



Whitehorse City Council

AGENDA

Council Meeting

on

Monday 8 May 2023 at 7.00pm

**To be held in the
Council Chamber
Nunawading Civic Centre**

Members: Cr Mark Lane
Cr Prue Cutts
Cr Blair Barker
Cr Raylene Carr
Cr Andrew Davenport
Cr Tina Liu
Cr Denise Massoud
Cr Amanda McNeill
Cr Andrew Munroe
Cr Trudy Skilbeck
Cr Ben Stennett

Mayor
Deputy Mayor

Simon McMillan

Chief Executive Officer

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AGENDA

1 WELCOME

Prayer for Council

We give thanks, O God, for the Men and Women of the past whose generous devotion to the common good has been the making of our City.

Grant that our own generation may build worthily on the foundations they have laid.

Direct our minds that all we plan and determine, is for the wellbeing of our City.

Amen.

Aboriginal Reconciliation Statement

“Whitehorse City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional owners of the land we are meeting on and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders from communities who may be present today.”

2 APOLOGIES

3 DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of the Council Meeting 17 April 2023

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Council Meeting 17 April 2023 having been circulated now be confirmed.

5 URGENT BUSINESS

6 PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

8 PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

9 NOTICES OF MOTION

10 COUNCIL REPORTS

10.1 Proposed renaming of Alwyn Court, Mitcham

Governance and Integrity
Corporate Services
ATTACHMENT

SUMMARY

Council was approached by a resident of Alwyn Street, Mitcham requesting that the name of the adjoining Alwyn Court, Mitcham be changed, citing ongoing issues caused by service providers confusing the two streets.

Council is a naming authority as per the *Geographic Place Names Act 1998* and the *Naming rules for places in Victoria, Statutory requirements for naming road, features and localities – 2022* (the Naming Rules) which is mandatory for naming authorities to abide by. One of the principles of the Naming Rules requires that names are not duplicated; for metropolitan areas, this means within a 5km radius.

Alwyn Street and Alwyn Court were named after WOFF Alwyn Terence Till, a local airman killed in action in Belgium during World War 2 aged 23. Alwyn Court is situated near the eastern end of Alwyn Street, approximately 600 metres from the western end. Maps showing the affected properties are at Attachment 1 of this report.

Initial consultation was undertaken with residents and property owners in Alwyn Court during December 2022 and January 2023 seeking feedback regarding the proposed name change. All responses objected to the renaming proposal and indicated that issues experienced due to the duplicated street names were infrequent, of minor inconvenience, and did not warrant the disruption that would be wrought by a name change.

As this feedback was contrary to the situation described in the original request, residents and property owners of 1-7 Alwyn Street (excluding the resident who made the request) were consulted during February 2023. Responses cited frequent issues causing serious inconvenience, including two occasions where ambulances attended the wrong address. A summary of all feedback is included at Attachment 2 of this report.

Given the potential impact upon Alwyn Court residents and the sensitivity around changing a street name commemorating a local serviceman, it is recommended not to proceed with the renaming proposal.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. Does not proceed with the proposal to rename Alwyn Court, Mitcham.
2. Notes the feedback received from affected residents and advises them of this outcome.

10.1

(cont)

KEY MATTERS

- A resident within Alwyn Street, Mitcham has requested that the adjoining Alwyn Court, Mitcham be renamed due to confusion causing issues for residents and service providers.
- Council is a naming Authority under the Geographic Place Names Act 1998 and the Naming Rules, and is responsible for the street naming within the municipality.
- The Naming Principles (extracted from the Naming Rules and summarised at Attachment 3 of this report) state that street names must not risk public or operational safety for emergency response services or cause confusion for transport, and cannot be duplicated within a 5km distance of each other within a metropolitan area.
- Residents and property owners of Alwyn Court, who would be affected by the proposed name change, strongly oppose it.
- Residents and property owners of Alwyn Street, who cite they are currently affected by the duplication, are strongly in favour of it.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

This report aligns with the following objectives of the Whitehorse City Council Plan 2021-2025:

- Objective 8.3.1: Compliance with Council policies, legislative requirements and regulations.
- Objective 8.3.3: Ensure risk management is an integral part of our planning and decision-making processes

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Consultation Stage 1 - Alwyn Court

In December 2022 letters were sent to residents and property owners in Alwyn Court, Mitcham, advising them that a request had been received by Council to rename Alwyn Court. Submissions and suggestions for new names in accordance with the Naming Rules were invited by 25 January 2023.

Six responses were received from four of the nine Alwyn Court properties (two properties had two respondents each). All responses objected to the proposal, citing the following reasons:

- Any issues experienced were occasional and minor
- A name change would be a significant, unnecessary and costly administrative burden causing considerable stress, anxiety and inconvenience to residents
- Long-standing residents have a deep emotional connection to the name

10.1

(cont)

- The Court was named in commemoration of fallen World War 2 airman Alwyn Till and a name change would dishonour his memory

Community Consultation Stage 2 - Alwyn Street

Given that the feedback received from the Alwyn Court consultation differed considerably from the situation described in the original request, residents and property owners of Alwyn Street sharing a number with Alwyn Court were consulted to determine which situation their experiences corresponded more closely with.

Letters were sent to relevant Alwyn Street residents and property owners in February 2023 notifying them that a name change had been proposed for Alwyn Court and requesting that they provide feedback regarding any issues that they may have experienced due to the naming duplication.

Feedback was received from six individuals at four of the nine properties consulted (two properties had two respondents each). The person who submitted the name change request was not consulted at this time, as their experience was already recorded and is included at Attachment 2. All respondents were in support of the name change proposal, describing the following issues:

- Ongoing and frequent misdelivery of parcels, mail and bulky items
- Food delivery services, tradespeople, utility company workers and taxi drivers attending the wrong address
- In one case, the gas supply being connected to the wrong address
- An entire roof for a home extension being delivered to the wrong address
- Visitors to the area experiencing difficulty finding their home
- On two occasions, ambulances attending the wrong address

During the second stage of consultation four residents located within Alwyn Street raised a separate issue regarding their property being subject to a boundary realignment in 1999 which resulted in them changing suburbs from Mitcham to Nunawading whilst the remainder of Alwyn Street retained the Mitcham address. The realignment affected five properties, being: 2, 4A, 4B, 6 and 8 Alwyn Street, and feedback received cited various concerns including that the process was undertaken with no consultation.

10.1

(cont)

SUPPORTING REPORT DETAILS

Legislative and Risk Implications

Legislative Implications

The following legislative obligations are required to be considered when renaming a street:

- The *Geographic Place Names Act 1998* makes provision for naming of places and the registration of place names.
- GNV oversees the naming and registration of roads, features, and localities in Victoria.
- The *Naming rules for places in Victoria, Statutory requirements for naming road, features and localities – 2022*. The Naming Rules are guided by 13 Naming Principles; the renaming proposal complies with:
 - Principle A – Ensuring public safety;
 - Principle B – Recognising the public interest; and
 - Principle D – Ensuring names are not duplicated

A complete list of the Naming Principles is included in Attachment 3.

- The *Road Management Act 2004* Part 3 – The road system, s11(8).

All legislative requirements outlined have been followed in the preparation of this report.

Risk Implications

There is risk associated with emergency services confusing:

- Alwyn Street, Mitcham and Alwyn Court, Mitcham; and
- Alwyn Street, Mitcham and Alwyn Street, Nunawading.

Equity, Inclusion, and Human Rights Considerations

In developing this report to Council, the subject matter has been considered in accordance with the requirements of the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

It is considered that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

Financial and Resource Implications

Should the renaming of Alwyn Court proceed, there will be minor financial and resource implications to Council undertaken within business as usual, including:

- Name registration
- Street Signage
- Notification of utilities and local service providers

10.1

(cont)

GNV is responsible for notifying Australia Post, emergency services and government departments, with residents responsible for notifying private organisations.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

There are no Innovation and Continuous Improvement matters arising from the recommendation contained in this report.

Collaboration

During the compilation of this report, collaboration was undertaken with directly impacted members of the community, the Whitehorse Historical Society and GNV.

Ambulance Victoria was also contacted to confirm whether records exist of confusion between Alwyn Street and Alwyn Court, or records showing that ambulances had been dispatched to the wrong address; however, did not respond.

Conflict of Interest

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

Conclusion

The matter raised by residents and property owners in both Alwyn Street and Alwyn Court has been noted. Given such opposing views of residents, it is not recommended that the proposal to rename Alwyn Court, Mitcham should proceed.

ATTACHMENT

- 1 Maps of affected properties - Alwyn Street and Alwyn Court
- 2 Renaming proposal - Alwyn Court, Mitcham - Consultation Summary
- 3 Naming Principles

10.2 Waste Service Charge Policy

City Services
Infrastructure
ATTACHMENT

SUMMARY

A Waste Service Charge Policy has been developed to guide how Council applies the charges for waste and recycling services through the Waste Service Charge.

On 12 September 2022, Council resolved to implement a Waste Service Charge commencing in the 2023/24 financial year. This Policy documents the adopted model of the Waste Service Charge.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorses the Waste Service Charge Policy.

KEY MATTERS

A Waste Service Charge Policy has been developed and is provided in Attachment 1. On 12 September 2022, Council resolved to implement a Waste Service Charge commencing in the 2023/24 financial year. This Policy documents how the adopted model of the Waste Service Charge will be applied.

The aim of the Waste Service Charge is to provide a fair and transparent way to charge for the cost of waste and recycling services that is consistent with providing incentives for reducing waste and increasing recycling.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

The Waste Service Charge relates to the following strategies in the Council Plan 2021-2025:

- 5.3.1: Identify, promote and implement viable recycling and resource recovery opportunities.
- 8.2.2: Ensure responsible financial and resource management to maintain Council's long term financial sustainability within a rate capping environment.

Policy

The key Council strategic document relating to waste reduction and recycling is the Waste Management Strategy – Rubbish to Resource! 2018-2028.

This Policy has been developed so that there is transparent application of the decision to implement a Waste service Charge.

10.2

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BACKGROUND

Council has resolved to implement a Waste Service Charge and this Policy has been developed to guide decision-making on its application.

Further detail of the background to the Waste Service Charge was provided in the Council report considered at the Council meeting on 12 September 2022.

Discussion and Options

The Policy has been developed based on the adopted Waste Service Charge and no other options have been considered.

The Policy outlines the application of the Kerbside Waste Service Charge for residential kerbside bins, the Public Waste Service Charge and supplementary bin charges.

SUPPORTING REPORT DETAILS

Legislative and Risk Implications

Council is empowered to implement a Waste Service Charge under the Local Government Act 2020 (Vic).

Equity, Inclusion, and Human Rights Considerations In developing this report to Council, the subject matter has been considered in accordance with the requirements of the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Community Engagement

There was extensive community consultation undertaken to inform the Waste Service Charge that was adopted by Council. This Policy reflects the decision to implement a Waste Service Charge. As the Policy reflects Council's decision, no further consultation has been undertaken.

Financial and Resource Implications

There are no financial implications associated with adopting this Policy. It reflects adopted Waste Service Charge position.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Innovation and continuous improvement have been considered through the investigation of a Waste Service Charge.

Collaboration

There has been no further collaboration in developing this Policy.

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Conflict of Interest

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

Conclusion

It is recommended that Council endorses the Waste Service Charge Policy.

The Waste Service Charge will be implemented in accordance with the Policy commencing in the 2023/24 financial year.

Attachment

- 1 Waste Service Charge Policy

10.3 Revised Revenue and Rating Plan 2023-2027

Finance
Corporate Services
ATTACHMENT

SUMMARY

The *Local Government Act 2020* under Section 93 requires Council to adopt a Revenue and Rating Plan by the next 30 June after a general election for a period of at least the next 4 financial years.

