



# Minutes

## Scheduled Council Meeting

Tuesday 16 December 2025 at 6pm

Council Chamber,  
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang



**City of  
Whittlesea**

# Councillors

Cr Lawrie Cox, Mayor	Ganbul Gulinj Ward
Cr Blair Colwell, Deputy Mayor	Mill Park Ward
Cr Nic Brooks	Thomastown Ward
Cr Deb Gunn	Painted Hills Ward
Cr Michael Labrador	Lalor Ward
Cr Jarrod Lappin	Mernda Ward
Cr David Lenberg	Epping Ward
Cr Aidan McLindon	Kirrip Ward
Cr Christine Stow	North Ward
Cr Martin Taylor	South Morang Ward
Cr Daniela Zinni	Bundoora Ward

# Executive Leadership Team

Craig Lloyd	Chief Executive Officer
Emma Appleton	Director Planning & Development
Agata Chmielewski	Director Community Wellbeing
Sarah Renner	Director Customer & Corporate Services
Debbie Wood	Director Infrastructure & Environment
Janine Morgan	Executive Manager Public Affairs
Jacinta Stevens	Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

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## **1 Opening**

### **1.1 Meeting Opening and Introductions**

The Chair opened the meeting at 6pm.

“Welcome to this Scheduled Council Meeting of 16 December 2025 which is being held in person in the Council Chamber at Civic Centre, 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang and also being live streamed.

I am Cr Lawrie Cox, Mayor of the City of Whittlesea and I would like to introduce our Councillors in attendance tonight.

Deputy Mayor, Cr Blair Colwell, Cr Deb Gunn, Cr Michael Labrador, Cr Jarrod Lappin, Cr Aidan McLindon, Cr Christine Stow, Cr Martin Taylor and Cr Daniela Zinni. We also have Cr David Lenberg joining us virtually.

I would also like to introduce our Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd and ask that he in turn introduce the members of the Executive Leadership Team.”

“Good evening everyone, I would like to introduce:

Emma Appleton, Director Planning & Development;  
Agata Chmielewski, Director Community Wellbeing;  
Sarah Renner, Director Customer & Corporate Services;  
Debbie Wood, Director Infrastructure & Environment;  
Janine Morgan, Executive Manager Public Affairs; and  
Jacinta Stevens, Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO.

Thank you Chair.”

### **1.2 Apology**

Cr Nic Brooks

### **1.3 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement**

The Chair read the following statement:

*“On behalf of Council, I recognise the rich Aboriginal heritage of this country and acknowledge the Wurundjeri Willum Clan and Taungurung People as the Traditional Owners of lands within the City of Whittlesea.*

*I would also like to acknowledge Elders past, present and emerging.”*

#### **1.4 Diversity and Good Governance Statement**

The Chair read the following statement:

*“At the City of Whittlesea we are proud of our diversity and the many cultures, faiths and beliefs that make up our community. We strive to be an inclusive welcoming City that fosters active participation, wellbeing and connection to each other and this land. We commit as a Council to making informed decisions to benefit the people of the City of Whittlesea now and into the future, to support our community’s vision of A Place For All.”*

#### **1.5 Acknowledgements**

The following acknowledgements were made:

##### **Condolences for Bondi Beach Victims**

I am deeply appalled and saddened by the horrific events that took place on Sunday at Bondi Beach.

The City of Whittlesea stands with Australia, and the rest of the world, in sending our heartfelt thoughts to the victims, their families and everyone touched by the terrible tragedy.

We thank the first responders, and the selfless civilians who helped those in need.

Our thoughts are with everyone affected by this devastating incident.

The City of Whittlesea is a proudly multicultural community, and we condemn any violence towards others based on hate, ethnicity or religious preferences. We will act to support our community irrespective of your faith or background now and in the future.”

At this point of the meeting a minute silence was held for those who lost their lives in the Bondi Beach tragedy.

##### **NGAA Annual Awards**

The City of Whittlesea was proud to be awarded the Advocacy for Growth Area Equity award at the National Growth Areas Alliance Annual Awards for our role in advocating for improved telecommunication services for local residents.

The win recognises the importance of advocating to ensure our growing communities have the infrastructure, connectivity, and services they need.

Congratulations to all those who were involved in this campaign.

### **Planning Award**

The City of Whittlesea also received a commendation at the Planning Institute Australia Vic Awards for Planning Excellence, in the category of Technology and Digital Innovation for our Development Contributions PowerBI Tool.

This tool, developed in-house, is a pioneering digital innovation that has transformed the way infrastructure contributions are tracked, forecasted, and planned across Council's key growth areas. It also provides practical benefits for the City of Whittlesea by enabling smarter infrastructure planning and better-informed decision making.

Congratulations again to all those involved in the project.

### **Northern Business Achievement Awards**

The City of Whittlesea congratulates two local business who received awards at the recent Northern Business Achievement Awards, hosted by NORTH Link.

Eifers Civil won the Innovation and Enterprise Award and Eriez Magnetics were awarded both the Digital Technology Award and Business of the Year Award.

These achievements showcase the strength, innovation and leadership of businesses in our municipality, helping to drive growth, local jobs and contribute to our thriving local economy.

### **International Day of People with Disability**

Every year on 3 December, we recognise International Day of People with Disability – a day that promotes awareness, understanding and acceptance. It also reminds us to celebrate inclusion and the many strengths people of all abilities bring to our community.

This year we were proud to partner with Thomastown Recreation and Aquatic Centre, Thomastown Neighbourhood House and Innovation Youth Centre for the "We are the Champions" celebration. This event provided a day full of activities, inspiration and unity for all involved.

### **Community Awards**

Nominations are now open for the City of Whittlesea Community Awards.

These awards shine a light on those who go above and beyond to help make the City of Whittlesea a great place to live.

If you know someone who makes a real difference in our community, I encourage you to nominate them for an award. There are five categories available. More information and a link to nominate is available on Council's website.

### Carols

Last Friday night we held a spectacular Christmas Carols event here on the Council lawns.

We had thousands of people come along to enjoy a range of family-friendly musical performances, children's activities, food trucks, and of course a special visit from Santa.

It was a wonderful evening for all involved. Thank you to everyone who helped to bring this festive event to life for our community.

### Christmas/Holiday Message

As we come to the end of the year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish those who are celebrating a wonderful Christmas, and to everyone in our community a safe, happy and healthy festive season.

## **2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

No declarations.

## **3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s**

### **Recommendation**

THAT Council confirm the minutes of the preceding meetings:

- Scheduled Council Meeting (Election of Mayor & Deputy Mayor) held on 18 November 2025;
- Scheduled Council Meeting held on 18 November 2025, as circulated.

<b>COUNCIL RESOLUTION</b>	
<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Cr Colwell</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Cr Lappin</i>

THAT Council confirm the minutes of the preceding meetings:

- Scheduled Council Meeting (Election of Mayor & Deputy Mayor) held on 18 November 2025;
- Scheduled Council Meeting held on 18 November 2025, as circulated.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



## 4 Public Questions, Petitions and Joint Letters

### 4.1 Public Question Time

No public questions.

