

# Council Meeting Minutes

18 November 2025

Council Chamber  
Hobsons Bay Civic Centre  
115 Civic Parade, Altona

**HOBSONS**  
**BAY CITY**  
COUNCIL



## **OUR MISSION**

We will listen, engage and work with our community to plan, deliver and advocate for Hobsons Bay to secure a happy, healthy, fair and sustainable future for all.

## **OUR VALUES**

Respectful  
Community driven and focused  
Trusted and reliable  
Efficient and responsible  
Bold and innovative  
Accountable and transparent  
Recognised

Council acknowledges the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of these municipal lands and waterways, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

## **CONDUCT OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Meetings of Hobsons Bay City Council are to be conducted in accordance with Council's Governance Rules, which can be viewed at:

<https://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Council/About-Council/Governance/Governance-Rules>

Members of the public attending Council meetings must abide by the standards of behaviour set out in section 15 of the Governance Rules. Any person engaging in disruptive or disorderly behaviour may be required by the Chairperson to leave the meeting in accordance with the Governance Rules.

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**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18 November at 7pm.****Present****Chairperson**

Cr Diana Grima (Mayor)

Altona Meadows Ward

**Councillors**

Cr Daria Kellander

Altona Ward

Cr Rayane Hawli

Altona North Ward

Cr Paddy Keys-Macpherson

Laverton Ward

Cr Kristin Bishop

Spotswood Ward

Cr Lisa Bentley (Deputy Mayor)

Williamstown Ward

Cr Michael Disbury

Williamstown North Ward

**Officers**

Kerry Thompson

Interim Chief Executive Officer

Allison Kenwood

Interim Director Corporate Services

Elyse Rider

Interim Director Sustainable Communities

Matthew Irving

Director Infrastructure and City Services

Marlo Emmitt

Acting Manager Corporate Integrity

Beti Flaherty

Governance Officer and Timekeeper

Jessica Maunder

Proof Reading Officer and Minute Secretary

**Other**

John Tanner AM

Municipal Monitor

## **1 Council Welcome and Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners**

The Chair declared the meeting open at 7.00pm.

The Chair welcomed members of the public and acknowledged the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of these municipal lands and waterways.

## **2 Apologies and Leaves of Absence**

There were no apologies.

### **Acknowledgement**

The Chair made a special acknowledgement of the work of Chevalier (Chev.) Joe Attard, founder and president of the Maltese Association of Hobsons Bay since 1992, who had recently announced his resignation after years of dedicated service and outstanding contribution.

## **3 Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest**

In accordance with sections 127 and 128 of the *Local Government Act 2020* Councillors and staff are required to disclose a general or material conflict of interest. A conflict of interest must be disclosed in accordance with rule 18.1 of the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules.

There were no disclosures of conflict of interest.

## **4 Confirmation of Minutes**

### **Motion**

Moved: Cr Bentley, seconded Cr Kellander:

**That Council confirms the open and closed minutes of the meeting of the Hobsons Bay City Council held on 28 October 2025.**

Outcome: Carried

## **5 Public Question Time**

### **Electric vehicle charging**

**Jeremy Tennant**

- Q Residents of Hobsons Bay who have or would like to purchase an Electric Vehicle may not have (a) Access to a garage to charge their EVs (b) Access to suitable power in their garage. To "encourage uptake of EVs" residents need access to public EV charging infrastructure.**

**According to the Hobsons Bay City Council website, the Council is committed to encouraging the uptake of electric vehicles. While other councils in Victoria are trialling charging mechanisms like kerbside parking, or have made available public charging facilities, Hobsons Bay Council's commitment appears to be limited to implementing a single charging site in Altona and is guided by a 7 year old decision paper from 2018 (the link to this 2018 paper is currently broken on the council's website). What has the council undertaken in 2025, and plans to undertake in 2026 to support residents with the uptake of EVs?**

- A Council is in the process of developing an Integrated Transport Strategy, with expected implementation in the second half of 2026. This strategy will formalise Council's position on EV charging across the municipality, including kerbside charging and heritage considerations. Extensive community consultation will be undertaken early in 2026 on all components of this strategy, and residents will have a chance to put forward their priorities and desires in this space.**