Council's Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2025 was adopted by Council on 28 June 2021 and a revised version has since been prepared for 1 July 2023 - 30 June 2027. There are a number of changes being proposed in the revised Revenue and Rating Plan 2023-2027 and include:

1. Altering the rating framework, while remaining within the Fair Go Rate Cap of a 3.50% increase in 2023/24, to separate out the charge for waste and recycling from general rates and include a Waste Service Charge consisting of three components:
 - Public Waste Service Charge
 - Kerbside Waste Service Charge; and
 - Supplementary Bin Charge - for additional bins or larger bins that are not part of the Kerbside Waste Service Charge (previously a fee for service and invoiced separately) and to be included as part of Service Rates and Charges and included on the annual rates notice.
2. Providing further definitions and explanatory information, in particular, the Plan will set out the decisions that Council has made in relation to rating options available to it under the *Local Government Act 2020* to ensure the fair and equitable distribution of rates across property owners.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes
 - a) the revised Revenue and Rating Plan 2023-2027 has been prepared in accordance with Section 93 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
 - b) the proposal to introduce a separate Waste Service Charge for waste and recycling services as part of a revised rating framework outlined in the revised Revenue and Rating Plan 2023-2027.
 - c) the revised rating framework is proposed to include a Waste Service Charge for Public waste services and Kerbside waste collection services for eligible properties.

10.3 (cont)

- d) the revised rating framework is proposed to include supplementary bin charges for additional bins or larger bins that are not part of the Kerbside Waste Service Charge (previously under user fees and invoiced separately) as part of service rates and charges and included on the annual rates notice.
2. Endorses the revised Revenue and Rating Plan 2023-2027 for public display from 10 May 2023 to 24 May 2023.
3. Considers for adoption the Revenue and Rating Plan 2023-2027 in accordance with Section 93 of the *Local Government Act 2020* at the Council Meeting on Monday 26 June 2023.

Key Matters

Council resolved in September 2022 to introduce a Waste Service Charge from 1 July 2023. The revised Revenue and Rating Plan 2023-2027 reflects changes to Council's rating framework to include a Waste Service Charge and consists of three components:

1. Kerbside Waste Service Charge
2. Public Waste Service Charge
3. Supplementary Bin Charges

Supplementary Bin Charges were previously under User fees (fee for service) and invoiced separately and are for additional bins or larger bins that are not part of the Kerbside Waste Service Charge. From 1 July 2023 supplementary bin charges will be included under Service Rates and Charges and included on the annual rates notice.

The Waste Service Charge fully recovers the cost of Council's waste and recycling services and provides for the future impact of Recycling Victoria reforms and waste sector impacts. The Waste Service Charge is not subject to the rate cap established under the Fair Go Rates System (FGRS), except in the year of introduction (2023/24) where it will be offset by a corresponding proportional reduction in General Rates levied to reflect that waste charges are now separate items while remaining within the rate cap of 3.50% for 2023/24. Future years Waste Service Charge including charges for supplementary bins will be developed as part of budget considerations for the term of this Plan.

The revised Plan also provides further definitions and explanatory information on what rating options are available to Council under the *Local Government Act 1989*, and how Council's choices in applying these options contribute towards meeting an equitable rating strategy.

The Victorian Government has passed the *Local Government Legislation Amendment (Rating and Other Matters) Act 2022* (Act), making a number of

10.3

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amendments and will commence operation on 20 June 2023, or an earlier day to be proclaimed. The following key amendments to the Act include:

- service rates and charges
- special rates and charges
- rebates and concessions for properties providing a public benefit
- financial hardship

The Revenue and Rating Plan 2023-2027 has been updated to reflect amendments where applicable and are discussed further under Legislative and Risk implications contained within this report.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Council Plan

This report aligns to the following strategy in the Council Plan 2021-2025:

Strategic Direction 1: An innovative Council that is well led and governed.

Strategy and Policy

The Revenue and Rating Plan is an important part of Council's integrated planning framework, all of which is created to achieve our vision in the Community Plan. Strategies outlined in this plan align with the objectives contained in the Council Plan 2021-2025 and will feed into our budgeting and long-term financial planning documents, as well as other strategic planning documents under our Council's strategic planning framework.

The Waste Service Charge Policy has been developed so that there is transparent application of the decision to implement a Waste Service Charge.

backgroundThe *Local Government Act 2020* states that councils must adopt a Revenue and Rating Plan by the next 30 June after a general election for a period of at least the next 4 financial years. Council adopted the first Revenue and Rating Plan under the Act 2020 in June 2021. This Revenue and Rating Plan provides an update to reflect changes to the Council's rating structure and covers the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2027.

The purpose of the Revenue and Rating Plan is to determine the most appropriate and affordable revenue and rating approach, which in conjunction with other income sources, will adequately finance the objectives in the Council Plan.

In particular, the Revenue and Rating Plan will set out the decisions Council has made in relation to rating options available to it under the *Local Government Act 2020* to ensure the fair and equitable distribution of rates across property owners. It will also set out the principles for fee and charge setting and include other revenue items to ensure Council's commitment to

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responsible financial management is achieved, while at the same time continuing to provide high quality, accessible services to the community.

Discussion and Options

Council resolved in September 2022 to introduce a Waste Service Charge from 1 July 2023. The Waste Service Charge is not an extra charge on top of rates. Council will separate out the charge for waste and recycling services from the general rates and itemise these charges in more detail on the annual rate notice.

As a result the revised Revenue and Rating Plan 2023-2027 includes structural changes to Council's rating framework including.

- 1) Altering the rating framework, while remaining within the Fair Go Rate Cap of a 3.50% increase for 2023/24, to separately charge:
 - for a public waste service charge; and
 - for a kerbside waste collection service charge
 - The revised Revenue and Rating Plan includes the reduction in general rates income with the introduction of a public waste charge and a kerbside waste charge.
 - The separation of a Waste Service Charge is designed to allow Council to recover waste and recycling costs in future years that may increase at a greater rate than the Fair Go Rate Cap and provide for the future impact of Recycling Victoria reforms and waste sector impacts.
 - From 1 July 2023 supplementary bin services will be included under Service Rates and Charges and included on the annual rates notice. Supplementary bin charges are for additional bins or larger bins that are not part of the Kerbside Waste Service Charge (previously under User fees – fee for service and invoiced separately).
- 2) The total amount of rates levied in 2023/24 will be in compliance with the allowed Fair Go Rate Cap increase of 3.50%.

Providing further definitions and explanatory information, in particular, the Plan sets out the decisions that Council has made in relation to rating options available to it under the Local Government Act 2020 to ensure the fair and equitable distribution of rates across property owners.

10.3 (cont)

SUPPORTING REPORT DETAILS

Legislative and Risk Implications

The *Local Government Act 2020* under Section 93 requires Council to adopt a Revenue and Rating Plan (the Plan) by the next 30 June after a general election for a period of at least the next 4 financial years.

The Victorian Government has passed the *Local Government Legislation Amendment (Rating and Other Matters) Act 2022* (Act). The Act amends both the *Local Government Act 1989* and the *Local Government Act 2020* and will commence operation on 20 June 2023, or an earlier day to be proclaimed.

The key amendments to the Act have been incorporated into the revised Revenue and Rating Plan and include:

1. Service rates and charges

Changes to the Act include Section 162(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 1989* which allows a council to declare a service rate or service charge for the collection and disposal of refuse. The Act has been amended to reflect wording changes from “the collection and disposal of waste” to “waste, recycling or resource recovery services”.

Waste service charges were previously limited to ‘the collection and disposal of refuse’. The amendments to the Act includes a description of waste charges to ensure that all the services relevant to modern waste management activities are covered such as collection, transport, processing, storage and treatment of waste and recyclable materials. The definition is aligned with that of the Circular Economy Act 2021 and the Government’s recycling reforms.

Council has introduced a waste service charge in accordance with this section and is consistent within the current legislation and amendments, having no net impact on Council.

2. Special rates and charges

Under the new legislation, any special rates and charges declared by councils must be levied within 12 months of the declaration, otherwise they will expire. This change is designed to prevent an unreasonably delayed collection of rates and charges. A council must levy a special rate or charge by sending a notice to each person liable to pay.

3. Rebates and concessions

The Act includes rebates and concessions for properties providing a public benefit. Whitehorse does not currently provide rebates or concessions under this section of the Act.

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4. Financial hardship

The Victorian Government has passed the *Local Government Legislation Amendment (Rating and Other Matters) Act 2022* (Act), making a number of amendments including a particular focus on ratepayers experiencing hardship and improving the way rates are collected. In particular, the alternative means of paying rates via a payment plan has been formalised in legislation. While this is already a common practice, the amendments will ensure consistency between all councils through mandatory guidelines. At the time of writing this report the mandatory guidelines have not yet been issued.

Whilst the revised Revenue and Rating Plan includes a summary of information on the collection and administration of rates and charges, any amendments if required will be addressed in Council's Rates Hardship Assistance Policy and supporting guidelines to ensure compliance with the Act.

Equity, Inclusion, and Human Rights Considerations

In developing this report to Council, the subject matter has been considered in accordance with the requirements of the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

It is considered that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

Community Engagement

Whitehorse's rating framework has been altered to reflect the introduction of the Waste Service Charge from 1 July 2023. The revised Revenue and Rating Plan 2023-2027 will be made available online on Your Say Budget page for a period of two weeks from 10th May 2023 to 24th May 2023, at Council's customer services centres and libraries and is in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy.

Extensive community consultation was undertaken on the proposed Waste Service Charge and feedback was sought from the community on a proposed Waste Service Charge throughout April, May and August 2022. The campaign reached over 25,000 people via Social Media, Whitehorse News, emails, social media and events across the municipality. We accepted community feedback by direct submissions, online and offline surveys and social media discussions. 330 people submitted their responses to our online survey, over 150 residents spoke to Council staff members at the engagement pop-ups in Box Hill and Nunawading, and 12 people participated in in-depth workshops.

This change will bring Whitehorse in line with other Victorian councils and will be overseen by the Essential Services Commission to ensure Council only collects as much as it actually costs to provide waste and recycling services.

10.3 (cont)

Financial and Resource Implications

The advantage of separating the waste charge from general rates is that it is readily understood and accepted by residents as a fee for a direct service that they receive. It further provides equity in the rating system in that all residents who receive exactly the same service level pay an equivalent amount.

The mix of having a fixed charge for waste services combined with valuation driven rates for the remainder of the rate invoice provides for a more balanced and equitable outcome.

The Waste Service Charge is not subject to the rate cap established under the Fair Go Rates System (FGRS), except in the year of introduction (2023/24) where it will be offset by a corresponding proportional reduction in General Rates levied to reflect that waste charges are now separate items.

In future years, waste charges declared must be reported to the Essential Services Commission who monitor revenue from waste rates and/or charges as well waste collections and disposal costs. Council's compliance with the Fair Go Rate Cap is reported annually by the Commission.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

There are no Innovation and Continuous Improvement matters arising from the recommendation contained in this report.

Collaboration

No collaboration was required for this report.

Conflict of Interest

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

Conclusion

The revised Revenue and Rating Plan 2023-2027 meets all legislated and regulatory requirements under the *Local Government Act 2020* and *Local Government Act 1989*.

It is recommended that Council endorses the revised Revenue and Rating Plan 2023-2027 to be made available to the community for the period 10 May 2023 to 24 May 2023.

