



Council Meeting Agenda

Tuesday 13 September 2022
Commencing at 7.00 PM

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.

Chairperson:

Cr Peter Hemphill (Mayor)

Strand Ward

Councillors:

Cr Diana Grima (Deputy Mayor)

Wetlands Ward

Cr Tony Briffa JP

Cherry Lake Ward

Cr Daria Kellander

Cherry Lake Ward

Cr Jonathon Marsden

Strand Ward

Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud

Strand Ward

Cr Matt Tyler

Wetlands Ward

Aaron van Egmond
Chief Executive Officer
Hobsons Bay City Council

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1 Council Welcome and Acknowledgement

The Chairperson will welcome members of the gallery and acknowledge that Council is gathered on the traditional land of the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation and offers its respect to elders past, present and emerging.

2 Leaves of Absence

Cr Tony Briffa has advised the Mayor that she is seeking a leave of absence from Council duties from 9 September to 12 October 2022.

3 Apologies

The Chairperson will call for apologies received from Councillors who are unable to attend this meeting.

4 Disclosure of Interest

In accordance with sections 127 and 128 of the *Local Government Act 2020* Councillors are required to disclose a general or material conflict of interest. A conflict of interest must be disclosed in accordance with rule 15.3 of the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules.

Disclosure must occur immediately before the matter is considered or discussed.

5 Confirmation of Minutes

5.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Confirmation of the minutes of the Council Meeting of Hobsons Bay City Council held on 9 August 2022 (copy previously circulated).

6 Councillor Questions

7 Public Question Time

Public Question Time provides an opportunity for the public to ask questions related to items on the agenda of the Council Meeting or any other matter within Council's responsibility.

Questions must be put in writing and received by 12pm on the day before the Council Meeting. The submitted questions and Council's responses will be read out by the Chairperson during the meeting.

In accordance with rule 13.1.11 of the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules, the person who submitted the question must be present in the public gallery during Public Question Time for their question to be read out.

8 Petitions and Joint Letters

8.1 Petitions and Joint Letters Received

8.1.1 Petition - Social Housing Development in Curlew Community Park, Epsom Street, Laverton

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Directorate: | Corporate Services |
| Responsible Officer: | Governance Officer |
| Reviewer: | Director Corporate Services |
| Attachments: | Nil |

Purpose

To receive a written petition containing 124 signatories, requesting that Council relocate the proposed social housing development at Curlew Community Park on Epsom Street, Laverton.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Receives and notes the petition in relation to relocating the proposed social housing development at Curlew Community Park, Epsom Street, Laverton.**
2. **Receives a further report on this matter at a future Council meeting.**

Summary

The petition was received on 10 August 2022 and acknowledged on 12 August 2022. It has been reviewed to verify that it meets the minimum requirement of 25 valid signatories in accordance with the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules and can therefore be dealt with by Council.

The petition reads as follows:

“We, the undersigned, petition Hobsons Bay Council to reposition the proposed social housing development, at Curlew Community Park, Epsom St, Laverton, on the following grounds:

1. 65 dwellings is a **significantly high concentration** of households, many with social issues, crammed into such a small space. Little, if any consideration, has been thus far made for the **existing residents, park visitors and businesses** in the surrounding area.
2. **Traffic** congestion will ensue, with such a large development, impeding fire truck access for the station on Epsom Street and restricting parking for current residents and park visitors.

3. **Noise** will increase exponentially for current residents. The noise level is already at the point of being unbearable, given the proximity of the freeway and explosion of new nearby housing estates. With 65 new households on the block, there is no accounting for the extra noise these will generate and its effect on existing households.
4. The housing development will severely **reduce access to light** during the day and to a **dark night sky**, with 2-4 storey buildings blocking the sun and increased use of artificial light at night-time.
5. Curlew Park will **no longer act as a 'public' park**, social housing residents will undoubtedly take ownership, as it will be their front and backyard. The park has become popular with families, particularly with young children, from many surrounding suburbs as well, which is also a boom for new hospitality businesses in the area.
6. The **character of Laverton** as neighbourly, friendly, a 'small village' type of neighbourhood will be ruined by the monstrous size and scope of the development. Why not 'spread' social housing around the suburbs?
7. **Crime** will increase in the immediate area. We are already witnessing assaults, drug dealing, vandalism, car theft, burglary, in and around the park. This activity will only worsen with such a high density of people, with **social issues, without adequate, 24/7 supports. Safety** will be further compromised, especially for the aging population in the vicinity. Laverton Police station closed several years ago and we endure long response wait-times already.
8. New businesses are emerging and residents are also making an effort to 'uplift' the area, with their own building and renovation works. Several existing residents are attempting to add value to their homes. Such a development will undoubtedly **decrease house/land value** and also cause issues for local businesses.
9. There are several larger and well serviced tracts of **Council land, more suitable** for such a development. Why cram it into such a popular, attractive and well-used public facility?"

9 Business

9.1 Office of the Chief Executive

9.1.1 Chief Executive Officer's Report on Operations

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|-----------------------------|---|
| Directorate: | Office of the Chief Executive |
| Responsible Officer: | EA to Chief Executive Officer |
| Reviewer: | Chief Executive Officer |
| Attachments: | 1. CEO Report on Operations - August 2022 [9.1.1.1 - 40 pages] |

Purpose

To present the Chief Executive Officer's (CEO's) Report on Operations.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the Chief Executive Officer's Report on Operations, including details of recent issues and initiatives undertaken by the organisation.

Summary

The attached CEO's Report on Operations provides Councillors and community with a regular update from the CEO on key initiatives, projects and performance.

Discussion

The purpose of this report is to inform Council and the community of recent issues, initiatives and projects undertaken across Council. The report is provided on a monthly basis.

In accordance with rule 10.7.1 of the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules, Council maintains records of meetings attended by Councillors in the CEO's Report on Operations to ensure transparency and equity of information. A summary of meetings for the period between 1 August and 31 August 2022 is provided in this month's report.

Strategic Alignment

Council provides a wide range of services to the community of Hobsons Bay as well as developing and delivering actions to ensure community assets are maintained and service the needs of the community. Each month this report highlights these activities, initiatives and projects and provides a high-level performance summary.

This report specifically addresses priorities from the following strategic documents:

Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision

Priority 2: Community wellbeing and inter-connection.

Council Plan 2021-25

Objective 5: A High Performing Organisation

Strategy 5.4: Enhance transparency, accountability and good governance practice

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council, to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

Council officers involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest in this matter.

9.1.2 Future East-West Metro Rail

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Directorate: | Office of the Chief Executive |
| Responsible Officer: | Manager Communications, Engagement and Advocacy |
| Reviewer: | Chief Executive Officer |
| Attachments: | 1. Rail Futures Presentation and Brochure - August 2022 [9.1.2.1 - 22 pages] |

Purpose

To formalise Council's support for the East-West Metro Rail Link while shifting from its current advocacy priority where it supports the Melbourne Metro 2 (MM2) train line.

Recommendation

That Council amends the current strategic advocacy priority on rail transport to read as follows:

Council encourages the state and federal governments to:

- *bring forward the funding and planning for an east-west metro rail link*
- *reinstate the Altona North train station on the Werribee line*
- *provide passenger connection from Newport to Sunshine*

Summary

Council has previously included support for the proposed MM2 in its 2021-22 Advocacy Priorities but is now considering to shift this advocacy to support an alternative proposal – the East-West Metro Rail (EWR) – that promises to achieve equal or better outcomes for the Hobsons Bay community.

Background

In November 2021, Council endorsed its 2021-22 Advocacy Priorities, which included advocating for the Victorian Government to “bring forward the funding and planning for Melbourne Metro 2 and ensure its completion prior to the building of the outer suburban rail line to reduce congestion, encourage sustainable and integrated transport options and increase health and wellbeing outcomes”.

The MM2 is a proposed train line that would connect to existing services, with a tunnel between Newport and Clifton Hill via Fishermans Bend, Southern Cross, Flagstaff, Parkville and Fitzroy.

This service would provide a direct link for the western region to employment centres in Melbourne's CBD, Parkville and Fishermans Bend. This rail project has the capacity to free up Footscray Station and enable track duplication on the Altona Loop.

Since Council endorsement of MM2, the alternative proposal of the EWR has emerged from transport think-tank, the Rail Futures Institute. This proposal was recently presented to a Councillor Briefing.