**Separate to this, Council is in the process of reviewing its Heritage Guidelines across private landholdings to ensure sustainability including consideration of EV Charging is addressed more broadly in this space.**

- Q Will you commit to a 2026 trial of kerbside EV parking for residents, and deploying public charging infrastructure such as light post EV charging in neighbourhoods outside of Altona.**

- A Council officers would be recommending that a trial at this stage cannot be committed to without the work of the Integrated Transport Strategy being undertaken. There are a lot of unknowns in these trials around use of public land and liability, and it is recommended that a strategic direction of Council formed before this type of approach is pursued.**

### **Williamstown Swimming and Life Saving Club redevelopment**

**Paul Austin and Robert Ferris (multiple questions with combined reply)**

- Q PA: At the September Council meeting, Council officer Mr Irving said Council had committed \$3m to the proposed redevelopment of the Williamstown lifesaving club. But in a media release in June last year, the State MP for Williamstown, Ms Horne, said Council had committed \$5.5m to the redevelopment. Who is right – Mr Irving or Ms Horne – and do councillors know how much ratepayer money they have allocated to this proposed enormous overdevelopment on Williamstown beach?**

- Q PA: The Council's budget says Council has committed \$5.5m to the proposed redevelopment of the Williamstown lifesaving club. But Council officer Mr Irving has subsequently said Council has committed \$3m to the proposed redevelopment.**

**Asked to explain this \$2.5m budget black hole, a Council spokesman told The Westsider newspaper: "The \$5.5m figure referenced reflects part of the total project budget allocated for this financial year, with funds from both Council/state government contribution." Can anyone here explain what that means?**

**Q RF: At the September Council meeting, Council officer Mr Irving said the estimated budget for the proposed redevelopment of the Williamstown Swimming and Life Saving Club was \$16.6 million. At the October meeting, Mr Irving said the final cost "will not be known until the procurement process is facilitated". Then, in the November edition of the local Westsider newspaper, a Council spokesman said, "The total budget is \$14,529 m". Does Council know how much this redevelopment will cost, and if so, could you please tell the ratepayers of Hobsons Bay?**

**A** The total current budget allocation towards this project, which has and will continue to span across multiple financial years is \$14.529 million. This is made up of \$11.349 million from the state through a grant, \$3 million as a Council contribution and \$180,000 from the Williamstown Swimming and Life Saving Club.

As per previous answers regarding how much the redevelopment will cost, these are budget figures used by Council for purposes of budgeting and forecasting; the exact cost of the project will be worked through in a procurement process once approvals are obtained, and that is when the exact cost will be known.

### **Josephine Cafagna**

**Q The Williamstown lifesaving club withdrew its previous redevelopment plans after internal membership objections. Will Council now rethink its latest redevelopment plans given the widespread community concern that it will be detrimental to community amenity and the history and heritage of Williamstown Beach?**

**A** Significant community engagement has been undertaken to progress the designs for the redevelopment of the Swimming and Life Saving Club including consultation with the club and the broader community.

While acknowledging that objections have been raised, this consultation identified a broad and strong community support towards the design that forms the current redevelopment plans. Consideration of the planning permit application will be considered by Council in due course.

**Q Council is proposing to gift beachfront public land to the Williamstown lifesaving club for its proposed redevelopment. When did Council make that decision to give the club more than 19 public carparking spaces; do all councillors agree with the decision; and does Council think the community supports this gifting of public land to a fenced-off, members-only club?**

**A** The Statutory Planning team is undertaking an assessment of the proposal, including the car parking provision and its impact on public parking, with this being included in the officer's assessment report which will be made public when the application is ready for decision. This application will likely go to the council meeting for a decision and that is when councillors will make their views and decision known on that matter.