ATTACHMENT

- 1 Revised Revenue & Rating Plan 2023-2027

10.4 Revised Council Plan for Implementation in Years 3 & 4 and Proposed Budget 2023/24

Finance
Corporate Services
ATTACHMENT

SUMMARY

The Whitehorse Council Plan 2021-2025 was adopted by Council in 2021 and details what Council will deliver to the community, how Council will deliver it and how Council will measure progress.

In accordance with the requirements of Section 89 of the *Local Government Act 2020* a review has been undertaken on the Council Plan 2021-2025 to ensure that the Council Plan continues to meet the needs and aspirations of our community in an environment facing ongoing changes.

A Proposed Budget 2023/24 has been developed and is a rolling four-year plan that outlines the financial and non-financial resources that Council requires to achieve the strategic objectives described in the revised Council Plan 2021-2025.

As part of Council's integrated approach to planning, the following key strategic documents have been prepared and will be made available for public display, prior to adoption in June 2023:

- Revised Council Plan 2021-2025 (for implementation in Years 3 & 4) (Attachment 1)
- Proposed Budget 2023/24 (Attachment 2)

An extensive community engagement process was undertaken on the review of the Council Plan and development of the Budget 2023/24 throughout September and October 2022. More than 500 pieces of feedback were received. This feedback has contributed to the review of the Council Plan and informed the development of the Budget 2023/24. Early engagement meant Council could identify important themes and make informed decisions throughout the budget planning and development process.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes

- a) the Council Plan 2021-2025 (for implementation Years 3 & 4) has been revised for the purposes of sections 89 of the Local Government Act 2020.
- b) the Proposed Budget 2023/24 has been developed for the purposes of sections 94 and 96 of the Local Government Act 2020.

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- c) the proposal to introduce a separate charge for waste and recycling recovery as part of a revised rating framework outlined in the revised Revenue and Rating Plan 2023-2027.
 - d) the revised rating framework is proposed to include a separate Waste Service Charge consisting of three components:
 - i. Public Waste Service Charge for eligible properties and;
 - ii. Kerbside Waste Service Charge for eligible properties
 - iii. Supplementary Bin Charges – for additional bins or larger bins that are not part of the Kerbside Waste Service Charge (previously a fee for service and invoiced separately) and to be included on the annual rates notice.
 - e) the amendments to the Reserve Governing Principles for application of financial reserves be applied from the 2022/23 financial year as reflected in the Proposed Budget 2023/24 (including 2022/23 Full Year Forecast).
2. Endorses the revised Council Plan 2021-2025 (for implementation in years 3 & 4) and Proposed Budget 2023/24 for public display from 10 May 2023 to 24 May 2023.
 3. Considers for adoption the revised Council Plan 2021-2025 (for implementation in years 3 & 4) and Proposed Budget 2023/24 at the Council Meeting on Monday 26 June 2023 in accordance with sections 89 and 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

KEY MATTERS

Revised Council Plan 2021-2025 (for implementation in years 3 & 4)

Section 89 of the *Local Government Act 2020 (the Act)* requires Councils to provide for ongoing monitoring of progress and regular reviews to identify and address changing circumstances within its Council Plan.

While the current Council Plan meets legislative requirements and reflects the voice of the community, there was general internal acknowledgement that the plan could be further enhanced through the streamlining of Strategic Directions and objectives, redefining some of the actions so it is clear what will be delivered, reducing the number of indicators and ensuring progress was measurable.

Support by cross-Council departments to consider community feedback and consolidate and strengthen the alignment between the Strategic Directions and the Whitehorse 2040 Vision, has resulted in the proposed consolidation of strategic directions 1 and 8, the two inward facing directions ('Innovation,

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Transformation and Creativity’ and ‘Governance and Leadership’) into one strategic direction – ‘an innovative Council that is well led and governed’.

Based on the Municipal Association of Victoria’s Good Practice Guide, Whitehorse’s Council Plan objectives have also been consolidated from up to five objectives per strategic direction, to one clear objective per strategic direction, describing the future outcome Council is seeking in that particular area.

Strategic Actions were also reviewed to ensure they are sufficiently high level and describe *how* the objective will be achieved, including initiatives, programs, services that Council will develop, implement and monitor over the remaining two-year period of the Plan to achieve the objective. Some actions were removed because they did not meet these criteria or were too low level/operational and did not reflect the strategic intent of the document. The actions that were removed have been reported on for Years 1 & 2.

The overall number of indicators has been reduced to ensure they are relevant, measurable, achievable and meaningful. Major Initiatives were reviewed to ensure larger-scale initiatives that contribute to the achievement of Council’s objectives and represent areas where significant investments in capital or recurrent resources is made are represented in the Plan and through performance reporting.

A number of major initiatives in the current Council Plan were removed because they do not meet the criteria of being a major initiative or have already been achieved in Years 1 & 2.

Proposed Budget 2023/24

The Budget 2023/24 is mandated by legislation and regulation and the document has been developed with reference to the Local Government Model Budget format, which is prepared by Local Government Victoria each year. Hence Whitehorse City Council’s draft Budget meets all legislative requirements.

For the 2023/24 financial year, Council’s rate rise will be consistent with the Victorian Government rate cap at 3.5% in line with advice from the Essential Services Commission.

The Budget uses preliminary valuations (Capital Improved Value - CIV) provided by the Victorian Valuer General. Council may receive minor adjustments to the preliminary valuations and these changes may occur throughout the display period. The cumulative effect of these changes may require small adjustments to the Rate in the Dollar prior to the Budget being adopted by Council in June. These will not be material adjustments as the total revenue levied by Council is not expected to change.

To ensure Council’s ongoing commitment to financial sustainability, with State Governments waste reforms, it is recommended through this budget to separate all waste and recycling collection fees from general rates and

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establish a Waste Service Charge for public waste and kerbside waste collection services for eligible properties.

The Waste Service Charge will be implemented in accordance with legislative requirements that in the first year (2023/24) a Waste Service Charge (public and kerbside charge) will not be used to generate more revenue for Council in addition to revenue raised through rates under the Fair Go Rates System rate cap if it had not implemented the charge.

Supplementary Bin charges for additional bins or larger bins that are not part of the Kerbside Waste Service Charge will be included under service rates and charges and on the rates notice for 2023/24 (previously a fee for service and invoiced separately). Individual ratepayers will be impacted differently depending on what waste services they receive.

The Budget 2023/24 includes amendments to Council's Reserve Governing Principles for Public Open Space and the Development Reserve. In particular it explains the revised application of funding splits for reserve funded Capital improvement projects. The exact funding split will be assessed and applied for each individual project based on scope and alignment to the reserve principles.

Further information on the reserve principles please refer to *Appendix D – Council's Reserve Governing Principles in the Proposed Budget 2023/24* (Attachment 2).

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

This report aligns to the following strategy in the draft Council Plan 2021-2025:

Strategic Direction 1: An innovative Council that is well led and governed

Policy

The proposed Budget has been prepared in accordance with Council policies and the Victorian Government's rate capping legislation. Community engagement on the Council Plan and Budget 2023/24 has been conducted in accordance with the Whitehorse Community Engagement Policy.

BACKGROUND

Revised Council Plan 2021-2025 (for implementation in years 3 & 4)

The Whitehorse Council Plan 2021-2025 (the Plan) was adopted by Council in 2021 and details what Council will deliver to the community, how Council will deliver it and how Council will measure progress.

As required under section 90 of the Local Government Act 2020, a Council Plan must include:

- the strategic direction of the Council
- strategic objectives for achieving the strategic direction

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- strategies for achieving the objectives for a period of at least the next four financial years and;
- strategic indicators for monitoring achievement of the strategic objectives.

The revised Council Plan 2021-25 (for implementation years 3 & 4) was prepared in line with the strategic planning principles outlined in Section 89 (2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

A review of the Council Plan commenced in August 2022, looking at the strategic directions, the objectives, strategic actions, major initiatives and indicators, to ensure that the objectives were simplified as well as ensuring the actions contained in the plan are clearly articulated and progress is measureable.

The revised Council Plan 2021-25 (implementation in years 3 & 4) outlines our strategic directions to support our community in:

- An innovative Council that is well led and governed
- A thriving local economy with high quality accessible education opportunities
- A cultural rich, diverse, creative and inclusive community
- A built environment that encourages movement with high quality public places
- Sustainable climate and environmental care
- An empowered collaborative community
- A safe and health community

In undertaking the review and refining the Council Plan, it has been important to maintain the original intent of the Council Plan strategic directions, given these directly align with the Whitehorse 2040 Community Vision, as well as maintaining the integrity of the communities' and Council work which was undertaken through the Shaping Whitehorse engagement process.

Proposed Budget 2023/24

The Budget 2023/24 (plus three subsequent financial years) has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Sections 94 and 96 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, and is in line with the Victorian Government's rate cap for 2023/24.

The Budget 2023/24 is a rolling four-year plan that outlines the financial and non-financial resources that Council requires to achieve the strategic objectives described in the revised Council Plan 2021-2025 (for implementation in years 3 & 4). It has been prepared with reference to Council's long term financial plan, which is aimed at creating a sustainable fiscal environment to enable Council to continue to provide the community with high quality services and infrastructure into the medium and long term.

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The Budget 2023/24 includes detailed budgeted financial statements (income statement, balance sheet, cash flow statement, capital works) and accompanying notes, detailed listing of the capital works program, other matters required under the *Local Government Act 1989 & 2020* and regulations relating to Rates and Charges, and the Schedule of Fees and Charges.

Discussion and Options

Revised Council Plan 2021-2025 (for implementation in years 3 & 4)

Community feedback on priorities for the next 12 months and the consolidated Council Plan objectives

There was strong alignment between the priorities identified by community for Council to focus on over the remainder of the Council term and the actions contained in the Plan. More than a quarter of respondents considered the top priority to be 'new infrastructure and or the maintenance of existing Council assets' which is addressed by two new actions in the Plan, the 'implementation of the Whitehorse Asset Plan 2022-2032' and the 'delivery of the Whitehorse capital works program, leading to the strengthening, inclusiveness and accessibility of our local neighbourhoods, assets, facilities and services'.

'Climate change and the natural environment' was also considered a key priority by the community (at 11%), closely followed by 'health and wellbeing' (at 9%), both of which are existing strategic directions and actions in the Council Plan.

Just under half of respondents (43%) indicated that 'something was missing' from the Council Plan objectives, however the majority of these suggestions were operational in nature and not suited for inclusion in the Council Plan as strategic objectives.

The suggestions have instead been used to inform the revised strategic actions, for example the objective to 'advocate for greater housing diversity including affordable and social housing' was removed and replaced by an updated strategic action to partner in affordable housing advocacy and raising community awareness. Similarly, it was noted that there is no Council Plan objective relating to active transport and as a result a major initiative was added in regard to the implementation of the Easy Ride Routes.

Proposed Budget 2023/24

The Budget 2023/24 is a balanced and financially responsible budget and demonstrates our ongoing commitment to financial sustainability and transformation. It was developed in a challenging economic environment with cost of living and inflationary pressures impacting Council as well as our community.

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The operational surplus for 2023/24 is predicted to be \$10 million. The result is based on revenue of \$221 million and expenses of \$211 million. A further \$50 million is proposed to be spent on capital works, including \$7 million on projects carried forward and funded from 2022/23.

The \$211 million operational budget outlines the services and initiatives that Council plans to deliver in 2023/24 and the funding and resources required. It also includes continued investment in Council's transformation program.