Discussion

In proposing the EWR, Rail Futures says it combines the best features of the Victorian Government’s stalled Western Rail Plan with Stage 1 of MM2.

EWR would provide metro style services to Melton and the Werribee/Wyndham Vale area, crossing beneath Melbourne’s CBD with new underground stations at Spotswood, Fishermans Bend, Southern Cross, Flagstaff, Parkville and terminating at a train/bus/tram interchange under Alexandra Parade in Fitzroy.

Like the MM2, the EWR would provide a direct link for the western region (including Hobsons Bay) to employment centres in Melbourne’s CBD, Parkville and Fishermans Bend, as well as providing better transport options for visitors coming into Hobsons Bay, such as patrons of Scienceworks.

The proposed underground station at Spotswood would provide easy interchange with trains to Footscray, Newport, Williamstown and Altona.

In addition, the EWR would provide greater access and connectivity to the cities of Wyndham and Melton, whose combined population is forecast to grow to more than a million in the next 30 years. This rapid growth requires a transport solution that relieves pressure from road and rail networks which are already at breaking point.



Figure 1: Map of train lines affected by the proposed EWR stage 1 (red) and 2 (green) and also the Melbourne Metro 1 tunnel (blue) currently under construction

Since releasing its proposal in July 2022, Rail Futures has presented to mayors and officers of those councils through which the EWR would pass and therefore stand to gain benefit from its construction. These include Melbourne, Yarra, Port Phillip, Darebin, Melton, Wyndham, Maribyrnong and Brimbank.

Feedback on the proposal from mayors, particularly those from the western metropolitan region, was generally favourable.

The Rail Futures proposal has also featured prominently in recent public debate about the merits of pushing back the Suburban Rail Loop and bringing forward an east-west rail link project. However, the Victorian Government remains committed to the Suburban Rail Loop as its priority project.

At a minimum, the EWR achieves benefits for the Hobsons Bay community equal to the MM2.

However, it should be noted that the EWR proposal has not been costed, nor reviewed by Infrastructure Australia or Infrastructure Victoria, and the Victorian Government has provided no indication that it would consider reversing its commitment to proceeding with the Suburban Rail Loop ahead of an east-west rail link.

Strategic Alignment

This report specifically addresses priorities from the following strategic documents:

Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision

Priority 6: An accessible and connected community

Council Plan 2021-25

Objective 4: Visionary community infrastructure

Strategy 4.1: Ensure the transport network is safe and efficient for all users with a focus on pedestrians and cyclists

Priority c) Advocate to State Government for delivery of key public transport improvements such as Melbourne Metro 2 delivery, new train station in Altona North, full bus review for entire municipality and improved services at existing train stations

Legal/Statutory Obligations and Risk

There are no foreseen legal implications from changing Council's advocacy priorities to this new choice of project.

Financial and Resource Implications

There are no foreseen financial implications as it is only replacing the focus of existing advocacy efforts, not adding new ones.

Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts

The upgrade of the railway system in the West would reduce the number of cars travelling into the city as public transport would be available to locations that are difficult to get to without a vehicle at this time.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff to disclose any general or material conflict of interest in matters to be considered at a Council meeting.

Council staff involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest in this matter.

9.2 Corporate Services

9.2.1 Paid Parking Consultation

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Directorate: | Corporate Services |
| Responsible Officer: | Manager Corporate Integrity and Legal Counsel |
| Reviewer: | Director Corporate Services |
| Attachments: | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What We Heard Report - Altona Beach Precinct Parking [9.2.1.1 - 1 page]2. Altona Beach Precinct Parking Strategy Map - Revised [9.2.1.2 - 1 page] |

Purpose

To provide Council with the feedback received from the community engagement conducted regarding the expansion of paid parking for visitors on the Esplanade in Altona.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Notes the feedback from the six-week period of community consultation regarding the introduction of paid parking on the Esplanade in Altona.**
2. **Supports the introduction of paid parking on the Esplanade in Altona.**

Summary

A paid parking system for visitors is currently established in parts of Williamstown. Residents are provided with free parking permits in these areas.

Council has considered the expansion of paid parking to other locations with high car parking demand, such as the Esplanade in Altona.

Background

Paid parking is designed to provide equitable and accessible parking spaces for residents and visitors at premium locations in the municipality.

Council resolved to introduce ticket machine parking into parts of Williamstown in August 1987, leading to the installation of 44 machines along Nelson Place and the Esplanade. These machines are still in use and the charges are set as part of Council's budget process, increasing in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Residents are currently entitled to park two vehicles for free by using ticket machine parking permits which are issued every two years at no cost to residents.

Discussion

Visitors to Hobsons Bay's magnificent foreshore currently benefit from free parking without contributing to the upkeep of the amenity Council provides. The introduction of paid parking meters along the foreshore would allow Council to recoup these costs and would also assist in improving parking turnover during peak periods.

The Esplanade in Altona has been identified as having high car parking demand and visitor numbers. Paid parking assists with increasing the turnover of car parking spaces at premium locations, which assists local traders. It also encourages more environmentally sustainable methods of transport.

Paid parking is proposed be introduced in Altona on the Esplanade between Sarros (Romawi) Street and Millers Road, comprising 195 spaces. The 129 angled parking spaces closest to Pier Street are proposed to be subject to 3P (three hour) 8am-8pm restrictions, with the remaining 66 spaces subject to P (all day) 8am-8pm restrictions.

Parking permit holders will not to be charged parking meter fees.

Community Consultation

As the introduction of the parking meters would result in changes to parking behaviour in Altona, the Altona Beach Precinct Parking Strategy Map has been developed to manage the impacts. The focus is on ensuring local residents' on-street parking and access would be protected. It involved:

- introduction of 1P parking restrictions with resident and visitor permit exemptions on:
 - The Esplanade from Bent Street to the bend between Millers Road and Surf Street
 - Sarros Street between the Esplanade and Queen Street
 - McBain Street between the Esplanade and Blyth Street
 - Sargood Street between the Esplanade and Blyth Street
 - Davies Street between the Esplanade and Blyth Street
 - Mount Street between the Esplanade and Queen Street
 - Bayview Street between the Esplanade and Queen Street
 - Seves Street between the Esplanade and Queen Street
- provision of "hockey stick" line marking at driveways on residential streets to guide motorists to park clear of parked vehicles
- introduction of 2P (9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-12noon Sat) on Pier Street between the Esplanade and Queen Street, which matches other nearby restrictions on Pier Street
- introduction of two ¼P (8am-8pm) spaces at the southern end of Bent Street to support local businesses
- introduction of 2P (9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-12noon Sat) on Millers Road between the Esplanade and Queen Street, which matches restrictions on Pier Street near the commercial precinct

Consultation engagement on the introduction of paid parking in Altona and the measures in the Altona Beach Precinct Parking Strategy Map was conducted in July 2022, with 1,476 letters sent to residents that may be impacted by this change. There were 335 social media comments and 2,575 visits to Participate Hobsons Bay resulting in 525 survey submissions.

Hobsons Bay residents accounted for 89 per cent of responses while 11 per cent came from residents of other areas of Victoria.

Following the feedback, changes were made in response to suggestions and concerns from local residents. The changes include:

- the proposed 1P (one hour) restriction in residential streets changed to 2P (two hour) between November and March (i.e. to only apply over the summer peak period)
- a modest extension of the area where parking restrictions are to be provided on residential streets to include parts of David Street, Davies Street and McBain Street
- provision of “hockey stick” markings on all local streets where parking restrictions are to be introduced, to encourage drivers to park clear of driveways

Surveys and monitoring would occur over the first year of the meters’ introduction to understand impacts to local residents parking and access. Changes to the management approach would be implemented where suitable.

Strategic Alignment

This report specifically addresses priorities from the following strategic documents:

Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision

Priority 3: Growth through innovation, access to local jobs, technology and education

Priority 6: An accessible and connected community

Council Plan 2021-25

Objective 3: Vibrant place and economy

Strategy 3.5: Ensure land use and development supports high amenity, sustainability, exemplary design and responds to neighbourhood context

Policies and Related Council Documents

Consultation was undertaken in accordance with the Hobsons Bay Community Engagement Policy 2021, which requires that any changes to be implemented by Council that affect members of the public or businesses must have a consultation plan in order to maintain transparency and to understand and give due consideration to any submissions received during the consultation period.