## **Hick Street pedestrian crossing and Brunel Street proposed bike path**

**Rowena Joske**

**Q In the May 2022 Council meeting Council adopted the Planning Scheme amendment for Precinct 16 west in South Kingsville. As discussed in that report, the agreed plan is that is that when the residential development there is built the pedestrian path on VicTrack land that currently connects from Moresby Street corner to the Hick Street Crossing will be removed. An acoustic wall is planned to be built along the boundary blocking access to the VicTrack land. An opening in the acoustic wall will be built that leads directly from the crossing and south into the new development. However, there is currently no plan to reinstate the path to connect to the existing South Kingsville neighbourhood to the west.**

**The Officer response in the May 2022 report supported the reinstatement of a path and stated that the design and location of a new path connecting to this existing neighbourhood needed to be resolved through discussion with stakeholders.**

**Given this context, can I please hear from the Sustainable Communities directorate what is the Planning team's understanding of this issue and Planning's advice on how the connection between Moresby Street and the Hick Street crossing should be addressed.**

**A The Precinct 16 West Framework Plan incorporated in the Hobsons Bay Planning Scheme indicates the footpath within the Brooklyn-Newport Railway line adjacent to Moresby Street exists and forms a key pathway network. There is no suggestion in the Framework Plan this is to be removed.**

**The Framework Plan also indicates a new connection from Precinct 16 West directly to the railway crossing which heads to Hick and Birmingham Streets. Any changes to the path and railway crossing will be at the discretion of VicTrack.**

**Q Tonight's council report on the Hick Street crossing discussed a council "Greenline Vision" to build a bike path down Brunel Street. This Vision directly contradicts the Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) for the Altona North Precinct 15 development which has been incorporated into the Planning Scheme. The CDP requires bike routes at Aloha Street and Watson Street, which would both connect to the Hick Street crossing, and specifies that Brunel Street must be a bus priority street including in-lane bus stops. The development plan clearly specifies no bike infrastructure on Brunel Street.**

**Can I please get an explanation from the Planning team regarding this contradiction between the planning scheme and the Greenline Vision and clarity on which Council should be following.**

**A The Altona North Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) applies to the developable area of Precinct 15. It indicates that connections through the precinct should connect to an "on-road bike lane" on Aloha Street and an "off-road shared path" on Watson Street. While the CDP shows Brunel Street as a proposed bus route, there is nothing in the plan stating that an "off-road" bike path can't be built on Brunel Street. Any proposed bike path on Brunel Street will need to align with the Local Area Traffic Management Study (LATM) for RD-05 and ensure Brunel Street remains bus-capable.**

## **6 Petitions and Joint Letters**

### **6.1 Petitions and Joint Letters Received**

#### **6.1.1 Petition: Stronger Oversight of Local Building Site Compliance**

##### **Motion**

Moved: Cr Keys-Macpherson, seconded Cr Disbury:

**That Council:**

- 1. Receives and notes the petition in relation to stronger oversight of local building site compliance.**
- 2. Receives a further report on this matter at a future Council meeting.**

Outcome: Carried unanimously

## **6.2 Responses to Petitions and Joint Letters**

### **6.2.1 Response to Resolution: Hick Street Pedestrian and Bike Crossing**

**Directorate:** Infrastructure and City Services

**Responsible Officer:** Manager Engineering Services

**Attachments:** Nil

#### **Purpose**

To respond to the resolution made on 23 September 2025 Council meeting, which referenced the Hick Street Pedestrian Crossing petition.

#### **Motion**

Moved: Cr Bishop, seconded Cr Hawli:

**That Council:**

- 1. Notes that the relevant authority who owns the land in question is VicTrack, and that the land is leased and managed by Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC).**
- 2. Continues its support for the retention of the Hick Street pedestrian and bike rail crossing and writes to ARTC and VicTrack to consider the potential upgrade of this infrastructure for the provision of a 3.5m shared pathway to better accommodate both pedestrians and cyclists.**
- 3. Seek for VicTrack to provide an annual update on any emerging issues regarding railway land holdings within the municipality.**
- 4. Notes the future options for cycling connections in this area, that are strategically supported and how they interact with the Hick Street pedestrian and bike rail crossing.**
- 5. Writes to the lead petitioner with this outcome.**