A projected rate increase of 3.50% per cent in line with the Victorian Government's Fair Go Rates System will help fund our extensive Capital Works Program and ensures ongoing delivery of Council's high quality services and programs.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BUDGET

The key components of the Budget 2023/24 are highlighted as follows:

Operational Budget

An operational budget that provides \$173 million for the delivery of services to the community including:

- \$23.87 million Kerbside and Public Waste Services
- \$15.73 million Parks and Natural Environment (maintenance of sports fields, parks and gardens)
- \$15.58 million Leisure and Recreation Services
- \$11.91 million Health and Family Services
- \$11.06 million City Services (maintenance of footpaths, drains and roads, sustainability and depot operations)
- \$10.55 million Whitehorse Recycling and Waste Centre (waste transfer station)
- \$9.52 million Community Safety (Community Laws, parking, school crossings and emergency management)
- \$9.08 million City Planning and Development
- \$7.38 million Arts and Cultural Services
- \$6.73 million Engineering and Investment
- \$5.89 million Libraries
- \$4.99 million Project Delivery and Assets
- \$2.61 million Community Engagement and Development
- \$1.05 million Positive Ageing
- \$0.87 million Home and Community Services
- \$0.70 million Major Projects

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A \$50 million Capital Works Program comprising:

- \$20.92 million for land, buildings and building improvements
- \$6.70 million for plant and equipment
- \$6.45 million for roads, bridges and off street car parks
- \$5.80 million for recreational, leisure and community facilities
- \$4.48 million for footpaths and cycleways
- \$3.67 million for parks, open space and streetscapes
- \$2.20 million for drainage improvements

NEW OPERATIONAL BUDGET INITIATIVES

Council will continue significant investment in the Transformation Program as part of the Budget for 2023/24.

Key projects underway include:

- Continuation of Council's Technology Transformation Program which has been designed to improve the customer experience and service delivery.
- Delivery of a new organisational-wide Project Management Framework to improve governance, increase delivery and build capability.
- Increased focus on review, planning and continuous improvement in service delivery
- Enhanced Service Planning process with greater alignment with the Council Plan, and improved reporting and management of key performance metrics.

FEES AND CHARGES

Fees and charges have been reviewed with consideration of several influencing factors including full costs, market comparison and an emphasis on accessibility, equity and social justice considerations. The proposed 2023/24 fees and charges will achieve a budgeted income of 5.2% lower than the 2022/23 forecast, primarily due to the transfer of supplementary bin charges to Rates & Charges income, as well as reduced fee income due to the discontinuation of Whitehorse Home & Community Services.

A number of fees and charges are set by other levels of government regulation (statutory) and are not subject to discretionary change by Council. Statutory fees will be changed by Council when advised of a change by the relevant authorities. These are clearly identified in the schedule of fees and charges.

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KEY PRESSURES AND CHALLENGES

In preparing the Budget 2023/24, a number of external influences have been taken into consideration because they are likely to impact significantly on the services delivered by Council in the Budget period. These include:

- The average rate increase will rise by 3.50% in 2023/24 under the Fair Go Rates System. Rate cap increases for Victorian councils have generally been linked to the forecast movement in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), although this year the rate increase is below the projected CPI forecast from the Department of Treasury and Finance of 4% for 2023/24.
- The cost of waste and recycling continues to rise due to the Victorian Government landfill levy increases and increasing volumes of waste and recyclable materials collected. The cost of processing co-mingled recyclable materials has risen from 2022/23 to 2023/24. There have been significant operational costs increases and increases associated with regulatory changes to both the local and international recycling markets.
- Inflationary pressures and supply issues continue to pose significant challenges to businesses, households, and economies worldwide in 2023. These challenges, particularly within the building and construction industry, have lead to persistent disruptions in supply chains across many markets, resulting in material shortages and increased costs. Whilst supply chain issues are resolving and these pressures are beginning to ease, it continues to present a challenge in accurately predicting costs for the 2023/24 Capital works program.
- Cost shifting by other levels of government. Cost shifting occurs where local government provides a service to the community on behalf of the State or Federal Governments. Over time, the funds received by Council do not increase in line with real cost increases. Examples of services that are subject to cost shifting include school crossing supervision and library services.
- The State Government Fire Services Property Levy will continue to be collected by Council on behalf of the state government under the *Fire Services Property Levy Act 2012*.
- Changing demographic as a result of an ageing and increasingly culturally diverse population resulting in the need for Council to develop facilities which are accessible and adaptable to inter-generational, diverse and multicultural community users.
- Community expectations for Council to be a leader in environmental sustainability by planning for the effects of climate change, education and awareness of the benefits of trees and natural bushland, and supporting the community in protecting and enhancing our natural assets and open spaces.

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- Impact of market competition particularly in relation to other leisure facilities in the local region.
- Interest rates have increased during the 2022/23 year resulting in favourable returns on Council's investments. Council's ability to generate earnings on cash and investments is expected to increase in 2023/24.
- The cost of maintaining Council's infrastructure assets. This is to ensure that infrastructure assets are provided to support services that are appropriate, accessible, responsive and sustainable to the community.
- The implementation in 2023/24 of a Waste Service Charge, that separates out the charge for waste and recycling services from the generate rates. Council conducted extensive community consultation on the rising cost of waste in 2021 and 2022, with survey respondents supporting fair and sustainable options for recovering the costs of waste. Having waste and recycling services charged as separate items means Council can recover the actual cost of delivering these services. Changes to the Waste Service Charge over time will reflect actual changes to the costs of delivering the services.
- After careful consideration and detailed consultation, Council has decided to not to renew its contracts to provide WHACS services including domestic assistance, personal care, flexible respite, home maintenance & modifications, allied health, social support, delivered meals and transport.
- Council will establish a new Positive Ageing Service to commence from 1 July 2023 and has been included into the 2023/24 budget.
- Council's Collective Agreement 2022 was approved by the Fair Work Commission in July 2022 and applies for the period 27 July 2022 to 27 July 2025. The 2023/24 Budget allows for an annual increment in line with the 2023/24 rate cap and Council's Collective Agreement 2022. The compulsory Superannuation Guarantee Scheme (SGC) will also increase from 10.50% to 11.00%.
- Council has an ongoing obligation to fund any investment shortfalls in the Defined Benefits Scheme. The last call on Local Government was in the 2012/13 financial year. The amount and timing of any liability is dependent on the global investment market. At present the actuarial ratios are at current levels that do not require additional calls. Council Officers continue to monitor this regularly.
- Council's Transformation process in 2023/24 builds on previous years of effort and includes increased focus on service planning and reviews and continuous improvement, the continuation of Council's Technology Transformation Program, delivery of a new organisational-wide Project Management Framework and improvements to organisational planning and reporting.

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SUPPORTING REPORT DETAILS

Legislative and Risk Implications

The review of the Council Plan has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Section 89 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

- (1) A Council must undertake the preparation of its Council Plan and other strategic plans in accordance with the strategic planning principles.
- (2e) Strategic planning must provide for ongoing monitoring of progress and regular reviews to identify and address changing circumstances.

The Budget 2023/24 (plus three subsequent financial years) has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Sections 94 and 96 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and *Local Government Planning and Reporting Regulations 2020*.

Equity, Inclusion, and Human Rights Considerations

In developing this report to Council, the subject matter has been considered in accordance with the requirements of the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

It is considered that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

Community Engagement

An extensive community engagement process was undertaken on the review of the Council Plan and development of the 2023/24 budget throughout September and October 2022. This included reviewing the Council Plan objectives, strategic actions and indicators, community online surveys, Vox Pops in Councillor Wards and at the Spring Festival, two drop in sessions and a prioritising workshop with the Shaping Whitehorse Panel.

More than 500 pieces of feedback were received. This feedback has contributed to the review of the Council Plan and informed the development of the Budget 2023/24. Early engagement meant Council could identify important themes and make informed decisions as the budget development progressed.

The themes emerged from the community feedback on the Council Plan and Budget were:

Council Plan themes

- New infrastructure/asset management
- Natural environment
- Health and wellbeing
- Programs and services
- Transport and roads

Budget 2023/24 themes

- Community infrastructure
- Hardcourts
- Open space amenity
- Ovals / reserves
- Paths and trails

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The Council Plan has been updated to clearly link Council activities with our strategic directions and alignment with the Community Vision 2040. Actions have been more clearly defined and measurable.

The outcomes of the engagement activities relating to the budget including key themes and initiatives funded are outlined in the 2023/24 Budget.

Groups that provided written feedback have been formally responded to and a closing the loop update has been provided on Your Say Whitehorse for the general community.

It is proposed that revised Council Plan 2021-2025 and Budget 2023/24 be placed on display via Council's online engagement platform, Your Say Whitehorse during the period 10th May 2023 to 24th May 2023.

The community are also invited to attend one of two information sessions where the Budget 2023/24 will be available for display. Council officers will be available to answer questions and discuss the budget.

Information sessions will be held:

Box Hill Town Hall, Wednesday 17 May, 6:30-8:30pm

And

Civic Centre Nunawading, Willis Room, Thursday 18 May, 6:30-8:30pm

Copies of the revised Council Plan 2021-2025 and Proposed Budget 2023/24 will also be made available at Council's customer service centres (Box Hill, Forest Hill and Nunawading), at the four Whitehorse library branches (Blackburn, Box Hill, Nunawading and Vermont South).

Financial and Resource Implications

The Budget 2023/24 incorporates year 3 of the revised *Council Plan 2021-2025* and outlines how resources will be allocated across initiatives, programs, services and capital works.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The changes to the Council Plan have been carefully considered to ensure the strategic intent of the Shaping Whitehorse panel and Council in the design of the initial plan in 2021 is maintained however the review of the plan is a key step in continuous improvement for Council and will have significant positive implications on planning across the organisation as the plan now more appropriately reflects the alignment with the Community Vision, only identifies actions of a strategic nature, is measurable and progress can be reported in a more meaningful way.

Collaboration

A review of the Council Plan involved meetings with all Council departments to undertake the community engagement, consider the strategic directions, objectives, strategic actions, indicators and supporting plans and policies.

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A cross-divisional working group was also formed to review the community feedback and discuss how to best address it in a revised Council Plan and to inform the Budget 2023/24.

The Budget 2023/24 which includes the development of operating and capital budgets for the 2023/24 year has been developed over a series of briefings with Councillors and each Council department.

Conflict of Interest

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

Conclusion

As per the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council Officers have developed the key strategic documents to address the priorities of our community and drive Council performance in 2023/24 and beyond. It is recommended that these documents are endorsed to be made available to the community, prior to final adoption in June 2023.

ATTACHMENT

- 1 Revised Council Plan for Implementation in Years 3 & 4
- 2 Proposed Budget 2023/24

10.5 Draft East Burwood Reserve Master Plan

Leisure and Recreation Services
Community Services
ATTACHMENT

SUMMARY

The draft East Burwood Reserve Master Plan (Attachment 1) has been developed to inform Council's future strategic approach to managing the reserve for maximum value to the Whitehorse community.

In implementing Council's Community Engagement Policy, community consultation needs to be undertaken on the draft master plan. This report seeks Council's endorsement to release the draft master plan to the community for feedback.

East Burwood Reserve has high community use across a wide variety of activities. The draft master plan has been developed considering the current use of facilities and the existing location.

To ensure the reserve meets the community's needs for years to come improvements and enhancement of existing qualities are recommended.

The draft master plan identifies future infrastructure projects to support current community activities with the following key outcomes proposed:

- Combine buildings for best community use and investment
- Enhance the identity and visibility of the reserve along Burwood Highway
- Improve and increase passive open space opportunities
- Improve access and circulation for walking, cycling and vehicles including carpark provision
- Embed environmental initiatives in line with Council's Urban Forest, Integrated Water Management and Sustainability strategies.

Releasing the draft East Burwood Reserve Master Plan for feedback will provide the community with opportunity to shape the future of the reserve and assist Council to maximise its use by the public over time.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorses the draft East Burwood Reserve Master Plan for community consultation commencing at the end of May 2023 for a one-month period.
2. Receives a further report detailing the feedback received on the draft East Burwood Reserve Master Plan with a recommendation for consideration.