Legal/Statutory Obligations and Risk

The *Local Government Act 2020* empowers Council to fix fees and time periods for parking in designated areas. The introduction of paid parking increases the turnover of car parking spaces at premium locations and generates income to maintain and upgrade road and parking infrastructure.

Financial and Resource Implications

The introduction of paid parking along Altona's Esplanade will require the commissioning and purchase of 10 parking meters, which can be met within Council's operating budget.

Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts

The introduction of paid parking along Altona's Esplanade will encourage the use of other means of transport by members of the public, assisting with environmental sustainability longer term.

Consultation and Communication

Consultation was conducted with members of the public and trader groups for a period of six weeks. All feedback has been reviewed by Council staff and the Altona Beach Precinct Parking Strategy Map has been updated accordingly.

Responses to community concerns, questions and feedback are included in the What We Heard report, which is publicly available on Council's Participate Hobsons Bay website. Changes as a result of the feedback are also included in the updated Altona Beach Precinct Parking Strategy Map, which will also be included on the Participate website.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff to disclose any general or material conflict of interest in matters to be considered at a Council meeting.

Council staff involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest in this matter.

9.2.2 Draft Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement 2021-22

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Directorate: | Corporate Services |
| Responsible Officer: | Chief Financial Officer |
| Reviewer: | Director Corporate Services |
| Attachments: | 1. Draft Annual Financial Report 2021-22 [9.2.2.1 - 47 pages] 2. Draft Performance Statement 2021-22 [9.2.2.2 - 23 pages] |

Purpose

To present the Draft Annual Financial Report and the Draft Performance Statement for the year ending 30 June 2022 for in-principle approval to be certified in their final form.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Notes that the Audit and Risk Committee received, noted and provided recommendations in relation to the Draft Annual Financial Report and the Draft Performance Statement for the year ending 30 June 2022.**
2. **In accordance with section 99(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, records its approval “in principle” to the Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2022 and authorises the Chief Executive Officer to send the Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement to the Auditor-General.**
3. **Pursuant to section 99(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020* and subject to the review of the final version of the Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement, authorises the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer (Principal Accounting Officer), the Mayor Cr Peter Hemphill and Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud to certify the final versions.**
4. **Authorises the Chief Financial Officer to implement any non-material changes as recommended by the Auditor-General.**
5. **Authorises the Chief Financial Officer to make any material changes requested by the Auditor-General after discussion with the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee before reporting to Council.**

Summary

The audited Draft Annual Financial Report and the Draft Performance Statement for the year ending 30 June 2022 are attached. It is important to note that both are subject to final approval by the Auditor-General.

The Draft Annual Financial Report and the Draft Performance Statement are now presented to Council for examination and adoption in principle, subject to any changes recommended or agreed to by the Auditor-General.

Council's Audit and Risk Committee received and noted the Draft Annual Financial Report and the Draft Performance Statement for the year ending 30 June 2022, in conjunction with the Interim Financial Report, at its meeting held on 31 August 2022.

The Draft Annual Financial Report indicates an operational surplus for 2021-22 of \$28.792 million compared to the original operational budget of \$31.201 million. This does not include Council's significant investment in capital expenditure of \$54.744 million in 2021-22.

The Draft Annual Financial Report demonstrates that Council is in a reasonable financial position and is financially sustainable in the short and medium term, despite the significant impact of COVID-19.

Background

The Draft Annual Financial Report result is inferior when compared to budget as COVID-19 has had a greater impact than originally anticipated. While an operational surplus was achieved, it should be noted that surpluses are required to fund Council's significant investment in capital expenditure. The Financial Plan has been updated and indicates that Council can remain in a reasonable financial position and continue to be financially sustainable.

Strategic Alignment

This report specifically addresses priorities from the following strategic documents:

Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision

This report relates to all priorities within the Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision.

Council Plan 2021-25

Objective 5: A High Performing Organisation

Strategy 5.3: Deliver value for money – continuous improvement while safeguarding the long-term financial sustainability of Council

Policies and Related Council Documents

The Draft Annual Financial Report and the Draft Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2022 are directly aligned to Council's Interim Financial Report, Annual Budget, Financial Plan and Capital Works Program.

Council considers financial reports at the end of the September, December (Mid-Year Budget Review), March and June (year-end) financial periods. The Interim Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2022 is also being considered at tonight's Council meeting.

Legal/Statutory Obligations and Risk

Council is required to have the Annual Financial Report and the Performance Statement audited in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*. The Auditor-General appointed HLB Mann Judd as its audit contractor to undertake this process.

The Draft Annual Financial Report and the Draft Performance Statement have been prepared as per the model reports, required under the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

Financial and Resource Implications

The operational surplus for 2021-22 is \$28.792 million compared to the original operational budget of \$31.201 million. Explanations for the reduced surplus are included within Note 2.1 of the Annual Financial Report.

Income decreased by \$37,000 when compared to budget.

The most significant income reduction relates to capital grants, which were under budget by \$3.455 million. This is mainly due to a delay in receiving income that will be carried over to next year's program. User fees were also under budget by \$664,000, mainly due to the waiver of fees under Council's COVID-19 Community Support Package 5, which was introduced after the original budget was adopted.

The most significant income increase relates to rates and charges, which were over budget by \$2.309 million. The amount originally raised for rates, was impacted by the delay in raising rates and greater than expected property development. Operating grants increased by \$1.05 million, largely due to an additional quarter of the 2022-23 Federal Financial Assistance Grants funding bought forward. Statutory fees and fines were \$522,000 over budget, mainly due to increased demand for planning application fees, again reflecting the market recovery in property development.

Operational expenditure increased by \$2.409 million when compared to budget.

The most significant expenditure increase relates to depreciation, which was over budget by \$1.216 million. Depreciation was impacted by the first time revaluation of the Recreation, leisure and community facilities and Parks, open space and streetscapes asset classes during the financial year. Bad and doubtful debts were over budget by \$717,000 and continues to be impacted by the collection delays at Fines Victoria for unpaid parking fines.

Employee costs were over budget by \$158,000, mainly due to the unbudgeted final enterprise agreement backpay and severance costs. Costs were contained to 0.3 per cent of budget by placing an ongoing temporary hold on many positions as a result of COVID-19. Materials and services were over budget by \$311,000. This includes operational projects transferred from the Capital Works Program (\$1.547 million), which are a transfer of costs rather than an additional cost.

The **comprehensive result** of \$145.832 million includes revaluation adjustments of \$117.04 million to Council's assets.

The **Statement of Cash Flows** indicates that Council's cash and cash equivalents were \$10.922 million on 30 June 2022. There are also investments of \$35 million, which are included within other financial assets on the Balance Sheet. The cash and investment balance was \$45.922 million on 30 June 2022, compared to the original budget of \$26.733 million. The increased in year-end cash when compared to budget is mainly as a result of:

- capital works expenditure that will be completed next financial year (\$10.614 million)
- increases to liabilities in the balance sheet including trade and other payables (\$5.921 million), trust funds and deposits (\$3.202 million) and unearned income (\$4.693 million), offset against and increase to the asset item trade and other receivables (\$5.125 million)

Capital expenditure in 2021-22 of \$54.744 million is highlighted in the **Statement of Capital Works**, while variations against budget are explained in Note 2.1. Capital expenditure in the audited statements differs from the \$58.346 million stated within the Interim Financial Report (quarterly financial report format). The difference is due to the Statement of Capital Works excluding operational projects (\$3.602 million).

The Performance Statement includes the Working Capital Ratio (current assets/current liabilities), which indicates the amount that Council's short term assets exceed its short term obligations and thus Council's ability to fund its short term operations. This ratio was 135 per cent on 30 June 2022 compared to the original budget of 117 per cent. A current ratio over 100 per cent generally indicates a manageable short term financial position

Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts

Environmental, social and economic impacts are carefully considered during budgeting, forecasting and financial management processes.

Consultation and Communication

The Draft Annual Financial Report and the Draft Performance Statement for the year ending 30 June 2022 were presented to the Audit and Risk Committee on 31 August 2022. Small adjustments have been made since they were presented to Committee, most of which were discussed at the meeting.