### 4.2 Petitions

#### 4.2.1 Petition - Bottle Shop, 19 Church Street Whittlesea

A petition has been received with a combined total of 474 signatories, of which 134 were compliant under the Governance Rules. The petition requests that *Council formally recognise community opposition against the establishment and operation of a new bottle shop at 19 Church Street, Whittlesea and advocate against any bottle shop operating at this location.*

#### Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the petition.
2. Resolve to receive a report, via the CEO, at a Council Briefing in February 2026 addressing the concerns raised in the petition.
3. Advise the Head Petitioner of the steps taken in relation to the petition following a February 2026 Council Briefing.

*Cr Stow moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion.*

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Cr Stow</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Cr Zinni</i>

THAT Council:

1. Note the petition.
2. Resolve to receive a report, via the CEO, at a Council Briefing in February 2026 addressing the concerns raised in the petition.
3. Advise the Head Petitioner of the steps taken in relation to the petition following a February 2026 Council Briefing.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

*Cr Stow, Cr Zinni*

<b>VOTING</b>		
<b>FOR</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)</b>
<i>Cr Colwell</i> <i>Cr Cox</i> <i>Cr Gunn</i> <i>Cr Labrador</i> <i>Cr Lappin</i> <i>Cr Lenberg</i> <i>Cr McLindon</i> <i>Cr Stow</i> <i>Cr Taylor</i> <i>Cr Zinni</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

**4.3 Joint Letters**

No Joint Letters

## 5 Officers' Reports

### 5.1 Draft Public Open Space Plan 2026 - 36

**Director/Executive Manager:** Director Infrastructure & Environment

**Report Author:** Unit Manager Landscape and Open Space Planning

**In Attendance:** Manager Urban Design & Transport  
Unit Manager Landscape & Open Space Planning

#### Executive Summary

The Public Open Space Plan 2026-36 (the draft Plan) is Council's roadmap for a high quality, network of open space, featuring an ambitious agenda to transform how we plan, deliver and manage our open space network.

The Plan sets out a high-level ten-year vision for the City's open space network. It will allow Council to strategically plan for future challenges and opportunities and guide the development and expansion of the open space network in the municipality.

The Plan has been developed in line with the Victoria State Government strategic direction and includes a vision, principles, directions, focus areas and high-level suburb plans. The draft Plan has been prepared using existing Council data and community information, supported by cross-organisational engagement.

The draft plan is to be exhibited for community and stakeholder engagement, to ensure that the plan aligns with community expectations and to gather feedback to improve the plan accordingly.

#### Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the draft Public Open Space Plan 2026–36.
2. Endorse the draft Public Open Space Plan 2026-36 to be publicly exhibited for community and stakeholder consultation and engagement between 19 December 2025 and 15 February 2026.
3. Note a subsequent report seeking adoption of the Public Open Space Plan 2026-36 will be presented to Council following the consultation period.
4. Refer the draft Public Open Space Plan to the City of Whittlesea Youth Council for comment.

*Cr Labrador moved the following motion.*

MOTION	
<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Cr Labrador</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Cr McLindon</i>

THAT Council:

1. Note the draft Public Open Space Plan 2026–36.
2. Endorse the draft Public Open Space Plan 2026-36, with the following amendment:  
Include a point 4.9 to Focus Area 4 (Climate Change Resilience), that reads ‘being proactive with reducing accessible fuel like dead wood, undergrowth, and dense scrub, to reduce the risk and severity of bushfires.’  
to be publicly exhibited for community and stakeholder consultation and engagement between 19 December 2025 and 15 February 2026.
3. Note a subsequent report seeking adoption of the Public Open Space Plan 2026-36 will be presented to Council following the consultation period.
4. Refer the draft Public Open Space Plan to the City of Whittlesea Youth Council for comment.

#### COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

*Cr Labrador, Cr McLindon*

*Cr Colwell proposed the following amendment to Cr Labrador, as the mover of the substantive motion and Cr McLindon, as the seconder. Cr Labrador and Cr McLindon did not accept the amendment.*

*The Chair sought a seconder for Cr Colwell’s amendment.*

AMENDMENT	
<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Cr Colwell</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Cr Lappin</i>

THAT Council:

1. Note the draft Public Open Space Plan 2026–36.
2. Endorse the draft Public Open Space Plan 2026-36, **with the following amendment:**  
**~~Include a point 4.9 to Focus Area 4 (Climate Change Resilience), that reads ‘being proactive with reducing accessible fuel like dead wood, undergrowth, and dense scrub, to reduce the risk and severity of bushfires.’~~**  
to be publicly exhibited for community and stakeholder consultation and engagement between 19 December 2025 and 15 February 2026.
3. Note a subsequent report seeking adoption of the Public Open Space Plan 2026-36 will be presented to Council following the consultation period.
4. Refer the draft Public Open Space Plan to the City of Whittlesea Youth Council for comment.

### COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO AMENDMENT

#### IN FAVOUR

*Cr Colwell, Cr Gunn, Cr Lappin*

*Cr Stow, Cr Taylor, Cr Zinni*

#### IN OPPOSITION

*Cr Labrador*

#### RIGHT OF REPLY

*The Chair put the amendment to the vote.*

VOTING		
FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
<i>Cr Colwell</i> <i>Cr Cox</i> <i>Cr Gunn</i> <i>Cr Lappin</i> <i>Cr Lenberg</i> <i>Cr Stow</i> <i>Cr Taylor</i> <i>Cr Zinni</i>	<i>Cr Labrador</i> <i>Cr McLindon</i>	<i>Nil</i>

*The amendment was carried and became the substantive motion.*

### SUBSTANTIVE MOTION

THAT Council:

1. Note the draft Public Open Space Plan 2026–36.
2. Endorse the draft Public Open Space Plan 2026-36 to be publicly exhibited for community and stakeholder consultation and engagement between 19 December 2025 and 15 February 2026.
3. Note a subsequent report seeking adoption of the Public Open Space Plan 2026-36 will be presented to Council following the consultation period.
4. Refer the draft Public Open Space Plan to the City of Whittlesea Youth Council for comment.