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KEY MATTERS

East Burwood Reserve supports the most diverse range of sporting activities in the City of Whitehorse. The reserve includes an indoor basketball stadium, an athletic track, a velodrome, two ovals and nine tennis courts. It is also the home of the Whitehorse Club and the heritage listed East Burwood Hall. The reserve is 16 hectares in size and provides open space for a large range of informal social and recreation facilities.

The draft master plan acknowledges that existing buildings and facilities at the reserve are ageing. They no longer meet modern standards for organised sporting competition and the needs of current users. They are generally single purpose and do not support diverse community usage.

It is also recognised that facilities for organised sport are more extensive than those for informal or passive open space activities. The infrastructure supports sporting activities at the municipal and regional levels while passive components are generally attractive to local users only.

The draft master plan responds to the above by identifying projects prioritised over fifteen years. These projects will improve the experience of the local community users for both organised sport and informal activities. There are significant financial implications for Council associated with the priorities of the draft master plan. These are costed at a high-level within the document however are subject to change following more detailed planning.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

The draft master plan aligns with the Whitehorse City Council Plan 2021-2025 Strategic Direction 4: Our Built Environment; Movement, and Public Places, particularly Objective 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 to provide a range of high quality, flexible and accessible facilities and spaces that build connection in the built natural, heritage and social environments for the community. Similar priorities for Council are contained within Theme 2 – Movement and Public Spaces of the Whitehorse 2040 Community Vision. The document also responds to Theme 5 – Sustainable Climate and Environmental Care.

The draft master plan informs Council's future approach to managing the reserve and aligns with themes and actions of the Whitehorse Recreation Strategy 2015-2024, namely Theme 1 – Active Communities and Theme 3 – Flexible Facilities.

The upgrade of existing Council indoor sporting facilities is a recommendation of the Whitehorse Indoor Sports Facility Feasibility Study with Nunawading Basketball Stadium identified as a priority across the municipality. The preparation of a master plan for East Burwood Reserve is also a key recommendation of the document.

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BACKGROUND

East Burwood Reserve is classified as Municipal level open space and is 16 hectares in area. The first parcel of land was acquired in 1925. It has developed since then to become an important place for the community, community groups and sporting clubs.

The site supports a diverse range of active and passive recreation activities in the municipality. The reserve includes the below facilities:

Club Based Sports Facilities

Nunawading Basketball Centre

- Council-managed through a lease to the Nunawading Amateur Basketball Association (NABA), including Melbourne East Basketball Association (MEBA)
 - Organisation was formed in 1963 after the establishment of member clubs in the 1950s
- The centre contains five courts and supporting amenities
 - Originally two courts built in 1969
 - Additional two courts were built in 1983 with a fifth court added in 1989
 - NABA completed an extensive renovation to the front of the centre in 1996 worth approximately \$1.5 million
- The stadium is used seven days a week year-round for competition, training and other programs
 - 1,039 domestic junior and senior teams with an estimated 9,500 players in 2022
 - This number is expected to rise by 20% by mid-2023 to return to pre-pandemic levels
 - In addition to Nunawading Basketball Centre another sixteen courts across nine venues are utilised to accommodate NABA junior competition.
 - All NABA venues are at full capacity from 4pm-11pm weekdays and 8am-7:30pm Saturday & 8am-11pm Sunday
 - Home to MEBA and its highly successful representative teams - the Nunawading Spectres
 - The Centre and the Nunawading Spectres host a highly successful tournament run over Queen's Birthday Weekend annually with an estimated
 - 655 Teams and 7,521 participants
 - Use of 63 courts for 1721 games

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- Hosts school competitions, clinics and community events
- SEDA College use the centre for their education programs

East Burwood Reserve North and South Ovals

- Council-managed by a seasonal licence allocation
- Two ovals for football and cricket each with a supporting pavilion and three-lane cricket practice nets (situated adjacent to the southern oval)
 - Both pavilions are aging and are at or approaching end of life
 - The southern pavilion is used extensively and does not meet Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) standards
- The two ovals cater primarily for the East Burwood Football Netball Club and the East Burwood Cricket Club as well as a number of secondary/overflow user groups
 - East Burwood Football Netball Club currently has two men's and one women's senior football teams as well as 285 junior members from Auskick through to under 16s, playing within the Eastern Football Netball League (EFNL). The club also has seven open age netball teams.
 - During the season the club uses the sports fields and the reserve often hosts EFNL finals matches.
 - East Burwood Football Netball Club was formed in 1911 and has a proud history having won 19 senior premierships including the 2022 Women's Division Three premiership
 - In season 1993, the new upstairs social and change rooms spaces along with a new ground at the south end of the complex were opened
 - East Burwood Cricket Club was formed in 1886 and merged with the Bennettswood Cricket Club in 1993. The clubs had been running a joint junior program for the previous two seasons, and with both clubs having declining senior player numbers and the new facilities at East Burwood Reserve it was a decision that made sense for both clubs. In August 2013 the members of the club voted to drop Bennettswood from the clubs name. The reasons for this were to
 - simplify the name
 - align the club with the East Burwood FC and especially its junior program
 - align the club with the local East Burwood community to better attract new players and sponsors.
 - The Club play in the Box Hill Reporter District Cricket Association and has recently won the McIntosh Shield in 2020-21 and 2016-17. It has been based at East Burwood Reserve for more than 100 years. The club has seen some recent decline in team numbers.

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- The club uses the ovals and cricket training nets for training and competition throughout the week.
- While the two clubs use both ovals in their seasons, there is overflow use for other local football and cricket clubs to maximise the use of the facilities.

Bill Sewart Athletics Track

- Council-managed through a lease with Bill Sewart Track Association
- Contains a 10 lane synthetic athletics track with a 12 lane front straight and electronic timing gates
- Associated field discipline facilities include throwing cages, jump pits, pole vault runway and high jump area
- The infield also has a soccer pitch in the infield
- The sporting infrastructure is supported by floodlighting, spectator terracing and pavilion, originally built in the early 1980s
 - The athletics track was upgraded to a synthetic surface in 1996/1997 and Council upgraded the floodlighting in 2020
- The facility hosts club training, club competition and school use year-round including:
 - Nunawading Athletics Club has 80 members from juniors (under 14's) to seniors (+ 50 years) with equal representation across men and women
 - Little Athletics Nunawading has 200 members (U7 to U16) with equal participation between boys and girls. Club competitions are run on Saturday morning during Summer (October – April) with a Winter Cross Country season running from April – July.
 - Victorian Masters Athletics - East Burwood host weekly events every Thursday evening averaging 30 to 70 participants with equal representation across both men and women with the median age between 50-60 years.
 - Nunawading Triathlon Club started in 1990 and offer Adult, Student, Junior (15-17) and social memberships The Club utilises the track on Wednesday evenings for training.
 - The track is used for training Monday to Friday and competition Saturday and Sunday
 - The infield soccer pitch is used by various clubs as an overflow venue
 - 87 schools and 12 district athletics competitions estimated to total of 50,000 school students per annum

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Velodrome and sports pavilion

- Council-managed through a lease with Blackburn Cycling Club
- The velodrome is the only velodrome in South-East Melbourne (next competition track is Warragul)
- The Blackburn Cycling Club is 76 years old and has been based at East Burwood Reserve for 74 years
- The Blackburn Cycling Club has 280 members (75% male/ 25% female; 40% adult/ 60% juniors) and has seen growth in the past 4 years, led by junior growth
- Blackburn Cycling Club offers track, road (criterion) and cyclo-cross cycling disciplines throughout the week.
- The concrete velodrome was built in the 1950s and supporting pavilion built in 1987, recently
 - \$700,000 has been secured by the club to extend the pavilion
 - \$200,000 has been secured by the club to install floodlighting
- The pavilion is not able to meet existing training activity demand
- The velodrome complies with intra club racing standards but can only accommodate one pursuit rider at a time
- The club also use the Darebin Indoor Sports Centre to meet their participation requirements.

Tennis Courts and Clubrooms

- Council-managed through a lease to East Burwood Tennis Club
- Nine en-tout-cas and synthetic courts and supporting clubrooms
 - Two en-tout-cas courts are not used and have become overgrown
- East Burwood Tennis Club was formed in 1923, the original courts consisted of 2 asphalt courts which are now the current courts 8 & 9 and the clubhouse was a wooden shed with a tin roof.
- In 1966 with funding from membership contribution an additional five courts were added. The East Burwood Tennis Club continued to experience strong membership growth so an additional two clay courts were added along with an upgrade to the Clubhouse. The renovation was mainly carried out and completed mostly by volunteer club members.
- Since the late 1990s a number of court renewals and upgrades have been undertaken with the assistance of funding from Council and the State Government.
- The club is a multi-cultural and community diverse club with an estimated 200 members using the courts every day of the week for practice and competition. The club has historically been a large club but prior to the pandemic participation had been in decline.

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Community Facilities

Burwood Hall (Heritage listed)

- Managed by Council's Arts and Cultural Services department
- The hall seats up to 100 people and has kitchen facilities, polished timber floors and can be divided into two spaces, it also has disability access.
- The hall is used by community and commercial groups for activities such as dance classes, church services, yoga sessions, seniors programs, private functions, training workshops and seminars
- The building and land within the surrounding two metres is subject to Heritage overlay controls.

Whitehorse Club

- Council-managed through a lease to The Whitehorse Club
- The Whitehorse Club building has spaces for functions and convertible to sporting activity
- The Whitehorse Club is a members based Social club
- The club currently provides weekly member events on Tuesday evenings and Thursday lunches
- Whitehorse Club Social functions are a mixture of social, sporting, musical, regional and religious nature. Some are in celebration of Italian history and tradition.
- The Whitehorse Club has a senior's group known as the 'Circolo Anziani' who hold luncheons with live music numerous times of the year
- The Whitehorse Club was formed in 1985 as The Eastern Suburbs Italian Club, and was situated in Blackburn. The club relocated to East Burwood Reserve in 1988 and constructed a building on land leased from Council for 25 years.
 - The building was extended in the 1990s, funded by a loan taken by the club. The loan has been serviced by revenue raised from commercial bookings for events and other commercial arrangements with organisations such as the Manhattan 8ball Pool Club, Blacklords Fencing Club, Wendon Dance Studio, Boxing Victoria and Battle Championship Wrestling.
- At its peak the club was home to over 700 members and currently has an estimated 300 members
- The building has been maintained by dedicated volunteers and now the structural elements of the building are in poor condition and are approaching end of life
- The lease for the building has been in over holding for 4-5 years and membership of the club has been in decline.

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Public Open Space and Amenities

- Two play spaces – north and south
- Pedestrian paths
- Informal open space
- Informal mountain bike track
- Car parking
- Public Toilets

The reserve is immediately adjacent to Tally Ho Business Park where significant change and growth is anticipated in the next 15 to 25 years.

DISCUSSION AND OPTIONS

Community needs - Stakeholders

A key theme identified through stakeholder consultation was that many of the existing sports pavilions and assets are aging and may no longer meet modern standards for organised sports competition and current user needs. Additionally, the location and design of the buildings do not promote joint or community use and impact the layout of the open space of the reserve.

The draft master plan provides the following commentary and recommendations regarding the facilities of the current sport and recreation and community stakeholders of the reserve.

Nunawading Basketball Centre

The stadium is well used but ageing, no longer meeting modern building standards or compliance with state sporting association standards. The draft master plan has identified its redevelopment as a medium priority. To meet current and future demand the redevelopment of the stadium is proposed to have up to eleven indoor courts. A redevelopment of this size will have significant financial implications. A detailed business case will need to be developed in the future to determine the feasibility of the proposed redevelopment in the future.