Subject to there being no significant issues or changes identified in the draft Closing Report yet to be received, the Audit and Risk Committee recommended:

1. That Council record its approval in principle to the Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2022.
2. That subject to the review of the final version of the Annual Financial Report and the Performance Statement, Council:
 - authorise the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer (Principal Accounting Officer), the Mayor, Cr Peter Hemphill and another Councillor to certify the final versions;
 - authorise the Chief Executive Officer to send the Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement to the Auditor-General;
 - authorise the Chief Financial Officer to implement any non-material changes as recommended by the Auditor-General, and provide a summary of such changes to the Audit and Risk Committee at its next meeting; and
 - authorise the Chief Financial Officer to make any material changes requested by the Auditor-General after discussion with the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee before reporting to Council.
3. That the Committee record its appreciation and congratulations to all staff involved in the preparation of the annual statements for the clear presentation and clarity of the notes; and
4. That the Committee also record its appreciation to the external auditors, HLB Mann Judd for their contribution to the finalisation of the year end and acknowledge the end of their five year contract.

The draft Closing Report was not available at the time of the Committee meeting. It has since been circulated to members and the outstanding issues listed are not expected to have a significant impact on the finalisation of the audit.

The Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2022 will be included as part of Council's Annual Report 2021-22. The Annual Report 2021-22 will be made available for public inspection after it is submitted to the Minister for Local Government.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff to disclose any general or material conflict of interest in matters to be considered at a Council meeting.

Council staff involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest in this matter.

9.2.3 Interim Financial Report - Year Ended 30 June 2022

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Directorate: | Corporate Services |
| Responsible Officer: | Chief Financial Officer |
| Reviewer: | Director Corporate Services |
| Attachments: | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Interim Financial Report 2021-22 [9.2.3.1 - 16 pages]2. Capital Works Program 2021-22 [9.2.3.2 - 2 pages] |

Purpose

To present Council with the interim financial results for the year ended 30 June 2022.

Recommendation

That Council notes the interim financial report for the year ended 30 June 2022.

Summary

The interim financial report for the year ended 30 June 2022 (Attachment 1) and a detailed report on the Capital Works Program (Attachment 2) are attached.

Council's Audit and Risk Committee received and noted the interim financial report for the year ended 30 June 2022, in conjunction with the audited Draft Annual Financial Report, at its meeting held on 31 August 2022.

The financial results are yet to be finalised and are subject to the end-of-year audit currently being conducted. The interim operational surplus for 2021-22 is \$28.793 million compared to the original operational budget of \$31.199 million, although this does not include Council's significant investment in capital expenditure of \$58.982 million in 2021-22.

When compared to budget, income decreased by \$86,00 and operational expenditure increased by \$2.3 million.

The result of the Capital Works Program compared to budget is a deficit of \$84,000 after forecast adjustments and carryovers are considered.

Quarterly financial reporting provides accountability and transparency in relation to Council's operations and capital works. Council budgets are subject to internal scrutiny, driven by regular reports to the Executive Leadership Team and meetings with managers.

Background

The interim result is inferior when compared to budget as COVID-19 has had a greater impact than originally anticipated. While an operational surplus was achieved, it should be noted that surpluses are required to fund Council's significant investment in capital expenditure. The Financial Plan has been updated and indicates that Council can remain in a reasonable financial position and continue to be financially sustainable.

When compared to previous financial plans, current and projected income funding streams such as user charges and statutory fees have been and continue to be significantly impacted by COVID-19. It is difficult to assess how long it will take for these income streams to recover from the ongoing impacts of COVID-19. These assumptions will affect the amount of funding expected to be available in future years of the Financial Plan to be used by Council to maintain critical community assets.

Council will continue to monitor the impact of the financial results in relation to Council's overall financial viability. The Annual Budget 2022-23 and Financial Plan have been developed to reflect the 1.75 per cent rate cap for 2022-23 announced by the Victorian Government.

Strategic Alignment

This report specifically addresses priorities from the following strategic documents:

Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision

This report relates to all priorities within the Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision.

Council Plan 2021-25

Objective 5: A High Performing Organisation

Strategy 5.3: Deliver value for money – continuous improvement while safeguarding the long-term financial sustainability of Council

Policies and Related Council Documents

The Interim Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2022 is directly aligned to Council's audited Draft Annual Financial Report, Annual Budget, Financial Plan and Capital Works Program.

Council considers financial reports at the end of the September, December (Mid-Year Budget Review), March and June (year-end) financial periods. This report provides the fourth and final quarterly report considered as part of the 2021-22 financial year.

Legal/Statutory Obligations and Risk

It is a requirement of section 97 of the *Local Government Act 2020* for the Chief Executive Officer to ensure that a quarterly budget report is presented to Council at a Council meeting which is open to the public as soon as practicable after the end of each quarter of the financial year.

The Chief Executive Officer, as required under section 97(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, is of the opinion a revised budget is not required.

Financial and Resource Implications

The operational budget surplus for 2021-22 of \$31.199 million has decreased to an interim surplus of \$28.793 million. The interim operational surplus does not include Council's investment of \$58.346 million in capital expenditure in 2021-22.

Income decreased by \$86,000 when compared to budget.

The most significant income reduction relates to capital grants, which were under budget by \$3.455 million. This is mainly due to a delay in receiving income that will be carried over to next year's program. User fees were also under budget by \$664,000, mainly due to the waiver of fees under Council's COVID-19 Community Support Package 5, which was introduced after the original budget was adopted.

The most significant income increase relates to rates and charges, which were over budget by \$2.309 million. The amount originally raised for rates, was impacted by the delay in raising rates and greater than expected property development. Operating grants increased by \$1.05 million, largely due to an additional quarter of the 2022-23 Federal Financial Assistance Grants funding bought forward. Statutory fees and fines were \$522,000 over budget, mainly due to increased demand for planning application fees, again reflecting the market recovery in property development.

Operational expenditure increased by \$2.32 million when compared to budget.

The most significant expenditure increase relates to depreciation, which was over budget by \$1.215 million. Depreciation was impacted by the first time revaluation of the Recreation, leisure and community facilities and Parks, open space and streetscapes asset classes during the financial year. Bad and doubtful debts were over budget by \$717,000 and continues to be impacted by the collection delays at Fines Victoria for unpaid parking fines.

Employee costs were over budget by \$158,000, mainly due to the unbudgeted final enterprise agreement backpay and severance costs. Costs were contained to 0.3 per cent of budget by placing an ongoing temporary hold on many positions as a result of COVID-19. Materials and services were over budget by \$310,000. This includes operational projects transferred from the Capital Works Program (\$1.547 million), which are a transfer of costs rather than an additional cost.

Consistent with the budget, a balanced **Available Funding Result** has been calculated by adding non-operational items such as capital expenditure, loan principal repayments and reserve transfers to the operational result and removing non-cash items such as depreciation and amortisation.

The **Summary Cash Flow Statement** indicates that Council's cash and investment balance was \$45.922 million on 30 June 2022, compared to the original budget of \$26.733 million and the forecast of \$33.783 million determined during the March forecast review. The increased in year-end cash when compared to budget is mainly as a result of:

- capital works expenditure that will be completed next financial year (\$10.614 million)
- increases to liabilities in the balance sheet including trade and other payables (\$5.921 million), trust funds and deposits (\$3.202 million) and unearned income (\$4.693 million), offset against and increase to the asset item trade and other receivables (\$5.125 million)

The interim result of the **Capital Works Program** shows a deficit of \$84,000 when compared to the original budget after forecast adjustments and carryovers are considered.

The Capital Works Program figures in this report are slightly different to those outlined in the audited Draft Annual Financial Report because they include operational projects that do not add to the Council's asset base. These projects are reclassified as materials and services in the audited Draft Annual Financial Report 2021-22.

Capital Works Expenditure for the year ended 30 June 2022 was \$58.346 million compared to the annual budget of \$64.144 million and the forecast of \$62.442 million determined at the March forecast review. The decreased expenditure of \$5.798 million compared to the budget is attributable to:

- expenditure carryover adjustments from the prior year's program (\$3.964 million)
- the increase in funded capital expenditure (\$769,000)
- the net deficit to capital expenditure (\$84,000)
- expenditure carried over to next year's program (\$10.614 million)

Capital Income for the year ended 30 June 2022 was \$13.961 million compared to the annual budget of \$17.184 million and the forecast of \$16.869 million determined at the March forecast review. The decreased forecast income of \$3.223 million compared to budget is attributable to:

- income carried over to next year's program (\$3.835 million)
- income that was budgeted to be received in 2021-22 that was received in 2020-21 (\$157,000)
- an increase in budgeted income received to fund the program (\$769,000)

Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts

Environmental, social and economic impacts are carefully considered during budgeting, forecasting and financial management processes.

