202365 Panel for the Provision of Mechanical & Electrical Services – **Package A Mechanical** (Part 1 Preventative Maintenance) for a principal contract term of four years with a one-year option to extend commencing on 14 August 2024 (services be charged as per tendered schedules of rates subject to CPI adjustments) to F&M Commercial Maintenance Pty Ltd.
- (2) Awards contract CT202365 Panel for the Provision of Mechanical & Electrical Services – **Package A Mechanical** (Part 2 Panel for Reactive Maintenance and Capital Renewals) for a principal contract term of four years with a one-year option to extend commencing on 14 August 2024 (services be charged as per tendered schedules of rates subject to CPI adjustments) to the following tenderers:
 - F&M Commercial Maintenance Pty Ltd
 - The Trustee for Air Control Victoria Services Unit Trust
 - A.G. Coombs Servicing Pty Ltd

- (3) Awards contract CT202365 Panel for the Provision of Mechanical & Electrical Services – **Package B Electrical** (Part 1 Preventative Maintenance) for a principal contract term of four years with a one-year option to extend commencing on 14 August 2024 (services be charged as per tendered schedules of rates subject to CPI adjustments) to New Connections Electrical, NewCon.
- (4) Awards contract CT202365 Panel for the Provision of Mechanical & Electrical Services – **Package B Electrical** (Part 2 Panel for Reactive Maintenance and Capital Renewals) for a principal contract term of four years with a one-year option to extend commencing on 14 August 2024 (services be charged as per tendered schedules of rates subject to CPI adjustments) to the following tenderers:
- New Connections Electrical, NewCon
 - QA Electrical
 - Platinum Electricians Pty Ltd
- (5) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to finalise and execute the contract documents on behalf of Council.
- (6) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to review and approve the option to extend the contract subject to satisfactory performance reviews.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. ITEMS TO BE TABLED

Nil.

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.

12. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

13. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL

Nil.

14. CLOSE OF MEETING


The meeting closed at 9.36pm.

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