East Burwood Reserve North and South Ovals

The two ovals are serviced by separate pavilions. The northern oval pavilion had previously been decommissioned but has been maintained to be able to be allocated to sports clubs to support ongoing participation. Likewise, the southern pavilion is ageing and does not meet DDA standards.

The draft master plan has identified the replacement of the two pavilions with one new pavilion as a high priority. A nominal future budget allocation has been apportioned for design and construction in Council's future capital works program. Both primary sporting clubs have expressed that their preferred pavilion location would be on the wing of the southern sports field for best spectator and participant viewing. The draft master plan proposes

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exploration of a location between the two ovals to service them both along with upgrade of the existing terraced spectator zone on the western wing.

The sports field floodlighting on the northern oval does not meet the required Australian Standards and association guidelines. The draft master plan identifies the upgrade of floodlighting as a high priority.

The East Burwood Cricket Club would like a new location for the cricket training nets to be considered due to concerns about the trees located on the west creating shade when used in the afternoons. The draft master plan identifies relocation as a high priority and also considers the opportunity to develop a multiuse training facility that caters for cricket, netball and other sporting activities.

Bill Sewart Athletics Track

The athletics track requires resurfacing and the sub-surface structure needs rectification while drainage and irrigation would improve the condition of the infield. Track works are identified as a high priority in the draft master plan.

The pavilion is aging and does not meet contemporary building and Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) standards. Access and inclusion to the track has been identified as a high priority.

In addition to these works a number of other assets have been identified to improve the overall precinct including the redevelopment of the associated sporting pavilion.

Blackburn Cycling Club

In addition to the cycling pavilion extension which will be undertaken through funding sourced by the club, the draft master plan identifies a space for the club to meet their activity needs in the proposed community sporting pavilion located nearby between the two ovals.

The track needs re-surfacing and this is identified as a high priority in the draft master plan. The club has advocated for a new competition-compliant velodrome as the existing facility only complies with intra club racing standards. However, this redevelopment would require a longer straight and wider track and is not feasible due to the physical constraints of the site.

East Burwood Tennis Club

The pavilion is ageing and needs an electrical and amenity upgrade. The draft master plan report identifies redevelopment of the pavilion as a low priority based on declining participation numbers.

Whitehorse Club

The Whitehorse Club has a long history with Whitehorse and its activities are valued by the community and members. Due to the condition of the building,

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rising upkeep costs and the Whitehorse Club's financial pressure of operating and maintaining the facilities, the draft master plan recommends the decommissioning of the Whitehorse Club building. If this option was to be carried out, Council would work with the club to support their relocation to another suitable facility that would cater for the majority of their primary activities. Current hirers or sub tenants of the facility would also need to be supported to find alternate accommodation.

There is no timeframe or priority assigned for the decommissioning of the Whitehorse Club building with works unlikely to commence until other projects are determined and an alternate options for the Club identified. The existing physical footprint of the building would be removed to enable other projects within the reserve and open the sight lines into the reserve and visual amenity of the site.

East Burwood Hall

Opportunities identified in the draft master plan include developing the landscape around the hall to create a 'sense of place'. To achieve this it is recommended to include a covered connection and shared courtyard space with the East Burwood Tennis Club pavilion. These projects have been identified as a low priority. The draft master plan also calls for further investment in promoting and highlighting the heritage value of the hall.

Key open space outcomes to support community needs

The broader community and sporting users raised a number of issues regarding the functionality of the whole reserve. This included issues regarding paths of travel, limited car parking when the reserve hosts multiple large events and the need to improve general site amenity and assets.

Five key outcomes have been highlighted in the draft master plan to address sporting club infrastructure needs and ensure that the development of the East Burwood Reserve precinct caters for the whole community. These outcomes will ensure East Burwood Reserve maximises its potential to provide social and environmental benefits in a financially sustainable way, for the growing local community and others who use the site.

Combine buildings for efficient use and financial sustainability

The draft master plan recommends consolidating the two sporting oval pavilions into one centrally located community sporting pavilion and the redevelopment of the athletics sporting pavilion. These options were informed by assessment of the site's space, functionality considerations and stakeholder feedback.

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Enhance the identity and visibility of the reserve along Burwood Highway

The visual presence of the reserve along Burwood Highway is limited despite a 300-metre long road frontage. The first round of community consultation indicated the reserve is mostly known to residents who live close by and the members and families of the sports clubs. The draft master plan recommends opening up view lines from the Burwood Highway into the green space. This is proposed in the draft master plan to be achieved by:

- the removal of the Whitehorse Club building
- repositioning the Nunawading Basketball Centre
- considering the number of tennis courts required in the short term with long term provision guided by future tennis strategic planning.

Improve and increase passive open space opportunities as appropriate for a reserve with a municipal designation

East Burwood Reserve provides significant areas for both active and passive uses of open space. However, existing facilities provided in the reserve cater for organised sport more than informal usage. The infrastructure supports sporting activities at the municipal and regional levels while passive components are mostly attractive to local users only.

This could be attributed to:

- lack of barbecue facilities
- lack of a permanent public toilet
- no defined 'gathering space' for users to socialise at
- disconnected footpath network around the reserve
- two ageing local-level playgrounds
- designated mountain bike area has minimal bicycle facilities.

The draft master plan recommends developing passive open space amenities to a level on par with the active open space offerings of the reserve appropriate to its municipal designation.

Identified projects in the draft master plan include:

- round-reserve walking/cycling circuit track
- develop the existing northern play space to a municipal level with communal space
- municipal level youth space including pump track, skating area and multi-lined hard court space
- remove the southern play space and replace with a fenced dog park.

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While it is not ideal to provide two disjointed social recreation areas within the one reserve, the space at the north will not be able to accommodate all activities when taking into account the current provision of the area. As a long-term aspiration, it is possible to enhance the Newhaven Road entrance of the reserve to open up and include vehicle access. This would create a dual access frontage which is typically associated with municipal level open spaces.

Improve access and circulation for walking, cycling and vehicles including carpark provision

Both drivers and pedestrians using East Burwood Reserve have reported unsafe and inconvenient circulation. Not all areas of the reserve have direct connections, there are a few loop paths and there is a limited amount of safe crossing points. Many pathways are not separated or off-road, making them undesirable for users.

The draft master plan included traffic analysis to help re-establish a well-organised movement network that can service the various destinations/facilities in the reserve by walking, cycling and driving.

The traffic study undertaken ascertained traffic volume as well as peak and off-peak car parking requirements. The proposed network outlined in the draft master plan comprises a clearly defined vehicle circulation route with temporary exit route for large events. The pedestrian/cycling circuit track is separated from the vehicle route. An undercroft carpark would be explored as part of the stadium redevelopment project.

Embed environmental initiatives in line with Council's Urban Forest, Integrated Water Management and Sustainability strategies

The reserve is home to significant trees and vegetation, including an area covered by a Significant Landscape Overlay. The draft master plan proposes a range of environmental initiatives including a mini arboretum to test climate resilient tree species. Water Sensitive Urban Design elements would be considered in the carpark with the potential to connect with the drainage reserve in the neighbouring Tally Ho Business Park. Building redevelopments will incorporate Environmental Sustainable Design Guidelines and Council will continue to work with Yarra Valley Water to explore opportunities to use recycled water as available.

Endorsing the draft master plan

The development of the draft master plan identifies and prioritises a number of projects that complement and impact each other. For these to be delivered successfully over time, careful planning and coordination by Council is required. A long-term vision for the site will assist Council and stakeholders to advocate for funding.

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Officers are seeking endorsement to progress to a second round of community engagement. This would release the draft master plan report to the community for comment. The second phase of community engagement is a key stage in the delivery of the draft master plan. Once a final master plan is endorsed by Council it will be used to plan and prepare detailed design documents, facilitate advocacy for the external funding required to deliver on the priorities.

The endorsing of the Master Plan for public consultation does not commit Council to the delivery of Master Plan or priority projects within it.

SUPPORTING REPORT DETAILS

Legislative and Risk Implications

There are no legal or risk implications arising from the recommendation contained in this report.

Equity, Inclusion, and Human Rights Considerations

In developing this report to Council, the subject matter has been considered in accordance with the requirements of the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

It is considered that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

Community Engagement

An extensive community consultation process has been undertaken. The draft master plan has been informed by input from East Burwood Reserve user groups, local residents, the broader Whitehorse community, Councillors, Council staff and other stakeholders.

Consultation included one-on-one meetings (stakeholders), 'Your Say' surveys (community), a community drop-in session (residents) and a stakeholder workshop. A total of 647 submissions were received from the community through Council's 'Your Say' page.

Once the draft master plan is endorsed to release for community comment, it is intended that a second consultation process will be undertaken to engage with the local community on the future directions suggested. The following consultation methods are planned:

- One-on-one meetings with key stakeholders
- A general mail out to all residents and businesses within a 400m radius of the reserve advising them that the draft master plan is available, how to view or obtain a copy of the plan, and dates for public consultation meetings.

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- Make the draft master plan available for download from Council's 'Your Say' page
- An onsite community drop-in session

It is intended that the consultation period will last one month. Following this, all feedback will be considered and necessary changes made to the document. Councillors will then be provided with an updated plan for consideration and adoption.

Financial and Resource Implications

The draft master plan contains high, medium and low priority projects that if implemented will impact on Council's Capital and Recurrent budgets.

- High priority projects are proposed from years 1-5 (2022/23-2027/28)
- Medium priority projects are proposed from year 5-10 (2027/28-2032/33)
- Long term projects are proposed for beyond 10 years (2033/34-onwards).

Initial indicative costs for high priority projects are estimated in excess of \$16 million. Over \$9 million of this is attributed to the design and construction of a consolidated community sporting pavilion between the two sport fields which is currently identified in Council's 10 year capital works program. These cost estimates are preliminary only and are subject to a detailed feasibility and design process which will identify what the cost for each component.

Implementation of the draft master plan is subject to Council's annual budget processes and available funding. Opportunities for state or federal government funding may become available for a number of key projects identified in the draft master plan. These would be assessed on an individual basis at the time of project implementation.

Further details regarding cost estimates of different projects is provided in the draft master plan.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

There are no Innovation and Continuous Improvement matters arising from the recommendation contained in this report.

Collaboration

The project managers of the Recreation and Open Space Development team have collaborated with officers in the below departments:

- Project Delivery and Assets
- Parks and Natural Environment
- Arts and Cultural Services
- Leisure and Recreation Services

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Conflict of Interest

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.

Conclusion

The draft East Burwood Reserve Master Plan has been developed in consultation with the community and other key stakeholders. The proposed second stage of community consultation will provide the Whitehorse community the opportunity to comment on proposed developments of the site and address whether their needs have been met. Community feedback on the draft master plan will be considered before returning to Council for endorsement of a final document.

ATTACHMENT

- 1 Draft East Burwood Reserve Master Plan Report

10.6 Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy 2022-2032

Leisure and Recreation Services
Community Services
ATTACHMENT

SUMMARY

This purpose of this report is to present the Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy (MERSRS) to Council and seek endorsement of the strategy to assist future collaboration on sport and recreation facility delivery at a regional level. All Councils of the region have endorsed or are considering the MERSRS currently.

The MERSRS was established in 2016 to guide the regional strategic sport and recreation priorities for Melbourne's Eastern Region of Councils (Knox, Manningham, Maroondah, Monash, Whitehorse and Yarra Ranges) and the City of Boroondara.

The MERSRS has been reviewed and updated over the past 12 months (see Attachment 1). The updated document:

- Acknowledges the emergence of new trends and issues across the region since 2016;
- Aims to advance the collaborative relationships between all stakeholders and;
- Updates strategic priorities to influence the delivery of regional projects in particular for the next 10 years and beyond.