Consultation and Communication

The interim financial report for the year ended 30 June 2022 was received and noted by Council's Audit and Risk Committee at the meeting held on 31 August 2022, in conjunction with the audited Draft Financial Report. The Committee provides financial guidance to Council and input into continually improving the content of the financial report.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff to disclose any general or material conflict of interest in matters to be considered at a Council meeting.

Council staff involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest in this matter.

9.3 Sustainable Communities

9.3.1 Waste Service Charge and Reserve Policy

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|-----------------------------|---|
| Directorate: | Sustainable Communities |
| Responsible Officer: | Manager Strategy Economy and Sustainability |
| Reviewer: | Director Sustainable Communities |
| Attachments: | 1. Waste Service Charge and Reserve Policy 2022 [9.3.1.1 - 16 pages] |

Purpose

To seek Council endorsement of the Waste Service Charge and Reserve Policy 2022.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Revokes the Waste Service and Charge Policy 2017 and the Waste Management Financial Reserve Policy 2018.**
- 2. Adopts the Waste Service Charge and Reserve Policy 2022.**

Summary

Council has reviewed two expired policies, the Waste Service and Charge Policy 2017 and the Waste Management Financial Reserve Policy 2018, to align them with the current waste service offering. The two policies have been consolidated into one revised policy, the Waste Service Charge and Reserve Policy 2022, which is now being presented for endorsement.

Background

The Waste Service and Charge Policy was adopted by Council on 14 November 2017. This followed Council's adoption of its first Municipal Waste Service and Charge Policy in April 2013. The Waste Service and Charge Policy outlined the level of municipal waste service provided by Council and the fees and charges that apply. The objective was to ensure that the waste charge is applied by Council in an equitable and transparent manner.

The Waste Management Financial Reserve Policy was adopted by Council on 10 April 2018. The Waste Management Financial Reserve was established to address future waste and litter management initiatives. The Waste Management Financial Reserve Policy guides how funds from the Financial Reserve are used, how decisions are made and how any savings or additional income is deposited into the Financial Reserve.

Both policies have now expired. Since these policies were adopted, Council has endorsed or noted changes to the waste service including:

- a new four-bin system endorsed on 8 November 2019 and implemented in February 2020
- changes to frequency of collection endorsed on 29 June 2021 and implemented in November 2021
- option for a reduced charge for a tailored service for businesses noted on 8 March 2022

The 2022-23 standard Waste Service Charge of \$274 and additional user pays options were endorsed by Council as part of the adoption of the Annual Budget on 28 June 2022.

Discussion

Council's Waste Service and Charge Policy 2017 and Waste Management Financial Reserve Policy 2018 have expired and require updating to reflect changes to the waste service over recent years as outlined in the Background section of this report, and to increase clarity about service eligibility and compliance.

It is proposed the two policies be combined for simplicity. The updated policy is attached (Attachment 1).

This policy guides the setting of the annual Waste Service Charge and the management of funds in the Waste Service Reserve. The policy's objectives are to:

- enable a cost-effective waste service with full cost recovery
- ensure Council's waste service and waste service charge is delivered and applied in a transparent, consistent, inclusive, fair and impartial manner
- prioritise and incentivise community behaviour that avoids waste in the first instance and then prioritises reuse and recycling over disposal to landfill consistent with the waste hierarchy

The contents of the new policy align with Council's previously endorsed positions and does not include any new commitments. The setting of the current Waste Service Charge has already been publicly confirmed through the endorsement of the 2022-23 Council Plan and Budget.

Strategic Alignment

This report specifically addresses priorities from the following strategic documents:

Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision

Priority 5: Activate sustainable practices

Council Plan 2021-25

Objective 2: Environment

Strategy 2.1: Increase resource recovery and reducing landfill across Council's waste services and improve the customer experience of waste services

Objective 5: A High Performing Organisation

Strategy 5.3: Deliver value for money – continuous improvement while safeguarding the long-term financial sustainability of Council

Policies and Related Council Documents

The Waste Service and Charge Policy was adopted by Council at the Council Meeting held on 14 November 2017. The Waste Management Financial Reserve Policy was adopted by Council at the Council Meeting held on 10 April 2018. Both policies have now expired. This report is seeking endorsement of an updated policy that combines them.

Council adopted the Waste and Litter Management Strategy 2025 on 9 July 2019. This strategy sets the directions and innovative actions for waste and litter management in Hobsons Bay with a focus on avoiding, reusing and recycling waste and litter rather than disposal to landfill. It includes goals to reduce and recover waste and avoid contamination in recycling streams.

Legal/Statutory Obligations and Risk

Under section 162 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (still in operation alongside the *Local Government Act 2020*) Council can set service charges to offset the cost of service delivery for a range of services including the collection and disposal of refuse. The primary principle behind a user fee or charge is that of “user pays”.

The *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021* outlines regulation of Victoria’s waste and recycling sector and establishes the transition to a more circular economy including the requirement for a state-wide four-stream household waste and recycling system.

Financial and Resource Implications

The new Waste Service Charge and Reserve Policy 2022 has an objective to “enable a cost-effective waste service with full cost recovery”. The policy outlines how the Waste Service Charge is calculated to ensure cost recovery and the extent of services that are funded by the charge.

Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts

The Waste Service Charge and Reserve Policy 2022 has an objective to “prioritise and incentivise community behaviour that avoids waste in the first instance and then prioritises reuse and recycling over disposal to landfill consistent with the waste hierarchy”.

Consultation and Communication

The Waste Service Charge and Reserve Policy 2022 aligns with Council’s previously endorsed positions and does not include any new commitments.

The breadth and frequency of service delivery has been the subject of previous community consultation and community engagement in the lead up to formal Council decisions in 2019 and 2021.

The setting of the current Waste Service Charge has been publicly confirmed through the endorsement of the Annual Budget 2022-23, which included opportunities for public feedback, and will continue to undergo public scrutiny annually as part of the budget process.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff to disclose any general or material conflict of interest in matters to be considered at a Council meeting.

Council staff involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest in this matter.

9.3.2 Hobsons Bay Sister Cities

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Directorate: | Sustainable Communities |
| Responsible Officer: | Manager Arts Culture Community |
| Reviewer: | Director Sustainable Communities |
| Attachments: | Nil |

Purpose

To provide background on Council's three sister city relationships, noting the invitation for a Councillor representative to visit Anjo, Japan as part of the Hobsons Bay International Friendship Association delegation in 2023, and plans to reconnect in person with Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire and Buloke Shire.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Notes the context of the three Hobsons Bay friendship alliances.**
- 2. Reaffirms the value of the alliances during the current Council term.**
- 3. Notes the timing for upcoming sister city visits and reconnections.**

Summary

Three long-standing sister city or friendship alliances are in place in Hobsons Bay, with the City of Anjo in Japan, Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council in Far North Queensland and Buloke Shire Council in rural Victoria. These deliver a range of benefits for both the councils and communities.

The Hobsons Bay International Friendship Association (HBIFA) coordinates a consistent program of visits between Anjo and Hobsons Bay. HBIFA plans to resume its program as travel becomes more normalised following COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

A Hobsons Bay community delegation plans to visit Anjo in April 2023. The Mayor is invited to travel to Anjo as part of this delegation. A reciprocal visit has also been planned, with a delegation from Anjo travelling to Melbourne in October 2023. The year 2023 is significant as it is the 35th anniversary of the alliance.

Visits are also proposed to Buloke and Yarrabah. Council can further consider opportunities to acknowledge and continue to strengthen relationships with the Buloke and Yarrabah communities. This includes the opportunity to renew the Memorandums of Understanding and formalise connection through the term of Council.

Background

Council maintains a formal relationship with three sister cities or friendship alliances. They are longstanding relationships that were instigated or have developed through reciprocal activities including community connections. The Anjo relationship is managed through the HBIFA, comprising local volunteers. The alliances with Buloke and Yarrabah are supported by Memorandums of Understanding between the respective councils.