*The Chair then put the substantive motion to the vote.*

#### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Cr Labrador</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Cr McLindon</i>

#### THAT Council:

1. Note the draft Public Open Space Plan 2026–36.
2. Endorse the draft Public Open Space Plan 2026-36 to be publicly exhibited for community and stakeholder consultation and engagement between 19 December 2025 and 15 February 2026.
3. Note a subsequent report seeking adoption of the Public Open Space Plan 2026-36 will be presented to Council following the consultation period.
4. Refer the draft Public Open Space Plan to the City of Whittlesea Youth Council for comment.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO SUBSTANTIVE MOTION

*Cr Colwell, Cr Lappin, Cr McLindon*

#### VOTING

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
<i>Cr Colwell</i> <i>Cr Cox</i> <i>Cr Gunn</i> <i>Cr Labrador</i> <i>Cr Lappin</i> <i>Cr Lenberg</i> <i>Cr McLindon</i> <i>Cr Stow</i> <i>Cr Taylor</i> <i>Cr Zinni</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

## 5.2 2025-66: The Boulevard Town Centre Revitalisation

**Director/Executive Manager:** Director Infrastructure & Environment

**Report Author:** Senior Urban Designer

**In Attendance:** Manager Capital Delivery

Attachment two has been designated as confidential in accordance with sections 66(5) and 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* on the grounds that it contains information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

### Executive Summary

This report summarises the evaluation of the five tender submissions received for The Boulevard Town Centre Revitalisation contract (2025-66).

The tender evaluation panel advises that:

- five tenders were received
- the recommended tender is the preferred tender due to the contractor demonstrating strong technical capability and proven expertise in specialised elements critical to this project
- collaborative tendering was not undertaken in relation to this procurement because this contract relates to a Federal or State Government grant funded project unique for the City of Whittlesea.

This contract delivers on the key outputs of the revitalisation of The Boulevard Town Centre which has received both Federal and State Government grant funding.

### Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Resolve to award the following contract to Evergreen Civil Pty Ltd:  
Number: 2025-66  
Title: The Boulevard Town Centre Revitalisation  
Cost: A lump sum of \$3,069,071.49 (excluding GST)  
subject to the following conditions:
  - a) Contractor providing contract security and proof of currency for insurance cover as required in the tender documents.
  - b) Price variations to be in accordance with the provisions as set out in the conditions of contract.
2. Approve the funding arrangements as detailed in the confidential attachment.
3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign and execute the contract on behalf of Council.

*Cr McLindon moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion.*

<b>COUNCIL RESOLUTION</b>	
<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Cr McLindon</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Cr Stow</i>

**THAT Council:**

1. Resolve to award the following contract to Evergreen Civil Pty Ltd:

**Number:** 2025-66

**Title:** The Boulevard Town Centre Revitalisation

**Cost:** A lump sum of \$3,069,071.49 (excluding GST)

**subject to the following conditions:**

- a) Contractor providing contract security and proof of currency for insurance cover as required in the tender documents
  - b) Price variations to be in accordance with the provisions as set out in the conditions of contract
2. Approve the funding arrangements as detailed in the confidential attachment
  3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign and execute the contract on behalf of Council.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION**

*Cr McLindon, Cr Stow*

<b>VOTING</b>		
<b>FOR</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)</b>
<i>Cr Colwell</i> <i>Cr Cox</i> <i>Cr Gunn</i> <i>Cr Labrador</i> <i>Cr Lappin</i> <i>Cr Lenberg</i> <i>Cr McLindon</i> <i>Cr Stow</i> <i>Cr Taylor</i> <i>Cr Zinni</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>



### 5.3 Affordable Housing Plan 2025-2030

**Director/Executive Manager:** Director Planning & Development

**Report Author:** Affordable Housing Policy & Project Officer

**In Attendance:** Manager Strategic Property & Portfolio Development  
Unit Manager Portfolio Development

#### Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to present the Affordable Housing Plan for adoption, following public consultation. The report also outlines community feedback and stakeholder submissions, along with changes made in response to feedback.

Affordable, safe and secure housing is essential infrastructure for thriving communities. It enables greater life opportunities, improves health and education outcomes, and underpins economic resilience. In the City of Whittlesea, the supply of affordable housing is falling short of growing demand. In 2025, around 5,173 households, 6.1% of all households in the municipality, are estimated to need affordable housing. By 2041, that number is expected to rise to 8,942 households, or 8.1%. Without decisive action, this shortage will continue to put pressure on public services, disadvantaging communities, and leaving vulnerable residents with limited secure housing options.

The Affordable Housing Plan sets out a strategic path to increase the supply of affordable homes across Whittlesea. Affordable housing is defined in the plan as good-quality, fit-for-purpose housing, priced at a level that is affordable relative to the income of its occupants, while still allowing households to meet their other essential living costs. The plan is informed by current data and shaped by the lived experiences and insights of our residents. The plan recognises the roles that federal, state and local government play in the facilitation and delivery of affordable homes, it identifies the community housing sector as the growth engine of the industry and the important role played by the private sector.

The plan was informed by two rounds of community consultation. The first round was through the Community Insights survey, which helped shape the draft Plan to ensure it reflects local needs and priorities.

On 19 August 2025, the draft plan was endorsed by Council for a second round of community consultation. The plan was made available for community and stakeholder feedback from 25 August to 21 September 2025 via Council's engagement page, supported by social media outreach and an email campaign reaching over 1,600 recipients.

Feedback was received from four community members, one in support and three raising issues that are not directly relevant to the plan due to its strategic scope and priorities.

In addition, two key industry stakeholders, Community Housing Industry Association Victoria (CHIA Vic) and Beyond Housing, submitted written responses. Both organisations expressed strong support for the plan and offered constructive recommendations to strengthen and clarify the plan's content.

This report presents the final Affordable Housing Plan for adoption, included at *Attachment 1*. If endorsed, the next steps will include publishing the consultation outcomes along with the final Plan on the website and commencement of actions.

### Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the community consultation feedback on the draft Affordable Housing Plan, which has informed the final Affordable Housing Plan 2025-2030.
2. Adopt the Affordable Housing Plan 2025-2030 at Attachment 1.
3. Acknowledge and thank the community and stakeholders for their contributions to the Affordable Housing Plan.

*Cr Lappin moved the following motion.*

MOTION	
<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Cr Lappin</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Cr Taylor</i>

THAT Council:

1. Note the community consultation feedback on the draft Affordable Housing Plan, which has informed the final Affordable Housing Plan 2025-2030.
2. Adopt the Affordable Housing Plan 2025-2030 at Attachment 1.
3. Authorise the CEO or their delegate to advocate on behalf of Council to the Federal Government for a fairer and more accessible housing market by reviewing housing tax policies, including negative gearing and capital gains tax discounts on investment properties.
4. Acknowledge and thank the community and stakeholders for their contributions to the Affordable Housing Plan.

### COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

*Cr Colwell, Cr Lappin, Cr McLindon, Cr Taylor*

## MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:55pm for up to five minutes to enable Cr Labrador to provide a written amendment to officers.

The meeting resumed at 7:01pm.