The strategy supports existing regional facility priorities in Whitehorse identified by Council including development of Box Hill City Oval and gaps of provision for indoor sports but does not commit Council to new projects at this point.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorses the Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy 2022-2032.

KEY MATTERS

Regional level sport and recreation facilities are generally significant in scale when compared with other offerings within Councils and provide increased levels of participation in terms of quantity and diversity. These facilities draw participation from across Council borders and as such their development and delivery are influenced by cross-municipal factors such as facility duplication, participant catchment and competition between municipalities for external funding.

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The MERSRS identifies the following regional issues affecting local government authorities related to the delivery of these facilities:

- Increasing participation, population growth and increasing urban density is placing pressure on open space provision and existing sport and recreation infrastructure.
 - o The strategy reports 28,416 registered participants in 2021 living within Whitehorse across 16 major sporting codes.
- COVID-19 has impacted the way people participate, during and since the pandemic formal sport has seen some decline while informal and flexible recreation activities have increased.
- Council capacity to invest in sporting facilities has been impacted by rate-capping and other financial constraints, highlighting the need for partnerships between all levels of government and stakeholders to advocate for joint priorities.

Detailed regional contextual knowledge and a collaborative approach to addressing strategic priorities across the region is needed to help Councils address shared challenges, best utilise their own resources and advocate in a strategic way to deliver these significant facilities across the region.

The four pillars of the MERSRS support the above aims:

- Pillar One – A balanced network of regional sport and recreation facilities.
- Pillar Two – Knowing and understanding the region
- Pillar Three - A collaborative approach to regional planning, policy development and advocacy
- Pillar Four - Shared resources and support for regional sport and recreation

While the MERSRS provides high-level guidance and direction for sport and recreation planning across the region, it does not commit Council to any projects that are not already included as part of existing budgets. Future joint planning and development initiatives will be considered on a case-by-case basis requiring strong alignment to Whitehorse's sport and recreation priorities and return significant benefit to its community.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

This strategy aligns with the Whitehorse City Council Plan 2021-2025 across a variety of objectives of Strategic Direction 4: Our Built Environment; Movement, and Public Places. The principles, themes and actions of the City of Whitehorse Recreation Strategy 2015-2024 support Whitehorse's involvement, specifically addressed by action 28 to actively participate in the Strategy's development.

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Policy

This strategy complements and indirectly impacts the ongoing implementation of active Council leisure and recreation policy and strategies through guiding sport and recreation priorities at a regional level. Of particular relevance is Council's Recreation Strategy 2015-2024, the Whitehorse Open Space Strategy (under review), Pavilion Development Policy, Sporting Facilities Guide and Indoor Sports Study as well as ongoing consideration for forward planning in relation to Council's capital works renewal programs.

BACKGROUND

Regional Sporting Facilities

Regional level sport and recreation facilities are generally significant in scale when compared with other offerings within Councils and play an important role in contributing to the health and wellbeing of communities.

Characteristics that define these facilities include:

- Offering a range of participation outcomes for the community and cater for multiple sports or activities
- Serving a broad catchment across multiple municipal boundaries
- Can facilitate a range of competitions (local, state and/or national) and have the ability to host medium to large scale events
- Able to attract funding and support from regionally focused funding programs

Examples of regional-level facilities within Whitehorse include Nunawading Basketball Centre, Aqualink Box Hill and Nunawading, RHL Sparks Reserve, Sportlink, Wembley Park and Box Hill City Oval.

Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy 2016 (MERSRS 2016)

The MERSRS was established in 2016 to guide the regional strategic priorities of seven local government authorities in Melbourne's Eastern region (Boroondara, Knox, Manningham, Maroondah, Monash, Whitehorse and Yarra Ranges).

The development of the strategy was driven at the time by:

- A lack of a regional approach to identifying sport and recreation priorities
- Gaps in regional facility provision in some sports as well as duplication and oversupply in others
- Limited regional stakeholder collaboration
- Declining capacity and ability of Councils to fund large-scale regional priorities in addition to servicing local sporting needs

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The MERSRS 2016 provided a strategy and regional planning framework that focused primarily on collective action for three key areas of 'Governance and Partnerships', 'Knowing and Understanding the Region' and 'Facility and Shared Trail Development'.

Key outcomes of the work including the ongoing operation of the Melbourne East Region Project Steering Group to collaborate regularly on regional issues, the development of the Eastern Regional Trails Strategy and other regional sporting strategic pieces and the strengthening of partnerships between Councils, state sporting associations, Sport and Recreation Victoria and other stakeholders.

DISCUSSION AND OPTIONS

2022 Review and Council Endorsement

This review and update of the MERSRS seeks to build on the foundation provided by the original strategy, while acknowledging the emergence of new trends and issues across the region. It has been reviewed and updated over the past 12 months (as attached) aiming to advance the collaborative relationships between all stakeholders and update strategic priorities to influence the delivery of regional projects in particular for the next 10 years and beyond.

All Councils of the region have endorsed or are considering the MERSRS currently. Whitehorse City Council has itself identified a number of future regional sport and recreation facility priorities in the municipality through its Indoor Sports Study and other capital works planning. An agreed, collaborative approach proposed by the MERSRS endorsed by Councils of the region will assist in the efficient and appropriate delivery of these significant facilities and help take into account cross-municipal influences such as facility duplication, participant catchments and competition for external funding between neighbouring municipalities.

Scope of MERSRS and Key Findings

The MERSRS is focused on regional level facilities for organised sport across the seven participating municipalities in Melbourne's east. While there are observed trends of increasing active recreation at the local level, it is acknowledged that this participation is generally localised in nature (e.g. residents often walking or commuting less than 400 meters to their nearest local open space for their activity). As such, since facility development and activation addressing these activities are mainly delivered locally rather than regionally, active recreation is not addressed in detail in this strategy.

Key findings include:

- Increasing participation, population growth, increasing urban density and climate change is placing pressure on open space provision and existing sport and recreation infrastructure.

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- Regional population is projected to grow 16.6% by 2036, representing an increase of approximately 200,000 residents (including 35,000-40,000 in Whitehorse).
- Demographic changes will also give rise to a number of emerging community recreation needs in future.
 - While there is growth projected in all age cohorts in this time, overall the region's population is aging and becoming more diverse.
- COVID-19 has impacted the way people participate, during and since the pandemic formal sport has seen some decline (recently showing signs of recovery) while informal and flexible recreation activities have increased.
- Council capacity to invest in sporting facilities has been impacted by rate-capping and other financial constraints, highlighting the need for partnerships between all levels of government and stakeholders to advocate for joint priorities.

Strategic Priorities 2022-2032

To address the key findings and achieve greater outcomes working collaboratively than as individual Councils, the MERSRS identifies priorities to establish a network approach to planning, regional facility development and stakeholder collaboration.

The pillars of the MERSRS and their priorities are:

- Pillar One – A balanced network of regional sport and recreation facilities.
 - Progress the delivery of established regional priorities
 - Address gaps in facility provision
 - Plan for emerging and underrepresented sport and recreation activities
 - Partner with schools and other land managers
- Pillar Two – Knowing and understanding the region
 - Plan for population growth
 - Analyse data to understand trends and identify needs
 - Consider and plan for the impacts of urban development on facilities
- Pillar Three - A collaborative approach to regional planning, policy development and advocacy
 - Collaborate regularly between member Councils
 - Develop regional sport and recreation strategies
 - Collaborate on policy development for consistency
 - Form regional partnerships to plan, advocate and fund priorities

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- Pillar Four - Shared resources and support for regional sport and recreation
 - o Engage with state sporting associations and other peak sporting bodies at a regional level
 - o Provide regional development opportunities for stakeholders to discuss regional issues and opportunities
 - o Share a suite of resources to improve shared regional planning and advocacy

The MERSRS and the City of Whitehorse

The Strategy provides high-level guidance and direction for Sport and Recreation Planning across the region. It does not commit Council to any funds that are not already included as part of existing budgets. Future joint planning and development initiatives will be considered on a case-by-case basis (and will not always be facility related) and no Council is committed to contribute to any particular project. Ongoing commitment to regional collaboration is a priority of Leisure and Recreation Services operations.

While the strategy primarily discusses the above priorities at a regional level, items of specific interest or relevance to Whitehorse include:

- Noting of Box Hill City Oval Facility Upgrade as a key regional infrastructure priority for the region
- While not nominating a specific site in the Eastern Region (or Whitehorse) the strategy supports a number of Council's own priorities from other documents such as the Indoor Sports Study including:
 - o Delivery of additional indoor court space for basketball, netball and volleyball (including partnerships with schools to address shortfall)
 - o Monitor the growth of badminton and table tennis and identify opportunities for purpose built facilities
 - o Additional floorspace for gymnastics based on ongoing assessment of demand
- Ongoing commitment called for to the Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Steering Group
- Implementation of the Victorian Government Fair Access Policy Roadmap consistently across the region
- Collective advocacy for facility redevelopment and renewal funding and resource needs based on participation and population trends

SUPPORTING REPORT DETAILS

Legislative and Risk Implications

There are no legal or risk implications arising from the recommendation contained in this report.

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Equity, Inclusion, and Human Rights Considerations

In developing this report to Council, the subject matter has been considered in accordance with the requirements of the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*. It is considered that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

The strategy support the principles in the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*. Pillar Three of the strategy 'a collaborative approach to regional planning, policy development and advocacy' contains recommendations to continue to address issues of sporting equity including to 'implement the Victorian Government Fair Access Policy Roadmap consistently across the region' and 'conduct gender impact assessments for all regional facility development proposals and initiatives'. These recommendations will assist the delivery of equal sporting opportunity to people of all genders and diverse groups.

Community Engagement

No community engagement undertaken by Council was required for this report. An external consultant was engaged to develop this review on behalf of the Eastern Region Group of Councils and the City of Boroondara.

Alongside direct engagement with the involved Councils, the consultant also conducted meetings with each of the following peak sporting bodies:

AFL Victoria, AusCycling, Badminton Victoria, Baseball Victoria, Basketball Victoria, Bowls Victoria, Calisthenics Victoria, Cricket Victoria, Football Victoria, Gymnastics Victoria, Hockey Victoria, Netball Victoria, NRL Victoria, Rugby Victoria, Swimming Victoria, Tennis Victoria and Volleyball Victoria.

Financial and Resource Implications

There are no significant financial or resource implications arising from the recommendation contained in this report.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

There are no Innovation and Continuous Improvement matters arising from the recommendation contained in this report.

Collaboration

As detailed previously, this project was a joint venture of the Eastern Region Group of Councils and the City of Boroondara directing the sport and recreation consultant insideEDGE.

Conflict of Interest

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

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Conclusion

Endorsement of the MERSRS will assist Council alongside fellow Eastern Region Councils to continue to efficiently plan, advocate for and deliver regional sporting priorities and achieve greater participation outcomes collectively for the residents of the region.

Following endorsement, Council would continue to contribute as an active member of the Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Steering Group and work collaboratively on the actions of the MERSRS and a variety of region priorities, including the upcoming regional approach to rolling out the Victorian Government Fair Access Policy Roadmap.

ATTACHMENT

- 1 Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy 2022 - 2032 - Final

10.7 Tender Evaluation (Contract 30439) - Receival, Processing and Management of Green and Timber Waste at the Whitehorse Recycling and Waste Centre

City Services
Infrastructure
ATTACHMENT

SUMMARY

Council provides a wide range of recycling and waste services to the community at the Whitehorse Recycling and Waste Centre. One of the most popular services is green and timber waste. The service ensures that the green and timber waste can be recycled and used as a resource for compost and other mulch related products and diverting it from landfill.