Discussion

Geographically and culturally, the friendship alliances present a balanced program. In each case, connections were made by and with the community.

- **Anjo in the Aichi Prefecture, Japan** (*population 180,000; land area 86sq km*) is an international commercial and agricultural city. The alliance has its base in education and community, the relationship starting with a Bayside College connection in 1988. It is maintained by the HBIFA, made up of community representatives who volunteer time and expertise.
- **Yarrabah in Far North Queensland** (*population 2,500; land area 154sq km*) is one of the most significant Aboriginal communities in Australia. The friendship commenced in 2002 through research of the Towards Reconciliation working group before it was formalised. In 2005, the Hobsons Bay and Yarrabah alliance won the award for Strengthening Indigenous Partnerships in the National Local Government Awards.
- **Buloke in Victoria** (*population 6,400; land area 8,000sq km*) is a regional rural shire. The program was formalised by the two councils in May 2006 to help break down the “urban/rural” divide. Local support including through the Altona Village Traders Association, Louis Joel Arts and Community Centre, sports and cultural groups have contributed to its strength. In 2008 the program won the award for Excellence in Corporate and Community Planning in the LGPro Awards.

The last formal Council visits with sister cities were:

- In 2018, community representatives including the Mayor of Hobsons Bay visited Anjo to mark the 30th anniversary of the alliance. Council hosted the reciprocal anniversary visit of the delegation from Japan in October 2018, which included a dinner attended by community members as well as representatives of Buloke Shire and Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire.
- In May 2016, Buloke Shire hosted the 10th anniversary of the Buloke-Hobsons Bay alliance, with a program of activities across the shire including a formal dinner attended by then Mayor Cr Peter Hemphill, Councillors, staff and several community members.
- In 2012, the Mayor and CEO visited Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire.

The year 2023 marks the 35th anniversary of the Anjo alliance, first established with the then City of Altona and continued post-amalgamation through Hobsons Bay City Council. Until the COVID-19 pandemic began to impact on international travel from March 2020, the HBIFA coordinated a regular cycle of travel between Anjo and Hobsons Bay, being reciprocal annual student exchanges and triennial community or citizen delegations.

The HBIFA is under way with plans to resume its program in 2023, with a community citizen delegation trip planned to Anjo in April 2023. An invitation will be issued for the Mayor or a Councillor to travel to Anjo with the group. A delegation from Anjo is then scheduled to visit Melbourne in October 2023. Council will work with the HBIFA and Anjo representatives on a proposed itinerary.

As workforces return to the office and travel becomes more normalised, it is also timely to consider reconnecting with Australian sister cities in person. Discussions are in train to prepare potential visits with both Australian sister cities towards the end of September and October.

Strategic Alignment

This report specifically addresses priorities from the following strategic documents:

Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision

Priority 2: Community wellbeing and inter-connection

Council Plan 2021-25

Objective 1: Healthy, equitable and thriving communities

Strategy 1.4: Enable participation and contribution to community life, learning and inter-connection

Policies and Related Council Documents

At the Council Meeting of 14 November 2017, Council adopted a motion to plan a delegation for the 2018 visit to Anjo in Japan to mark the 30th anniversary of the relationship between Anjo and Hobsons Bay.

At the Council Meeting of 9 February 2016, a focus on Sister Cities was noted by Council as part of the 2016 Mayoral program.

Legal/Statutory Obligations and Risk

Council has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Buloke Shire Council and with Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council that frames the intent for positive outcomes for the community but does not include any specific obligations.

The Hobsons Bay relationship with Anjo is coordinated through the HBIFA.

Financial and Resource Implications

Council provides funding to the Sister City program by contributing \$12,000 each year to the HBIFA to support its activities including administration, insurance and promotion. The HBIFA provides an annual report and acquittal of the contributions. The amount over the past term was adjusted to \$5,000 given the outputs of the association were impacted by restrictions of the pandemic on travel and planning. Council contributes travel costs for the President of the HBIFA as the primary community representative.

Councillor travel costs to sister cities are covered by Council. There is no specific financial allocation or resourcing, and costs are generally met from the Councillors' office or operational areas depending on the need.

Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts

The benefits of sister city relationships include cross-organisational and cross-cultural learning, peer networks, and connections. Examples of these connections can include staff secondments, study tours and visits, periodic meetings to share experiences and ad hoc interactions around areas of common interest. They are a catalyst for joint projects involving the community.

The HBIFA is made up of residents who volunteer their time and expertise to maintain the program for the community. Many of the members host or support students and visitors from Anjo. Engagement with schools includes a writing competition and student exchange, while travel delegations enable Hobsons Bay to be showcased to international visitors.

The Buloke alliance has seen several exchanges, including iterations of a lawn bowls tournament hosted by clubs, trips organised by community and arts representatives, exhibitions and expos, an education forum with school principals and a strong connection fostered by the Altona Village Traders Association for reciprocal benefit.

The Yarrabah relationship has been the catalyst for several visits to Hobsons Bay by representatives, connections in the arts and cultural opportunities such as the recent Yarrabah Cultural Dancers visit.

Consultation and Communication

There has been no formal consultation on the topics raised in this report.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff to disclose any general or material conflict of interest in matters to be considered at a Council meeting.

Council staff involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest in this matter.

9.4 Infrastructure and City Services

9.4.1 Draft Play Space Strategy

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|-----------------------------|---|
| Directorate: | Infrastructure and City Services |
| Responsible Officer: | Manager Active Communities and Assets |
| Reviewer: | Director Infrastructure and City Services |
| Attachments: | 1. Play Space Strategy Review 2022 [9.4.1.1 - 98 pages] |

Purpose

To update Council on the development of the Draft Play Space Strategy and seek approval to place it on public exhibition for four weeks.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Approves the Draft Play Space Strategy for public exhibition from 19 September 2022 to 16 October 2022.**
- 2. Receives a further report following the public exhibition period.**

Summary

The need to develop an updated Play Space Strategy was required following the adoption of the Hobsons Bay Open Space Strategy (OSS) in 2018. The Draft Play Space Strategy (Attachment 1) has been developed to align with the park hierarchy identified in the OSS and its implementation priorities.

The public exhibition period of the draft strategy will be hosted on Participate Hobsons Bay website for four weeks. There will be an online survey that can be filled in and there will be opportunities for the community to discuss the draft strategy at various onsite drop-in sessions and one online drop-in session. The community will be notified of opportunities to provide feedback via Council's social media platforms.

Following the closure of the public exhibition period, feedback will be reviewed, and the updated strategy will be presented for Council's final adoption.

Background

Hobsons Bay has a total of 90 play space areas. Council last updated its Play Space Strategy in 2013, which established a vision statement, core values with associated principles, accessibility, quality, diversity, equity, safety and sustainability. It established a two-tier hierarchy for all play spaces throughout the municipality with the categories being either a local space or a destination space.

The scope of this strategy is consistent with the 2013 strategy, in that it includes publicly accessible facilities that are owned or managed by Council; it does not include those facilities provided in children's centres or schools.

The purpose of the strategy is to:

- guide decisions regarding the provision, design and play opportunities possible across Hobsons Bay
- assess the existing benchmarks for play spaces by open space hierarchy and categories
- review and update the service standards for play spaces
- consider a variety of facilities that cater for all ages and abilities, and amenities that cater for short and long duration visits.
- investigate opportunities at strategic locations for potential play space developments in the future.

Discussion

The draft strategy has been developed to specifically address the following key issues in relation to the upgrade and development of play spaces within Council's public spaces:

- review the current vision, core values and principles and expand on these as necessary, particularly in relation to Council's Universal Design Policy Statement for parks and playgrounds (2018)
- align the Play Space Strategy with the parks hierarchy established in the OSS
- review the progress of the original implementation program against actual delivery over the past five-year period, and the true costs associated with play space development
- develop a revised 10-year play space program that aligns with the community parks upgrade program established from the OSS
- develop a realistic cost estimate in relation to the development and upgrade of play spaces and include in the 10-year program.
- strengthen standards in relation to natural and constructed natural shade, drinking water access and fencing

A draft strategy has been developed and presented with the following key sections:

- changing values and demographics
- future planning and policy framework
- policy principles and standards
- existing facility review including the distribution of play spaces in Hobsons Bay
- strategy implementation: priority allocations, resources, and key actions

The public exhibition period will commence on 19 September 2022 and will run until 16 October 2022.