*Cr Labrador proposed the following amendment to Cr Lappin, as the mover of the substantive motion and Cr Taylor, as the seconder. Cr Lappin and Cr Taylor accepted the amendment which then became the substantive motion.*

## AMENDMENT

THAT Council:

1. Note the community consultation feedback on the draft Affordable Housing Plan, which has informed the final Affordable Housing Plan 2025-2030.
2. Adopt the Affordable Housing Plan 2025-2030 at Attachment 1.
3. Authorise the CEO or their delegate to advocate on behalf of Council to the Federal Government for a fairer and more accessible housing market by reviewing housing tax policies, including negative gearing and capital gains tax discounts on investment properties **and advocate to the state government to disincentivise developers land-banking or staggering release of their land.**
4. Acknowledge and thank the community and stakeholders for their contributions to the Affordable Housing Plan.

## SUBSTANTIVE MOTION

THAT Council:

1. Note the community consultation feedback on the draft Affordable Housing Plan, which has informed the final Affordable Housing Plan 2025-2030.
2. Adopt the Affordable Housing Plan 2025-2030 at Attachment 1.
3. Authorise the CEO or their delegate to advocate on behalf of Council to the Federal Government for a fairer and more accessible housing market by reviewing housing tax policies, including negative gearing and capital gains tax discounts on investment properties and advocate to the state government to disincentivise developers land-banking or staggering release of their land.
4. Acknowledge and thank the community and stakeholders for their contributions to the Affordable Housing Plan.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Cr Lappin</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Cr Taylor</i>

**THAT Council:**

1. Note the community consultation feedback on the draft Affordable Housing Plan, which has informed the final Affordable Housing Plan 2025-2030.
2. Adopt the Affordable Housing Plan 2025-2030 at Attachment 1.
3. Authorise the CEO or their delegate to advocate on behalf of Council to the Federal Government for a fairer and more accessible housing market by reviewing housing tax policies, including negative gearing and capital gains tax discounts on investment properties and advocate to the state government to disincentivise developers land-banking or staggering release of their land.
4. Acknowledge and thank the community and stakeholders for their contributions to the Affordable Housing Plan.

**CARRIED****COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO AMENDMENT***Cr Labrador, Cr Zinni***VOTING**

<b>FOR</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)</b>
<i>Cr Colwell</i> <i>Cr Cox</i> <i>Cr Gunn</i> <i>Cr Labrador</i> <i>Cr Lappin</i> <i>Cr Lenberg</i> <i>Cr McLindon</i> <i>Cr Stow</i> <i>Cr Taylor</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Cr Zinni</i>

## 5.4 Strategic Property and Land Plan 2025-2030

**Director/Executive Manager:** Director Planning & Development

**Report Author:** Unit Manager Portfolio Development

**In Attendance:** Manager Strategic Property & Portfolio Development  
Unit Manager Portfolio Development

### Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to present the Strategic Property and Land Plan (*Attachment 1*) for adoption, following public consultation. The report outlines community feedback and submissions received, along with changes made in response to the feedback.

The City of Whittlesea owns over 2,000 properties and manages a significant portfolio of buildings, land and infrastructure across the municipality. These assets enable Council to deliver essential community services such as libraries, kindergartens, sports facilities, parks and open spaces, affordable homes and provide vibrant, safe and connected places for residents and visitors. They also play a critical role in achieving the long-term goals set out in the Community Vision and delivering the priorities of the Community Plan.

Property matters often require timely assessments and streamlined processes to support informed decision-making on transactions such as acquisitions, divestments, leasing and licensing, and strategic development of land. The Strategic Property and Land Plan provides a clear framework to guide how Council manages its property portfolio. It applies to all land and buildings owned, leased, or managed by Council, ensuring a consistent and forward-thinking approach to decision-making across Council assets.

On 19 August 2025 the draft Plan was endorsed by Council for community consultation. The Plan was available for community feedback from 25 August to 21 September 2025 via an engagement page with survey questions, social media posts and an email campaign involving 1,648 recipients. The draft Plan was downloaded 143 times with four people providing written feedback.

This report presents the final Strategic Property and Land Plan for adoption. If endorsed, the next steps will include publishing consultation outcome messaging along with the final Plan on the website.

### Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the community consultation feedback received on the draft Strategic Property and Land Plan which has informed the final Strategic Property and Land Plan.
2. Adopt the Strategic Property and Land Plan 2025-2030 at Attachment 1.
3. Acknowledge and thank the community for their contributions to the Strategic Property and Land Plan.

*Cr Gunn moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion.*

### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Cr Gunn</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Cr Lappin</i>

THAT Council:

1. Note the community consultation feedback received on the draft Strategic Property and Land Plan which has informed the final Strategic Property and Land Plan.
2. Adopt the Strategic Property and Land Plan 2025-2030 at Attachment 1.
3. Acknowledge and thank the community for their contributions to the Strategic Property and Land Plan.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

*Cr Gunn, Cr Lappin, Cr McLindon*

### VOTING

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
<i>Cr Colwell</i> <i>Cr Cox</i> <i>Cr Gunn</i> <i>Cr Labrador</i> <i>Cr Lappin</i> <i>Cr Lenberg</i> <i>Cr McLindon</i> <i>Cr Stow</i> <i>Cr Taylor</i> <i>Cr Zinni</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

## 5.5 Whittlesea Aboriginal Gathering Place Advisory Group Terms of Reference

**Director/Executive Manager:** Director Community Wellbeing

**Report Author:** Coordinator Aboriginal Strategy

**In Attendance:** Manager Community Strengthening

### Executive Summary

The Whittlesea Aboriginal Gathering Place Advisory Group (WAGPAG) was established in 2021 to work collaboratively with Council on the development of the Aboriginal Gathering Place (AGP), using principles of co-design, self-determination and sustainability throughout design and construction.

Once the facility was completed, it was intended that the AGP would transition through three key phases: from a Council-managed facility to an independent, community run entity, with the WAGPAG ultimately evolving into a community run body.

The inaugural WAGPAG Terms of Reference (ToR) has now expired, and a new ToR has been developed.

The new ToR outlines the governance model for the first phase of facility operation, during which the WAGPAG will continue to provide Council with strategic advice on the coordination of programs delivered at the AGP, while also supporting community capacity building in preparation for later phases of increased independence. WAGPAG will support Council to ensure that the AGP's updated vision of being a welcoming, inclusive and culturally safe space for the whole community — First Peoples and non-First Peoples — is met.

### Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Adopt the new Whittlesea Aboriginal Gathering Place Advisory Group Terms of Reference (WAGPAG ToR) at Attachment 1.
2. Acknowledge and thank community members for their commitment in reviewing and contributing to the development of the new WAGPAG ToR.