Outcome: Carried unanimously

## **7 Officer Reports**

### **7.1 Statutory Planning**

Nil reports

## 7.2 Matters for Decision

### 7.2.1 State-led Rezoning of Industrial Land (SUZ2, SUZ3 & SUZ4): October 2025 Update and Council Response

**Directorate:** Sustainable Communities

**Responsible Officer:** Manager Strategy, Economy and Sustainability

**Attachments:**

1. DTP Correspondence - Draft Rezoning Documentation (October 2025) [7.2.1.1 - 2 pages]
2. Council Correspondence - Response to Draft Rezoning Documentation (October 2025) [7.2.1.2 - 9 pages]

### Purpose

To seek Council's endorsement of its formal position on the Department of Transport and Planning's (DTP) October 2025 draft Planning Scheme Amendment for Special Use Zone – Schedules 2, 3 and 4 (SUZ2, SUZ3 and SUZ4) and authorise continued collaboration to ensure Council's objectives, including the Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO), the Design and Development Overlay (DDO) and the Buffer Area Overlay (BAO) controls, are reflected in the final amendment.

### Motion

Moved: Cr Hawli, seconded Cr Bentley:

**That Council:**

1. **Endorses the Interim CEO's correspondence and technical matrix as Council's formal position on the State-led rezoning of Special Use Zone – Schedules 2, 3 and 4 (SUZ2, SUZ3 and SUZ4).**
2. **Notes the inclusion of SUZ2 (Williamstown North) in the draft amendment and requests targeted consultation and application of Buffer Area Overlay (BAO) controls to manage Major Hazard Facility (MHF) interface risks.**
3. **Reaffirms the need for Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO) and Design and Development Overlay (DDO) controls, minimum lot size provisions, and infrastructure contribution mechanisms to be incorporated into the final amendment.**
4. **Requests the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) progress the amendment under Section 20(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, with targeted consultation enabled under Section 20(5), to ensure the amendment and Council's local controls (ESO, DDO and BAO) are considered prior to gazettal.**
5. **Authorises officers to continue engagement with DTP to secure these outcomes.**

Outcome: Carried unanimously

## **7.2.2 Aquatic Strategy Review**

**Directorate:** Sustainable Communities  
**Responsible Officer:** Manager Recreation and Leisure  
**Attachments:** HBCC Aquatic Strategy Action Plan Report (Draft) 311025 V4  
 ELT Briefing [7.2.2.1 - 46 pages]

### **Purpose**

To seek Council endorsement of the Draft Hobsons Bay Aquatic Strategy – Review and Action Plan 2025-30, for the purpose of commencing a community engagement period.

### **Motion**

Moved: Cr Kellander, seconded Cr Hawli:

**That Council:**

- 1. Supports the draft Aquatic Strategy Review and Action Plan 2025-30 to commence community consultation in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy.**
- 2. Receives a report at a future Council meeting, summarising the feedback from the community consultation period and determining next steps.**

Outcome: Carried

For: Cr Kellander, Cr Bishop, Cr Bentley, Cr Hawli

Against: Cr Grima, Cr Keys-Macpherson, Cr Disbury (abstained)

### **7.2.3 Councillor Appointments to Internal and External Committees**

**Directorate:** Corporate Services  
**Responsible Officer:** Acting Coordinator Governance  
**Attachments:** Nil

#### **Purpose**

To appoint Councillor representatives to internal and external committees that are scheduled to meet in early December 2025, and to note that appointments to the remaining committees will be considered at a future Council Meeting.