Strategic Alignment

This report specifically addresses priorities from the following strategic documents:

Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision

Priority 4: Proactive enrichment, expansion, and conservation of the natural and urban environment

Council Plan 2021-25

Objective 2: Environment

Priority b) Deliver improved amenity outcomes across Council's open space and parks for increased usage at these facilities

Policies and Related Council Documents

- Play Space Strategy 2013-2023
- Hobsons Bay City Council Open Space Strategy 2018-2028
- A Fairer Hobsons Bay For All 2019-2023

Legal/Statutory Obligations and Risk

All legal and statutory obligations and risks have been assessed as part of the development of this draft strategy.

Financial and Resource Implications

All financial and resource implications have been considered as a part of the development of this draft strategy and recommendations on the financial commitment required by Council is outlined within the draft document.

Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts

All environmental, social, and economic impacts have been considered as a part of the development of this draft strategy

Consultation and Communication

An internal project working group has been established and consulted with on the development of this draft strategy including key representatives from Sport and Recreation, Parks, City Amenity, Social Planning, Maternal and Child Health, Early Years and Community Development services.

Following Council approval, the draft strategy will be on public exhibition for a period of four weeks with a copy of the strategy available for comment on Participate Hobsons Bay.

In addition to Participate Hobsons Bay, several face-to-face community consultation sessions will be offered in conjunction with consultation processes on other council projects to provide the community with opportunities to provide their feedback. These opportunities for feedback will be promoted via Council's social media platforms.

In addition, key stakeholder groups across Hobsons Bay including early years centres, schools and sports clubs will be made aware of the public exhibition period and will be asked to promote these opportunities for feedback through their established communication channels.

Following the public exhibition period, an engagement summary report will be developed to summarise the feedback received, and the strategy will be updated and presented for Council's final endorsement.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff to disclose any general or material conflict of interest in matters to be considered at a Council meeting.

Council staff involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest in this matter.

9.4.2 Better Places Brooklyn and Altona North - Draft Place Guide

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|-----------------------------|---|
| Directorate: | Infrastructure and City Services |
| Responsible Officer: | Manager Active Communities and Assets |
| Reviewer: | Director Infrastructure and City Services |
| Attachments: | 1. Better Places Brooklyn and Altona North - Draft Place Guide [9.4.2.1 - 94 pages] |

Purpose

To seek Council's endorsement of the Draft Place Guide for Better Places Brooklyn and Altona North (BPBAN) to be placed on public exhibition.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Endorses the Draft Brooklyn and Altona North Draft Place Guide to be placed on public exhibition from 14 September to 14 October 2022.**
- 2. Receives a further report to adopt the Brooklyn and Altona North Place Guide at a future Council Meeting.**

Summary

The Draft Place Guide for BPBAN (Attachment 1) includes projects and initiatives identified as part of the visioning phase for Brooklyn and Altona North. Several proposed projects can be funded and implemented under existing budgets, while others will require future funding to be secured. All projects identified in the plan will go on to have further consultation and involvement from community. The Draft Place Guide steps the reader through the Better Places process from start to finish so that they can understand how the outcomes were determined.

Public exhibition of the Draft Place Guide for BPBAN will occur for four weeks and will be hosted on Participate Hobsons Bay.

Background

The Better Places model is focused on a design-led and place-based approach to projects. It helps to provide a clear vision and understanding of the elements required to make better places, and therefore provides better outcomes for the community.

It is ultimately about moving to a more collaborative and multi-disciplinary approach that moves away from the traditional model of delivering projects as "pieces" to an approach where the whole "place" is considered and driven by a community vision for the suburb.

Better Places Laverton was the pilot project for this new approach to planning projects and working with the community. This approach provided the community with greater ownership of their neighbourhood by encouraging them to be actively involved in steering the future direction of their suburb. The Laverton Place Guide was endorsed in September 2020, which

was then followed by the Place Guide for Spotswood and South Kingsville that was endorsed in October 2021.

The success of Better Places is due to actively involving community to help shape the places they live in and use. Feedback and ideas gathered during multiple stages of community consultation informs the development of a Place Guide that includes practical on the ground projects and initiatives the community have asked for, and that community have asked for, wants and needs.

The development of the Better Places Brooklyn and Altona North Draft Place Guide commenced in November 2021 and has included three stages of community consultation.

Discussion

Stage one consultation commenced with the community and key stakeholder group workshops throughout November and December 2021. The community was asked to share their thoughts and ideas on three questions, what they love, might want to change and any ideas in relation to their suburbs of Brooklyn and Altona North. This feedback was sourced through a survey that was mailed out to residents and was also available on Participate Hobsons Bay. Over 2300 responses were received in this stage.

From the feedback received, the community views were shaped into a shared vision for Brooklyn and Altona North which was supported by the below key themes:

- improving the liveability and amenity of the area
- a place that is easier and safer to move around
- bringing the community closer together

These themes describe what the Brooklyn and Altona North community value most, as well as the elements that they want to see protected and improved into the future.

Stage two consultation was undertaken between January and March 2022 when the shared vision and the three key themes were on public exhibition for feedback. Initial project ideas based on the key themes were also sourced from the community as part of this process. A key consultation activity in this stage were the Out and About Festival events at Paisley Park and Brooklyn Reserve. Overall, 77% of the responses received from this consultation period supported the draft vision, and the three key themes received good support.

Stage three consultation occurred throughout June and July 2022 where Draft Place Projects shaped from community feedback in Stage 2 were placed on public exhibition. In total almost 550 responses were received. Feedback from this consultation was overwhelmingly positive with some comments and suggestions adopted into the current Draft place guide.

The Draft Place Guide is the result of the Better Places process that starts with wide-ranging, open-ended questions then narrows down to a set of projects and programs designed to help the local community move towards a shared vision for the future. The BPBAN draft Place Guide includes a “next steps” section that helps define exactly how each project will transition from planning into implementation.

Strategic Alignment

This report specifically addresses priorities from the following strategic documents:

Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision

This report relates to all priorities within the Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision.

Council Plan 2017-21

Objective 3: Vibrant place and economy

Strategy 3.3: Continued commitment to the delivery of the Better Places program

Priority a) Deliver neighbourhood scale placemaking with projects identified within each of the Better Places Place Guides

Policies and Related Council Documents

There have been no previous reports presented to Council in relation to the Draft Place Guide for BPBAN.

Legal/Statutory Obligations and Risk

During consultation with the community, congestion of the roads throughout local areas, particularly from heavy vehicles, was raised as the most dominant concern. In response to these concerns, Place Project 5 “Streets for People” has been planned to reduce vehicle speeds and through traffic to make Brooklyn and Altona North feel safer and more user friendly for pedestrians and cyclists.

In addition, Place Project 4 “Multi Modal Network” will focus on bringing together works proposed in the recently completed Local Area Movement Plan, tying this with improvements to walking, cycling and bus networks across the precinct, and adding in bigger picture planning and advocacy for potential future railway station opportunities. This project will include coordination, planning and delivery to ensure all pieces are truly integrated into a multi-modal network into the future.

Financial and Resource Implications

The Place Guide is being delivered by the Active Communities and Assets department with assistance from other departments.

The nine place projects within the Draft Place Guide each include a project description, inspiration examples and next steps. They have been prioritised as short-term, medium-term or long-term for implementation as part of Council’s capital works program from 2023-24 and beyond. Projects that do not require Capital Works Program funding can be implemented quickly.

Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts

The Draft Place Guide acknowledges environmental, social and economic values and opportunities within Brooklyn and Altona North. The proposed projects focus on improving the liveability and amenity of the area, creating a place that is safer and easier to move around and bringing community closer together.

Consultation and Communication

The development of the Draft Place Guide has been guided by three stages of community consultation that has included workshops with internal and external stakeholders. The consultation completed in stages one and two included the distribution of returnable flyers to approximately 7,000 residents and property owners in Brooklyn and Altona North. The Draft Place Guide for BPBAN includes a summary of feedback gathered from community throughout each stage in the consultation process.