*Cr McLindon moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion.*

<b>COUNCIL RESOLUTION</b>	
<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Cr McLindon</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Cr Zinni</i>

**THAT Council:**

- 1. Adopt the new Whittlesea Aboriginal Gathering Place Advisory Group Terms of Reference (WAGPAG ToR) at Attachment 1.**
- 2. Acknowledge and thank community members for their commitment in reviewing and contributing to the development of the new WAGPAG ToR.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION**

*Cr Colwell, Cr Cox, Cr McLindon, Cr Zinni*

<b>VOTING</b>		
<b>FOR</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)</b>
<i>Cr Colwell</i> <i>Cr Cox</i> <i>Cr Gunn</i> <i>Cr Labrador</i> <i>Cr Lappin</i> <i>Cr Lenberg</i> <i>Cr McLindon</i> <i>Cr Stow</i> <i>Cr Taylor</i> <i>Cr Zinni</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>



## 5.6 Establishment of a Youth Hub in the City of Whittlesea

**Director/Executive Manager:** Director Community Wellbeing

**Report Author:** Unit Manager Youth Development

**In Attendance:** Manager Community Strengthening  
Unit Manager Youth Development

### Executive Summary

This report recommends that Council endorse the development of a business case to assess suitable sites for a future youth hub, including potential locations in South Morang and Epping.

In 2024, Council undertook a Youth Hub Feasibility Study, which highlighted the significant shortfall in fit-for-purpose youth infrastructure across the municipality. The study identified that two dedicated youth hubs are required in the long term, with the first priority being in the Epping/Epping North area and, in the longer term, a second hub in Mernda or South Morang.

Council Officers have been actively seeking a fit-for-purpose, permanent youth hub location; however, suitable long-term sites have not yet been identified that meet the location size, and design principles outlined in the Youth Hub Feasibility Study. Given the growing youth population and gaps in youth infrastructure, two potential interim (10–15 years) sites in Epping and one permanent site in South Morang are recommended for detailed assessment through a business case:

1. Shop 111, Pacific Epping Shopping Centre, Epping (Interim option).
2. 72 Cooper Street, Epping (Interim option).
3. Council Civic Centre, 25 Ferres Blvd, South Morang (Permanent option).

### Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the findings of the Youth Hub Literature Review (Attachment 1), Youth Needs Analysis (Attachment 2), Youth Hub Feasibility Study (Attachment 3), and Future Needs Report (Attachment 4).
2. Endorse the development of a business case to assess sites for a youth hub, including potential sites in South Morang and Epping, to be brought to Council for consideration at the March 2026 Council meeting.
3. Note that should Council resolve to proceed to a business case, further work will consider other locations across the municipality for possible additional youth hubs and/or activation sites.

4. Note Council's continued advocacy to the Victorian Government for funding to support the development of a youth hub (in accordance with Action 13 of Council's Community Action Plan 2025/26).

*Cr Labrador moved the following motion.*

MOTION	
<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Cr Labrador</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Cr McLindon</i>

THAT Council:

1. Note the findings of the Youth Hub Literature Review (Attachment 1), Youth Needs Analysis (Attachment 2), Youth Hub Feasibility Study (Attachment 3), and Future Needs Report (Attachment 4).
2. Endorse the development of a business case to assess sites for a youth hub, including potential sites in South Morang and Epping, to be brought to Council for consideration at the March 2026 Council meeting.
3. Note that should Council resolve to proceed to a business case, further work will consider other locations across the municipality for possible additional youth hubs and/or activation sites.
4. Note should Council resolve to invest in a Youth Hub, that Council advocates to the Victorian Government for a dollar-for-dollar investment to support the development of a Youth Hub in accordance with Action 13 of Council's Community Action Plan 2025/26.

#### COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

*Cr Labrador, Cr Lappin, Cr Lenberg, Cr McLindon*

*Cr Stow proposed the following amendment to Cr Labrador, as the mover of the substantive motion and Cr McLindon, as the seconder. Cr Labrador did not accept the amendment.*

*The Chair sought a seconder for Cr Stow's amendment.*

AMENDMENT	
<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Cr Stow</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Cr Zinni</i>

THAT Council:

1. Note the findings of the Youth Hub Literature Review (Attachment 1), Youth Needs Analysis (Attachment 2), Youth Hub Feasibility Study (Attachment 3), and Future Needs Report (Attachment 4).

2. Endorse the development of a business case to assess sites for a youth hub, including potential sites in South Morang and Epping, to be brought to Council for consideration at the March 2026 Council meeting.
3. Note that should Council resolve to proceed to a business case, further work will consider other locations across the municipality for possible additional youth hubs and/or activation sites.
4. Note should Council resolve to invest in a Youth Hub, that Council advocates to the Victorian Government for ~~a dollar for dollar~~ investment to support the development of a Youth Hub in accordance with Action 13 of Council's Community Action Plan 2025/26.

#### COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO AMENDMENT

##### IN FAVOUR

*Cr Stow, Cr Zinni*

##### IN OPPOSITION

*Cr McLindon*

##### RIGHT OF REPLY

*The Chair put the amendment to the vote.*

VOTING		
FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
<i>Cr Cox Cr Stow Cr Zinni</i>	<i>Cr Colwell Cr Gunn Cr Labrador Cr Lenberg Cr McLindon Cr Taylor</i>	<i>Cr Lappin</i>

*The amendment was defeated; therefore the motion remained as the substantive motion.*

#### SUBSTANTIVE MOTION

THAT Council:

1. Note the findings of the Youth Hub Literature Review (Attachment 1), Youth Needs Analysis (Attachment 2), Youth Hub Feasibility Study (Attachment 3), and Future Needs Report (Attachment 4).
2. Endorse the development of a business case to assess sites for a youth hub, including potential sites in South Morang and Epping, to be brought to Council for consideration at the March 2026 Council meeting.
3. Note that should Council resolve to proceed to a business case, further work will consider other locations across the municipality for possible additional youth hubs and/or activation sites.

4. Note should Council resolve to invest in a Youth Hub, that Council advocates to the Victorian Government for a dollar-for-dollar investment to support the development of a Youth Hub in accordance with Action 13 of Council's Community Action Plan 2025/26.

*The Chair then put the substantive motion to the vote.*

#### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Cr Labrador</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Cr McLindon</i>

#### THAT Council:

1. Note the findings of the Youth Hub Literature Review (Attachment 1), Youth Needs Analysis (Attachment 2), Youth Hub Feasibility Study (Attachment 3), and Future Needs Report (Attachment 4).
2. Endorse the development of a business case to assess sites for a youth hub, including potential sites in South Morang and Epping, to be brought to Council for consideration at the March 2026 Council meeting.
3. Note that should Council resolve to proceed to a business case, further work will consider other locations across the municipality for possible additional youth hubs and/or activation sites.
4. Note should Council resolve to invest in a Youth Hub, that Council advocates to the Victorian Government for a dollar-for-dollar investment to support the development of a Youth Hub in accordance with Action 13 of Council's Community Action Plan 2025/26.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO SUBSTANTIVE MOTION

*Cr Colwell, Cr Taylor*

<b>VOTING</b>		
<b>FOR</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>ABSTAINED</b> <b>(vote against the motion)</b>
<i>Cr Colwell</i> <i>Cr Cox</i> <i>Cr Gunn</i> <i>Cr Labrador</i> <i>Cr Lappin</i> <i>Cr Lenberg</i> <i>Cr McLindon</i> <i>Cr Stow</i> <i>Cr Taylor</i> <i>Cr Zinni</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

## 5.7 2025-2026 Q1 Community Grants

**Director/Executive Manager:** Director Customer & Corporate Services

**Report Author:** Unit Manager Community Grants

**In Attendance:** Manager EPMO & Change  
Unit Manager Community Grants

### Executive Summary

This report is to provide an overview of the community grants program for the Quarter 1 period of the 2025-2026 Financial Year from 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025. The 2025-2026 Community Grants were opened to the public on Monday 8 September 2025 with the quarter round closing on 30 September 2025.