#### **Motion**

Moved: Cr Kellander, seconded Cr Bentley:

**That Council:**

- 1. Appoints Cr Disbury and Cr Bishop to Council's Audit and Risk Committee.**
- 2. Appoints Cr Keys-Macpherson as the proxy for Council's Audit and Risk Committee.**
- 3. Appoints Cr Hawli as delegate to the LeadWest Joint Delegated Committee.**
- 4. Appoints Cr Keys-Macpherson as the proxy for the LeadWest Joint Delegated Committee.**
- 5. Appoints Cr Bentley as the alternative delegate for Melbourne 9 (M9).**
- 6. Appoints Cr Keys-Macpherson as delegate of the Metropolitan Transport Forum Committee.**
- 7. Notes that the Mayor, by virtue of their position, is the appointed delegate of Melbourne 9 (M9), in accordance with the M9 Memorandum of Understanding.**
- 8. Notes that all Councillors are appointed to the Chief Executive Officer Employment Matters Committee, as set out in the Terms of Reference.**
- 9. Notes that a report recommending the appointment of Councillors to the remaining internal and external committees will be considered at a future Council meeting.**

Outcome: Carried unanimously

## **7.2.4 Establishment of the Hearing of Submissions Committee**

**Directorate:** Corporate Services  
**Responsible Officer:** Acting Manager Corporate Integrity  
**Attachments:** Hearing of Submissions Committee Terms of Reference  
[7.2.4.1 - 3 pages]

### **Purpose**

To establish a Hearing of Submissions Committee which will facilitate the hearing of public submissions on various matters, including statutory planning, budget, traffic, transport and policy related matters and propose an amendment to Council's Governance Rules.

### **Motion**

Moved: Cr Hawli, seconded Cr Disbury:

**That Council:**

- 1. Establishes the Hearing of Submissions Committee and adopts the attached Terms of Reference.**
- 2. Approves the following proposed amendment to Hobsons Bay City Council's Governance Rules, for the purposes of community engagement for the period 20 November to 3 December 2025 (inclusive):**
  - 2.1. Change the first paragraph of Clause 11.2 to read:**

**"Members of the public can make submissions to Council on any Statutory and/or Strategic Planning items on the meeting agenda, where an opportunity to be heard at a Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting has not been provided."**

Outcome: Carried unanimously

## 7.2.5 Council Meeting Dates 2026

**Directorate:** Corporate Services  
**Responsible Officer:** Acting Coordinator Governance  
**Attachments:** Nil

### Purpose

To set the dates, times and venue for meetings of the Council for 2026.

### Motion

Moved: Cr Kellander, seconded Cr Bentley:

**That Council:**

1. Approves the schedule of Council meeting dates for 2026, as detailed below.

Meeting	Date	Time
Council meeting	Tuesday 24 February 2026	7pm
Council meeting	Tuesday 24 March 2026	7pm
Council meeting	Tuesday 28 April 2026	7pm
Council meeting	Tuesday 26 May 2026	7pm
Council meeting (Includes adoption of budget 2026-27)	Tuesday 23 June 2026	7pm
Council meeting	Tuesday 28 July 2026	7pm
Council meeting	Tuesday 25 August 2026	7pm
Council meeting	Tuesday 22 September 2026	7pm
Council meeting	Tuesday 27 October 2026	7pm
Council meeting (Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor)	Friday 13 November 2026	7pm
Council meeting	Tuesday 24 November 2026	7pm
Council meeting	Tuesday 15 December 2026	7pm

2. Determines that all Council meetings will be held at Hobsons Bay Civic Centre, 115 Civic Parade, Altona and livestreamed, unless otherwise advertised.
3. Provides public notice of the Council meeting dates, including publication on Council's website and display at Council's Customer Service Centres, in accordance with the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules 2025.

Outcome: Carried unanimously



## **7.2.6 Capital Works Progress Report Q1 FY2025-26**

**Directorate:** Infrastructure and City Services

**Responsible Officer:** Manager Capital Works

**Attachments:** Capital Works Q1 FY 25-26 [7.2.6.1 - 23 pages]

### **Purpose**

To provide Council with the first quarter status update on the delivery of the 2025–26 Capital Works Program (CWP).