The Draft Place Guide for BPBAN will be placed on public exhibition from 14 September to 14 October 2022. The public exhibition period will be hosted on Participate Hobsons Bay. Opportunities for feedback will be promoted via Council's social media platforms and established contacts collected from previous consultation activities completed on this project.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff to disclose any general or material conflict of interest in matters to be considered at a Council meeting.

Council staff involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest in this matter.

10 Delegate Reports

Purpose

To consider reports by Councillors who have been appointed as delegates to Council and community committees.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the recent Delegate Reports.

RoadSafe Westgate Community Road Safety Council

Directorate: Infrastructure and City Services

Councillor Delegate: Cr Diana Grima

Date of Meeting: 20 July 2022

During the month of July road safety messages were about speed and speeding. The billboard trailer was located at the Western Freeway opposite Moreton Close in Caroline Springs and displayed “Speed Kills, Grave Mistake” and “Speed, Drugs, Last Exit” for the first two weeks of the month.

The billboard was then relocated to the Princess Freeway Melbourne Water location (near Little River turn-off) displaying “Speed Kills, Grave Mistake” and “Adhere to the Speed Limit” until the end of the month.

In August 2022 the road safety messages will be about young drivers.

Due to COVID-19 protocols compliance issues and social distancing restraints, no RACV Years Ahead or Senior Driver Expos sessions are planned for the 2022-23 financial year.

Hobsons Bay City Council Update

Updates were provided on a range of road safety projects including the Mason Street, Ferguson Street and Merton Street Black Spot projects which are all under construction.

Other Member Council Updates

Officers from Maribyrnong City Council, Melton City Council and Wyndham City Council provided an update on road safety projects, local area traffic management projects and progress on grant projects.

Other Updates

The police representative provided an update on state-wide operations, including Operation Scoreboard and Operation Furlong, with both operations to target road safety issues.

Metropolitan Transport Forum

Directorate: Infrastructure and City Services

Councillor Delegate: Cr Jonathon Marsden

Date of Meeting: 6 July 2022

Regular meeting of metropolitan councils to discuss and advocate for improvements to the transport system, particularly for sustainable transport.

Dr John Stone, Senior Lecturer in Urban Planning at the University of Melbourne, presented on Better Buses for Melbourne's West. John provided a summary from the two recent briefing papers into zero emissions buses and improvements to the bus network in Melbourne's western suburbs.

The main points were:

- difficult to increase the speed of the electric bus rollout due to constraints in franchise agreements with bus companies
- the western suburbs have a complicated bus network with many routes running to poor frequencies and large areas not having easy access to services
- it was found that the network could be reformed into a high-frequency grid with the same overall number of service hours as the existing system

Council Updates

Each month four participating councils provide a presentation to the forum. Cardinia and Greater Dandenong councils had been invited to present this month, but were apologies.

Kathleen Petras, Team Leader Transport Planning from Banyule City Council, outlined the Council's ongoing projects that include the Greensborough Bus Interchange, North-East Link, and the Banyule Transport Action Plan.

Jon Liston, Strategic Transport Coordinator from Brimbank City Council, outlined Sunshine's role at the centre of Melbourne's western metro area. Current projects include advocacy for Airport Rail, the Sunshine Station superhub, and local policies such as the Transport Priorities paper and the new Streets for People policy.

11 Notices of Motion

11.1 Notice of Motion No. 1240: Condolence - The Late Peter Lalor

Cr Peter Hemphill has given notice of the following:

That Council acknowledges the recent passing of former City of Williamstown Mayor Peter Thomas Lalor and sends a letter of condolence to his family written under the signature of the Mayor.

Peter Lalor was a councillor of the City of Williamstown and served as its Mayor in 1976-77. He was a founding member of the Williamstown Light Opera Company and served as its president. He was a commissionaire of the former Melbourne Board of Works. Peter was also one of the founding members of the Williamstown Newport Spotswood Residents Association and part of its leadership team for a number of years.

12 Urgent Business

13 Supplementary Public Question Time

Supplementary Public Question Time provides an opportunity for the public to ask questions directly related to items on the agenda that have arisen during the evening's proceedings.

Where it is not possible to provide a response during the meeting, a written response to the question will be provided promptly.

Written public questions received during the Council Meeting that are not related to items on the agenda will be taken on notice and responded to in writing by the appropriate Council officer, or referred to the next Council Meeting for a public response if so requested by the questioner.

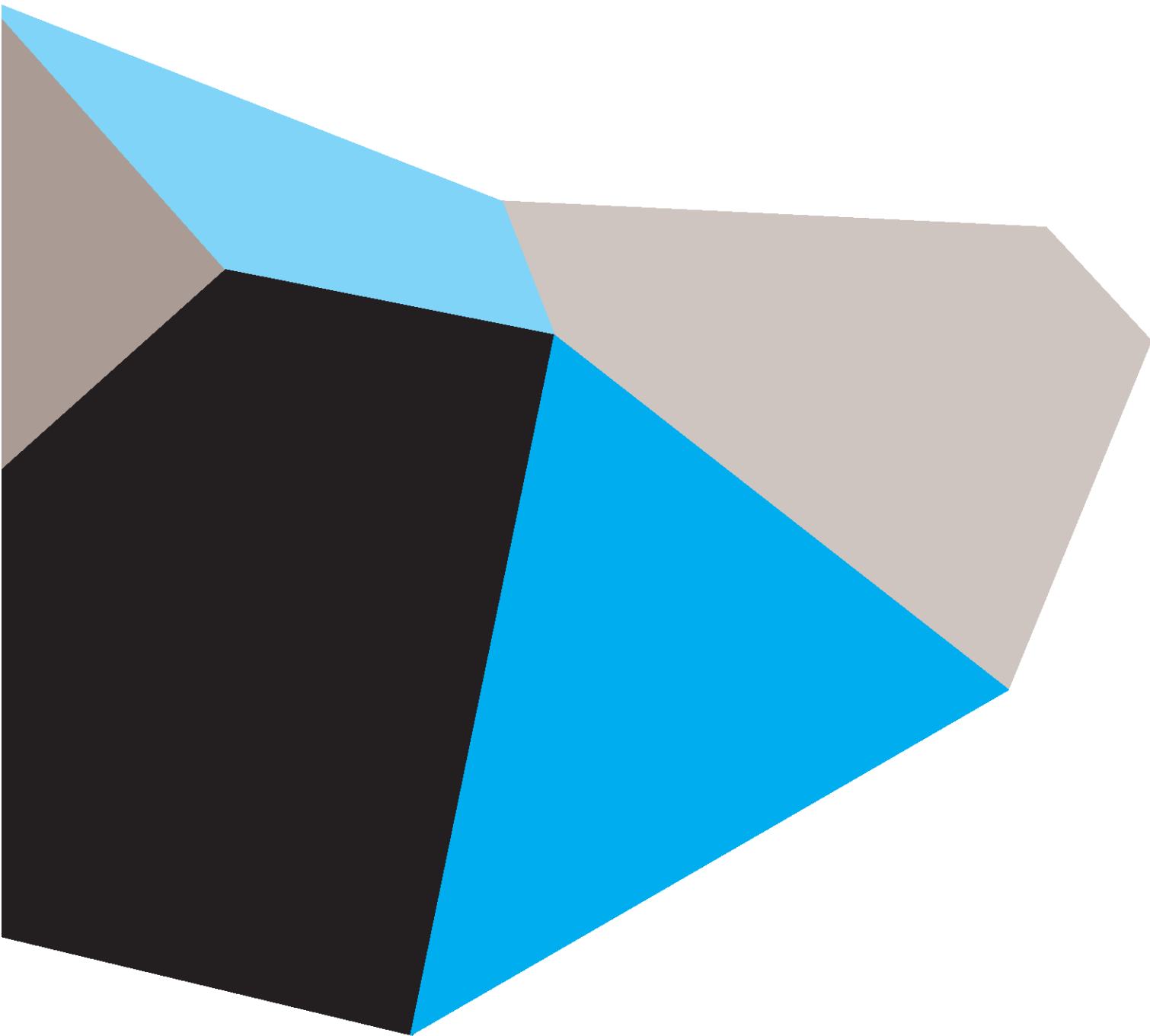
14 In Camera Business

Recommendation

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with section 66(2)(a) and section 3(1)(f) of the *Local Government Act 2020* as it relates to personal information:

14.1 Chief Executive Officer Performance Appraisal 2022

15 Close of Meeting



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