A total of 13 applications for small, medium and large grants were received, in addition, annual funding payments were made to Funding Agreement recipients, Neighbourhood Houses and two Service Agreements.

During this period the Grant Management Steering Group approved four Grant Program Guidelines for the Environmental Works Grant Program, Senior Club Grants, Business to Business Grants and Community Based Emergency Services Grant.

During this quarter, the appointment of an independent community member to the Grant Management Steering Group was explored. It was identified that this was no longer required due to the positive outcomes that are being realised through the current governance structure.

### Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council note the 2025-2026 Q1 Management Panel Report at Attachment 1.

*Cr Labrador moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion.*

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Cr Labrador</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Cr Stow</i>

THAT Council note the 2025-2026 Q1 Management Panel Report at Attachment 1

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION**

*Cr Labrador, Cr Stow, Cr Taylor*

**VOTING**

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
<i>Cr Colwell</i> <i>Cr Cox</i> <i>Cr Gunn</i> <i>Cr Labrador</i> <i>Cr Lappin</i> <i>Cr Lenberg</i> <i>Cr McLindon</i> <i>Cr Stow</i> <i>Cr Taylor</i> <i>Cr Zinni</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

*The Chair adjourned the meeting for a short break at 7:53pm.*

*The meeting resumed at 8:03pm.*

## 5.8 2025-29 Advocacy Prospectus

**Director/Executive Manager:** Director Customer & Corporate Services

**Report Author:** Unit Manager Advocacy & Stakeholder Engagement

**In Attendance:** Chief Customer Officer  
Unit Manager Advocacy & Stakeholder Engagement

### Executive Summary

The intention of Council's Advocacy Prospectus 2025-29 is to set the priorities and aspirations of the people who live, work and visit the City of Whittlesea and highlight opportunities to partner with all levels of Government to address the challenges our community face as a growing municipality now and into the future.

Each of the 12 priorities detailed within the Advocacy Prospectus 2025-29 have been informed by both evidence and community insights, to reflect partnership opportunities across five key domains:

- Housing.
- Community Services & Infrastructure.
- Public Transport.
- Roads.
- Environmental Sustainability.

The Advocacy Prospectus 2025-29 explicitly defines the ask, benefits, rationale and return of investment for all 12 priorities in an evidence-led approach.

The Advocacy Prospectus 2025-29 will be used a key resource to inform Council's 2026 State Election Campaign, the next Federal election, as well as annual State and Federal Budget submissions.

### Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council adopt the 2025-29 Advocacy Prospectus document at Attachment 1.



*Cr Labrador moved the following motion.*

MOTION	
<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Cr Labrador</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Cr Taylor</i>

THAT Council:

1. Adopt the 2025-29 Advocacy Prospectus document at Attachment 1.
2. Note that Section 2, of Page 26, 'Community Safety and Amenity' further incorporate the following advocacy points of:
  - a) Increased police presence to keep Whittlesea safe; and
  - b) Stronger deterrents of crime through increased policing and community safety programs.

#### COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

*Cr Labrador, Cr Taylor*

*Cr Colwell proposed the following amendment to Cr Labrador, as the mover of the substantive motion and Cr Taylor, as the seconder. Cr Labrador and Cr Taylor did not accept the amendment.*

*The Chair sought a seconder for Cr Colwell's amendment.*

AMENDMENT	
<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Cr Colwell</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Cr Lappin</i>

THAT Council:

1. Adopt the 2025-29 Advocacy Prospectus document at Attachment 1.
- ~~2. Note that Section 2, of Page 26, 'Community Safety and Amenity' further incorporate the following advocacy points of:~~
  - ~~a) Increased police presence to keep Whittlesea safe; and~~
  - ~~b) Stronger deterrents of crime through increased policing and community safety programs.~~

#### COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO AMENDMENT

##### IN FAVOUR

*Cr Colwell, Cr Lappin,  
Cr McLindon, Cr Stow, Cr Zinni*

##### IN OPPOSITION

*Cr Taylor*

##### RIGHT OF REPLY

*The Chair put the amendment to the vote.*

<b>VOTING</b>		
<b>FOR</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)</b>
<i>Cr Colwell</i> <i>Cr Cox</i> <i>Cr Gunn</i> <i>Cr Lappin</i> <i>Cr Lenberg</i> <i>Cr McLindon</i> <i>Cr Stow</i> <i>Cr Zinni</i>	<i>Cr Labrador</i> <i>Cr Taylor</i>	<i>Nil</i>

*The amendment was carried and became the substantive motion.*

#### **SUBSTANTIVE MOTION**

THAT Council adopt the 2025-29 Advocacy Prospectus document at Attachment 1.

*The Chair then put the substantive motion to the vote.*

<b>COUNCIL RESOLUTION</b>	
<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Cr Labrador</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Cr Taylor</i>

THAT Council adopt the 2025-29 Advocacy Prospectus document at Attachment 1.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO SUBSTANTIVE MOTION**

*Cr Colwell*

<b>VOTING</b>		
<b>FOR</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>ABSTAINED</b> (vote against the motion)
<i>Cr Colwell</i> <i>Cr Cox</i> <i>Cr Gunn</i> <i>Cr Labrador</i> <i>Cr Lappin</i> <i>Cr Lenberg</i> <i>Cr McLindon</i> <i>Cr Stow</i> <i>Cr Taylor</i> <i>Cr Zinni</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

## 5.9 Quarterly Corporate Performance Report - Q1 ended 30/9/2025

**Director/Executive Manager:** Director Customer & Corporate Services

**Report Author:** Senior Financial Services Accountant

**In Attendance:** Chief Financial Officer

### Executive Summary

This report provides the Quarterly Corporate Performance (Q1) outcomes and comprehensive summary for the period ended 30 September 2025 provided at Attachment 1 relating to:

- Council's financial performance;
- the Remaining action from the Community Plan Action Plan 2024-25;
- Good Governance Actions; and
- the 2025-26 Capital Works program.

### Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the Quarterly Corporate Performance Report for the period ended 30 September 2025 in Attachment 1.
2. Note the financial performance for the period ended 30 September 2025 contained within Attachment 1.