### **Motion**

Moved: Cr Hawli, seconded Cr Bentley:

**That Council:**

- 1. Receives the Quarterly Capital Works Program Status Report as at 30 September 2025 (Attachment 1).**
- 2. Notes the identified forecast adjustments to projects within the 2025–26 Capital Works Program, in accordance with the Capital Works Framework.**

Outcome: Carried unanimously

## **7.2.7 First Quarter Financial Report - Period ended 30 September 2025**

**Directorate:** Corporate Services

**Responsible Officer:** Chief Financial Officer

**Attachments:** Financial Report September 2025 [7.2.7.1 - 21 pages]

### **Purpose**

To present Council with the financial results for the period ended 30 September 2025 and the revised 2025-26 annual forecast projections following completion of the September quarterly forecast review.

### **Question taken on notice**

Cr Disbury noted that Council is currently understaffed by 70 officers, and asked what has driven the employee costs over budget by \$1.79 million and whether this included the cost of the municipal monitor.

Interim CEO Kerry Thompson said she would take the question on notice, and said she could not advise whether the monitor's salary was included, but would check this.

### **Motion**

Moved: Cr Hawli, seconded Cr Kellander:

**That Council:**

- 1. Notes the financial report for the period ended 30 September 2025.**
- 2. Endorses the revised 2025-26 annual forecasts.**

Outcome: Carried

For: Cr Kellander, Cr Bishop, Cr Bentley, Cr Keys-Macpherson, Cr Hawli, Cr Grima

Against: Cr Disbury

## **7.3 Matters for Noting**

### **7.3.1 First Quarter Major Initiatives Progress Update 2025-26**

**Directorate:** Corporate Services

**Responsible Officer:** Manager Community and Council Plan Development

**Attachments:** Quarter 1 2025-26 - Council Plan Initiatives Progress Report attachment V3 [7.3.1.1 - 6 pages]

### **Purpose**

To provide Council with the first quarter update (1 July to 30 September 2025) on the progress of the major initiatives that are included in the annual budget 2025-26.

### **Motion**

Moved: Cr Hawli, seconded Cr Keys-Macpherson:

**That Council notes progress made on the major initiatives during the first quarter of 2025-26.**

Outcome: Carried unanimously

## **8 Other Reports**

### **8.1 Committee Reports**

Nil reports

### **8.2 Delegate Reports**

#### **Motion**

Moved Cr Hawli, seconded Cr Bentley:

**That Council receives and notes the recent delegate reports:**

**1.1 Hobsons Bay Local Safety Committee - 21 October 2025**

**1.2 M9 (Melbourne 9) - 3 October 2025.**

Outcome: Carried unanimously

## **9 Reports of Informal Meetings of Council**

#### **Motion**

Moved Cr Kellander, seconded Cr Bishop:

**That Council receives the reports of informal meetings of Council for:**

**1.1 Williamstown Mechanics Institute site visit – 14 October 2025**

**1.2 Pre Council Meeting Briefing – 28 October 2025**

**1.3 Councillor Briefing – 5 November 2025**

**1.4 Councillor Briefing – 11 November 2025.**

Outcome: Carried unanimously

## **10 Notices of Motion**

No notices of motion were received.

## **11 Councillor Questions**

**Cr Keys-Macpherson referred to the May 2025 theft of the “Walking Man” artwork from Bladin Street in Laverton, along with the theft (or removal to prevent theft) of other artwork elements, and asked for an update on the investigation into the theft, the potential recasting and return of the artworks, and what the community can expect for the remaining artworks and at the sites which now feel empty.**

Elyse Rider, Interim Director Sustainable Communities, said that as two of the three “Linking Laverton” artworks by Dean Bowen had been stolen, and other elements had also been stolen, damaged, replaced or relocated in recent years, officers do not recommend further replacement of those specific artworks and it is planned to decommission the plinths and reinstate the sites.

It is recommended to relocate the remaining artwork (the bus) to a location with surveillance. A location in Laverton has been identified that still has relevance for the work, and this will be worked through with the artist.

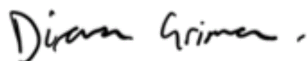
Ms Rider said that Council has made a successful insurance claim and that the funds will support the relocation costs and any future proposal for public art in Laverton.

## **12 Urgent Business**

There was no urgent business.