This report considers tenders received for receival, processing and management of green and timber waste at the Whitehorse Recycling and Waste Centre and to recommend the acceptance of the tender received from Repurpose It Pty Ltd on a Schedule of Rates basis for a period of three years commencing on 1 July 2023 with the option to extend for up to two years at Council's discretion.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Accepts the tender and signs the formal contract document for Contract 30439 Receival, Processing and Management of Green and Timber Waste at the Whitehorse Recycling and Waste Centre received from Repurpose It Pty Ltd (ABN 85 617 095 413), of 460 Cooper Street Epping, on a Schedule of Rates basis for a period of three years commencing on 1 July 2023.
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer and Director Infrastructure to award an extension of this contract, subject to a review of the Contractor's performance and Council's business needs, at the conclusion of the initial three year contract term

KEY MATTERS

Council provides a wide range of recycling and waste services to the community at the Whitehorse Recycling and Waste Centre (the Centre). One of the most popular services is the collection of green and timber waste. The service ensures that the green and timber waste can be recycled and used as a resource for compost and other mulch related products and diverting it from landfill.

The Centre receives up to 12,000 tonnes of green and timber waste per year, including green organics such as branches, grass clippings, weeds, vines, and untreated timbers. This contract is to appoint a contractor to receive, process and manage the green and timber waste.

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Council charges a fee to customers to drop off the green and timber waste to an area that is managed by a contractor. The contractor supervises customers dropping off materials in the green and timber waste area. It is stockpiled and when there is a sufficient amount of material, the contractor arranges for it to be transported for further processing. The Contract is based on a rate per tonne to take the materials from the Centre.

The contractor is required to supply a full time supervisor on site for all of the time that the Centre is open to inspect material as it is brought into the green and timber waste area to ensure that it is contaminant free and manages the unloading area keeping it accessible for customers to unload safely.

The Contract is a Schedule of Rates that is subject to CPI adjustments. The term of the contract is three years commencing on 1 July 2023, with an option to extend the contract for up to two years at Council's discretion. This arrangement provides for some flexibility for Council should the operational needs of the Centre change or if it assessed that there has been a material change in input costs associated with the provision of green and timber waste processing services.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

This contract aligns with:

- Strategic Direction 5: Sustainable Climate and Environmental Care.
- Objective 5.3: Enable and build capacity for the community to reduce, reuse, and recycle using circular waste principles.

BACKGROUND

Tenders were advertised and closed on 8 March 2023. Five tenders were received.

The tenders were evaluated against the following criteria:

- Cost to Council;
- Credibility;
- Capability;
- Social and Environmental sustainability; and
- Occupational Health & Safety and Equal Opportunity (Pass/Fail).

The recommended tenderer, Repurpose It Pty Ltd has been operating for 47 years including five years under the current business name and currently holds contracts with multiple councils including the receipt and processing of food and organics materials, street sweepings and hard and soft timbers for distribution into re-use markets.

As shown in Confidential Attachment 1, the tender received from Repurpose Pty Ltd is assessed to provide the best value for money for this contract.

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SUPPORTING REPORT DETAILS

Legislative and Risk Implications

There are no legal or risk implications arising from the approval for this tender evaluation.

Consultation

Council's Procurement team has been consulted to ensure that the procurement is compliant with the Procurement Policy. The scoping of the services and evaluation was undertaken with input from the relevant officers within City Services. The preferred tenderer's business viability has been considered.

Collaboration

The Whitehorse Recycling and Waste Centre effectively operates as a separate business unit that is in competition with other similar centres in the region. Therefore, the option a collaborative tender with other councils or centres is not feasible.

Financial and Resource Implications

The Contract is based on a Schedule of Rates. The rates are subject to a CPI adjustment on each anniversary of the contract.

The tender offer was evaluated by multiplying the tendered rate per tonne by the estimated quantity of 12,000 tonnes of green and timber waste for the 2023/2024 financial year.

It is estimated that the expenditure under this contract over the initial contract term including the estimated CPI increases is \$3,191,171 including GST. This expenditure will increase to approximately \$5,594,370 including GST if the options to extend the contract are exercised.

All costs incurred under this contract will be charged to the relevant recurrent budgets and offset by gate fee income received from the customers.

Provision of this service provides Council with a financial surplus.

Discussion and Options

Repurpose It Pty Ltd is the current contractor for this service. The service has been delivered to a high standard with its performance and safety standards closely monitored and measured through regular audits, communication and meetings. The evaluation of this tender has shown that Repurpose It Pty Ltd provides the best value for money.

Conflict of Interest

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

10.7
(cont)

Conclusion

It is recommended that Council appoint Repurpose It Pty Ltd for the receipt, processing and management of green and timber waste at the Whitehorse Recycling and Waste Centre.

ATTACHMENT

- 1 30439 Weighted Attribute Evaluation Form - Confidential

Whitehorse City Council designates this attachment and the information contained in it as CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION pursuant to Section 3 (1) (a) of the Local Government Act 2020, that relates to Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.

10.8 Change of 2023 Council Meeting Date for Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor

Governance and Integrity
Corporate Services

SUMMARY

Council resolved at its meeting on 26 September 2022 to adopt the Council Meeting schedule for 2023.

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and Council's Governance Rules, scheduled Council Meeting dates may be amended by a Council resolution when required. Council must provide reasonable notice to the public of any change of a scheduled Council Meeting date.

The purpose of this report is to consider rescheduling the Council Meeting (Election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor) from Wednesday 8 November 2023 to Tuesday 14 November 2023; the proposed change in date is due to a scheduling clash for some Councillors.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Approves the change of date for the Council Meeting for the Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor from Wednesday 8 November 2023 to Tuesday 14 November 2023.
2. Notes that the date for the Council Meeting for the Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be updated on the schedule of 2023 Council Meeting Dates published on Council's website.

KEY MATTERS

- Council Meeting dates for 2023 have been scheduled taking into consideration Victorian Public Holidays and the expected dates for the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly, which Whitehorse Councillors may attend.
- A total of 19 Ordinary Meetings and one (1) Council Meeting (Election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor) have been scheduled for 2023.
- The dates and venues of Council Meetings are published in Council publications and on the Council website.
- Council may by resolution amend the date, time and place of a Council Meeting.
- In accordance with section 26(4) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, if a Mayor is elected for a 1 year term, the next election of the Mayor must be held as close to the end of the 1 year term as is reasonably practicable.
- The previous election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor was held on 9 November 2022.

10.8

(cont)

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Council Plan

The following strategy relates to the scheduling of the Council Meeting dates:

8.3.4: Ensure Council meetings and reports are informed, accessible and transparent to the community

Policy

Council's Governance Rules state that Council may change the date, time and place of any Council meeting which has been fixed and must provide reasonable notice of the change to the public.

SUPPORTING REPORT DETAILS

Legislative and Risk Implications

Pursuant to s 60 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), Council is required to adopt and apply Governance Rules which describe the way it will conduct Council meetings and make decisions.

The Governance Rules outline the requirements to set Ordinary and Unscheduled Meetings, the procedures for Council Meetings and set the rules of behaviour for those participating and present at the meeting. They also outline the process for the appointment of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Equity, Inclusion, and Human Rights Considerations

In developing this report to Council, the subject matter has been considered in accordance with the requirements of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.

It is considered that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

Community Engagement

No community engagement was required for this report.

Financial and Resource Implications

There are no financial or resource implications arising from the recommendation contained in this report.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

There are no Innovation and Continuous Improvement matters arising from the recommendation contained in this report.

Collaboration

No collaboration was required for this report.

10.8

(cont)

Conflict of Interest

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.

Conclusion

That in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and Council's Governance Rules the change of date for the Council Meeting for the Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor from Wednesday 8 November 2023 to Tuesday 14 November 2023 be approved.

10.9 Records of Informal Meetings of Councillors

Governance and Integrity
Corporate Services

RECOMMENDATION

That the records of Informal Meetings of Councillors be received and noted.

Pre-Council Meeting Briefing 17 April 2023 – 6.32pm -6.42pm

Matter/s Discussed:	Councillors Present	Officers Present
	Cr Lane (Mayor & Chair)	S McMillan
	Cr Cutts (Deputy Mayor)	I Kostopoulos
	Cr Barker	L Letic
	Cr Carr	S Sullivan
	Cr Massoud	S White
	Cr Davenport	C Altan
	Cr Liu	V Ferlaine
	Cr McNeill	K Woods
	Cr Skilbeck	S Lozsan
	Cr Stennett	
Others Present N/A		
Disclosures of Conflict of Interest None Disclosed		
Councillor /Officer attendance following disclosure N/A		

Councillor Briefing 1 May 2023 – 6.30pm – 10.10pm

Matter/s Discussed:	Councillors Present	Officers Present
	Cr Lane (Mayor & Chair)	S McMillan
	Cr Cutts (Deputy Mayor)	S Cann
	Cr Barker	J Green
	Cr Carr	L Letic
	Cr Massoud	S Sullivan
	Cr Davenport	S White
	Cr Liu	C Altan
	Cr McNeill	V Ferlaine
	Cr Munroe	K Woods
	Cr Skilbeck	
	Cr Stennett	
Others Present:		
1. D Preiss – Independent member for the CEO Employment Matters Committee		
Disclosures of Conflict of Interest: None Disclosed		
Councillor /Officer attendance following disclosure: N/A		

11 COUNCILLOR DELEGATE AND CONFERENCE / SEMINAR REPORTS

11.1 Reports by Delegates

(NB: Reports only from Councillors appointed by Council as delegates to community organisations/committees/groups)

RECOMMENDATION

That the reports from delegates be received and noted.

Meetings attended by Councillors for the period December 2022 to March 2023

Delegated Committee	Delegate	Available Meetings	Attended
Audit and Risk Committee	Cr Skilbeck	1	Y
	Cr Barker	1	Y
Domestic Animal Management Plan Advisory Committee	Cr Barker	1	Y
	Cr Carr	1	Y
Eastern Affordable Housing Alliance	Cr Massoud	3	Y
Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) Executive Committee	Cr Barker	1	Y
Eastern Region Group of Councils	Cr Lane	2	Y
	Cr Cutts	2	Y
	Cr Massoud	2	Y
Eastern Transport Coalition	Cr Liu	2	Y
Environment and Sustainability Reference Group	Cr Cutts	1	Y
	Cr Massoud	1	Y
Local Government Working Group on Gambling	Cr Barker	1	Y
Heritage Steering Committee	Cr McNeill	0	NA
	Cr Stennett	0	NA
Local Government Working Group on Gambling	Cr Massoud	1	Y
	Cr Barker	1	Y
Municipal Association of Victoria	Cr Munroe	0	NA
Metropolitan Transport Forum	Cr McNeill	2	Y
	Cr Munroe	2	Y
Victorian Local Governance Association	Cr Massoud	0	NA
Visual Arts Advisory Committee	Cr Carr	1	Y
	Cr Stennett	1	N

11.1
(cont)

Whitehorse Business Group	Cr Massoud	2	Y
	Cr Munroe	2	Y
Whitehorse Disability Advisory Committee	Cr Massoud	2	Y
	Cr McNeill	2	Y
Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corp.	Cr Davenport	3	Y
	Cr Skilbeck	3	Y
Whitehorse Reconciliation Advisory Committee	Cr Massoud	1	Y
Whitehorse Sport and Recreation Reference Group	Cr Cutts	0	NA
	Cr Stennett	0	NA

11.2 Reports on Conferences/Seminars Attendance

RECOMMENDATION

That the record of reports on conferences/seminars attendance be received and noted.

12 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

13 CLOSE MEETING