## **13 Close of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.24pm.



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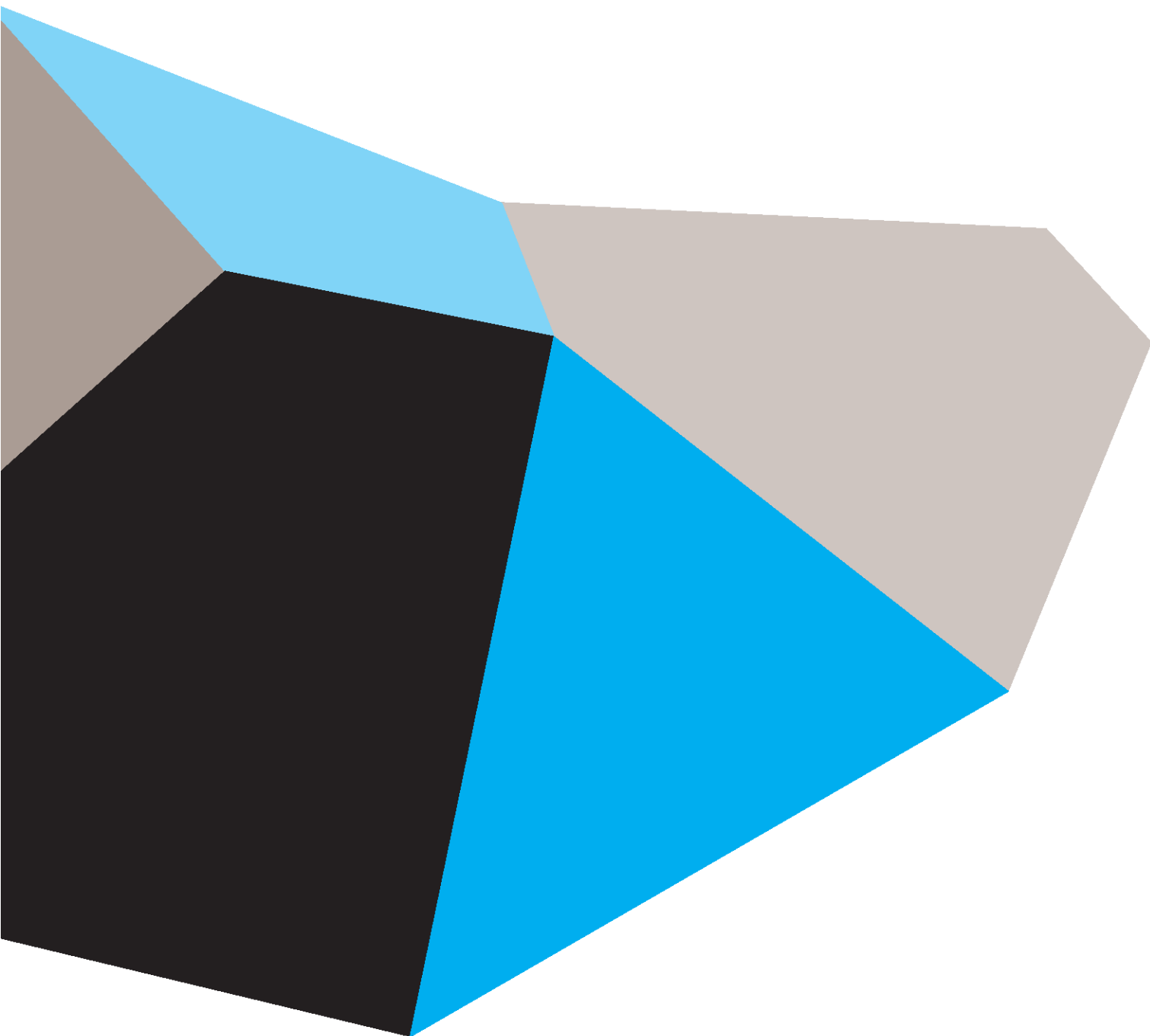
Chair: Diana Grima

Signed and certified as having been confirmed

21 January 2026  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**HOBSONS**  
**BAY** CITY  
COUNCIL





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**HOBSONS BAY CITY COUNCIL**

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