*Cr Zinni moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion.*

### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Cr Zinni</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Cr Taylor</i>

THAT Council:

1. Note the Quarterly Corporate Performance Report for the period ended 30 September 2025 in Attachment 1.
2. Note the financial performance for the period ended 30 September 2025 contained within Attachment 1.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

*Cr Taylor*

<b>VOTING</b>		
<b>FOR</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)</b>
<i>Cr Colwell</i> <i>Cr Cox</i> <i>Cr Gunn</i> <i>Cr Labrador</i> <i>Cr Lappin</i> <i>Cr Lenberg</i> <i>Cr McLindon</i> <i>Cr Stow</i> <i>Cr Taylor</i> <i>Cr Zinni</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

## 5.10 Contract Variation 2022-46 Telecommunication - Mobiles

**Director/Executive Manager:** Director Customer & Corporate Services

**Report Author:** Unit Manager Technology Infrastructure & Support

**In Attendance:** Chief Information Officer  
Unit Manager Technology Infrastructure & Support

This attachment has been designated as confidential in accordance with sections 66(5) and 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* on the grounds that it contains:

- (a) Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released; and
- (b) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that—
  - (i) relates to trade secrets; or
  - (ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

### Executive Summary

It is proposed that contract number 2022-46 for Telecommunication Services - Mobiles is extended to 30 April 2028 to support Council's telecommunications requirements.

### Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note this contract was awarded to Telstra Corporation Ltd via the MAV Telecommunications Contract (NPN 1.18).
2. Note the contract has been performed satisfactorily to date.
3. Note the contract is due to expire on 31 December 2025.
4. Approve the extension of the contract for the period 1 January 2026 to 30 April 2028.
5. Approve a financial variation of \$1,232,000 (excl. GST) making a revised contract sum of \$2,859,491 (excl. GST).
6. Authorise the CEO, or their delegate, to sign the contract variation on behalf of Council.

*Cr Gunn moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion.*

<b>COUNCIL RESOLUTION</b>	
<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Cr Gunn</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Cr Lappin</i>

**THAT Council:**

1. Note this contract was awarded to Telstra Corporation Ltd via the MAV Telecommunications Contract (NPN 1.18).
2. Note the contract has been performed satisfactorily to date.
3. Note the contract is due to expire on 31 December 2025.
4. Approve the extension of the contract for the period 1 January 2026 to 30 April 2028.
5. Approve a financial variation of \$1,232,000 (excl. GST) making a revised contract sum of \$2,859,491 (excl. GST).
6. Authorise the CEO, or their delegate, to sign the contract variation on behalf of Council.

**CARRIED**

**COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION**

*Cr Gunn*

<b>VOTING</b>		
<b>FOR</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)</b>
<i>Cr Colwell</i> <i>Cr Cox</i> <i>Cr Gunn</i> <i>Cr Labrador</i> <i>Cr Lappin</i> <i>Cr Lenberg</i> <i>Cr Stow</i> <i>Cr Taylor</i> <i>Cr Zinni</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Cr McLindon</i>

## 5.11 Governance Rules

**Director/Executive Manager:** Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

**Report Author:** Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

### Executive Summary

Following the 18 November 2025 Council meeting, the draft Governance Rules (Rules) were made publicly available on Council's Engage Whittlesea web page seeking community feedback between 19 November to 2 December 2025.

Officers appreciate and value the 57 submissions received during the consultation period, noting that 14 of these were identical. The feedback provided thoughtful perspectives, particularly around proposed changes to Notices of Motion (NoM). Council recognises these concerns and thanks the community for taking the time to share their views.

After careful consideration of all feedback, officers recommend adopting the proposed amendments to strengthen governance by promoting collaboration, improving transparency, and ensuring efficient decision-making.

While we acknowledge differing opinions, these changes aim to balance representation with effective administration, supporting the principles of good governance for the benefit of our community.

### Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Resolve to adopt the Governance Rules at Attachment 1.
2. Acknowledge and thank the community for their feedback.
3. Note a copy of the Governance Rules will be made available on Council's website.

*Cr Colwell moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion.*

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Cr Colwell</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Cr Gunn</i>

THAT Council:

1. Resolve to adopt the Governance Rules at Attachment 1.
2. Acknowledge and thank the community for their feedback.
3. Note a copy of the Governance Rules will be made available on Council's website.



## COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

*Cr Colwell*

*Cr Zinni proposed the following amendment to Cr Colwell, as the mover of the substantive motion and Cr Gunn, as the seconder. Cr Colwell and Cr Gunn accepted the amendment which then became the substantive motion.*

## AMENDMENT

THAT Council:

1. Resolve to adopt the Governance Rules at Attachment 1 **with the following amendments:**
  - a) **Rule 21.1.2 wording replaced from 'signed by at least one third of the total number of the Councillors' with 'signed by at least three Councillors';**
  - b) **Rule 21.2.2 wording replaced from 'is not signed by at least one third of the total number of Councillors' with 'not signed by at least three Councillors'; and**
  - c) **Rule 39.1.1 wording replaced from 'it has been signed and dated by one third of the total number of the Councillors' with 'it has been signed and dated by at least three Councillors'.**
2. Acknowledge and thank the community for their feedback.
3. Note a copy of the Governance Rules will be made available on Council's website.

## SUBSTANTIVE MOTION

THAT Council:

1. Resolve to adopt the Governance Rules at Attachment 1 with the following amendments:
  - a) Rule 21.1.2 wording replaced from 'signed by at least one third of the total number of the Councillors' with 'signed by at least three Councillors';
  - b) Rule 21.2.2 wording replaced from 'is not signed by at least one third of the total number of Councillors' with 'not signed by at least three Councillors'; and
  - c) Rule 39.1.1 wording replaced from 'it has been signed and dated by one third of the total number of the Councillors' with 'it has been signed and dated by at least three Councillors'.
2. Acknowledge and thank the community for their feedback.
3. Note a copy of the Governance Rules will be made available on Council's website.

## COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO SUBSTANTIVE MOTION

**IN FAVOUR**

*Cr Lappin*

**IN OPPOSITION**

*Cr McLindon*

**RIGHT OF REPLY**

*Cr Labrador proposed the following amendment to Cr Colwell, as the mover the substantive motion and Cr Gunn, as the seconder. Cr Colwell did not accept the amendment.*

*The Chair sought a seconder for Cr Labrador's amendment.*

AMENDMENT	
<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Cr Labrador</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Cr Taylor</i>

THAT Council:

1. Resolve to adopt the Governance Rules at Attachment 1 with the following amendments:
  - a) Rule 21.1.2 wording replaced from 'signed by at least one third of the total number of the Councillors' with 'signed by at least three Councillors';
  - b) Rule 21.2.2 wording replaced from 'is not signed by at least one third of the total number of Councillors' with 'not signed by at least three Councillors';
  - c) Rule 39.1.1 wording replaced from 'it has been signed and dated by one third of the total number of the Councillors' with 'it has been signed and dated by at least three Councillors'; and
  - d) **Remove Rule 21.1.3 of the Notice of Motion section.**
2. Acknowledge and thank the community for their feedback.
3. Note a copy of the Governance Rules will be made available on Council's website.

#### COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO AMENDMENT

##### IN FAVOUR

*Cr Labrador, Cr Lappin, Cr Lenberg,  
Cr Stow, Cr McLindon, Cr Zinni*

##### IN OPPOSITION

*Cr Colwell,*

##### RIGHT OF REPLY

*The Chair put the amendment to the vote.*

VOTING		
FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
<i>Cr Labrador Cr Lenberg Cr McLindon Cr Stow Cr Taylor Cr Zinni</i>	<i>Cr Colwell Cr Cox Cr Gunn Cr Lappin</i>	<i>Nil</i>

*The amendment was carried and became the substantive motion.*

## SUBSTANTIVE MOTION

THAT Council:

1. Resolve to adopt the Governance Rules at Attachment 1 with the following amendments:
  - a) Rule 21.1.2 wording replaced from 'signed by at least one third of the total number of the Councillors' with 'signed by at least three Councillors';
  - b) Rule 21.2.2 wording replaced from 'is not signed by at least one third of the total number of Councillors' with 'not signed by at least three Councillors';
  - c) Rule 39.1.1 wording replaced from 'it has been signed and dated by one third of the total number of the Councillors' with 'it has been signed and dated by at least three Councillors'; and
  - d) Remove Rule 21.1.3 of the Notice of Motion section.
2. Acknowledge and thank the community for their feedback.
3. Note a copy of the Governance Rules will be made available on Council's website.

*The Chair then put the substantive motion to the vote.*

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Cr Colwell</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Cr Gunn</i>

THAT Council:

1. Resolve to adopt the Governance Rules at Attachment 1 with the following amendments:
  - a) Rule 21.1.2 wording replaced from 'signed by at least one third of the total number of the Councillors' with 'signed by at least three Councillors';
  - b) Rule 21.2.2 wording replaced from 'is not signed by at least one third of the total number of Councillors' with 'not signed by at least three Councillors';
  - c) Rule 39.1.1 wording replaced from 'it has been signed and dated by one third of the total number of the Councillors' with 'it has been signed and dated by at least three Councillors'; and
  - d) Remove Rule 21.1.3 of the Notice of Motion section.
2. Acknowledge and thank the community for their feedback.
3. Note a copy of the Governance Rules will be made available on Council's website.

**CARRIED**

## COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO SUBSTANTIVE MOTION

### IN FAVOUR

*Cr Zinni, Cr Cox*

### IN OPPOSITION

### RIGHT OF REPLY

*Cr Colwell*

VOTING		
FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
<i>Cr Colwell</i> <i>Cr Cox</i> <i>Cr Gunn</i> <i>Cr Lappin</i> <i>Cr Stow</i> <i>Cr Taylor</i> <i>Cr Zinni</i>	<i>Cr Labrador</i> <i>Cr Lenberg</i> <i>Cr McLindon</i>	<i>Nil</i>

## 5.12 Governance Report

**Director/Executive Manager:** Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

**Report Author:** Council Governance Officer

### Executive Summary

In accordance with best practice, good governance principles, transparent and accountable reporting, officers deem it appropriate to consolidate governance and administrative reports into one standing report to provide a single reporting mechanism for a range of statutory compliance, transparency and governance matters. This also ensures compliance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council's Governance Rules and related regulations.

The purpose of this report is to provide information and endorsement for the following governance related matter:

- Summary of Informal Meetings of Council.

Further information on the above listed matter is located within the body of this report.

### Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the Governance Report for December 2025.
2. Note the summary of Informal Meetings of Council for the period 17 September 2025 to 10 December 2025 at Attachment 1.

*Cr Taylor moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion.*

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Cr Taylor</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Cr Lappin</i>

THAT Council:

1. **Note the Governance Report for December 2025.**
2. **Note the summary of Informal Meetings of Council for the period 17 September 2025 to 10 December 2025 at Attachment 1.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

*Cr Taylor*

<b>VOTING</b>		
<b>FOR</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)</b>
<i>Cr Colwell</i> <i>Cr Cox</i> <i>Cr Gunn</i> <i>Cr Labrador</i> <i>Cr Lappin</i> <i>Cr Lenberg</i> <i>Cr McLindon</i> <i>Cr Stow</i> <i>Cr Taylor</i> <i>Cr Zinni</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

## 5.13 Appointment of Councillor Representatives to Committees

**Director/Executive Manager:** Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

**Report Author:** Council Governance Officer

### Executive Summary

Annually, Council appoints representatives to organisations and committees to ensure the City of Whittlesea can participate and contribute to local and strategic issues that align to the Council achieving its goals.

This report is to present Council with the list of State-wide, Metropolitan, Regional and Whittlesea-based organisations, Council Advisory Committees and Standing Committees to enable Councillors to be appointed for the period 17 December 2025 to 15 December 2026.

A new addition to this list is the appointment of a Councillor representative (non-voting) to the Whittlesea Aboriginal Gathering Place Advisory Group (WAGPAG) – this inclusion is subject to the outcome of a Council Resolution which will consider the new Terms of Reference for WAGPAG which will be presented at the December 2025 Council Meeting.

It is noted that, representation on the Australian Local Government Women's Association Incorporated (ALGWA) & Victorian Local Governance Association will cease on 30 June 2026, as Council resolved at its October Meeting to discontinue annual memberships effective from the 2026-27 financial year.

### Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Appoints Councillor representatives to the State-wide, Metropolitan, Regional and Whittlesea-based organisations as listed at Table A within the body of this report for a period of up to 12 months.
2. Note the Mayor, Cr Cox will be appointed to the Outer Melbourne Councils and Northern Councils Alliance in accordance with their respective Terms of Reference and Charter.
3. Appoints Councillor representatives to the Council Advisory Committees as listed at Table B within the body of this report for a period of up to 12 months.
4. Appoints Councillor representatives to the Whittlesea City Council Standing Committees listed at Table C within the body of this report for a period of up to 12 months.
5. Note the Mayor, Cr Cox will be appointed to the CEO Employment Matters Advisory Committee (CEMAC) plus two other Councillor in accordance with the CEMAC Employment and Remuneration Policy.

*Cr Colwell moved the following motion.*

MOTION	
<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Cr Colwell</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Cr Gunn</i>

THAT Council:

1. Appoint the following Councillors to the State-wide, Metropolitan, Regional and Whittlesea-based organisations as listed at Table A for a period of up to 12 months as follows:
  - Municipal Association of Victoria: Cr Cox and Cr Stow (Proxy)
  - Australian Local Government Women's Association Incorporated: Cr Stow Until 30 June 2026
  - Outer Melbourne Councils: Cr Cox and Cr Colwell (Proxy)
  - Metropolitan Transport Forum Inc: Delegate appointed by the CEO
  - Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action Executive: Cr Lappin
  - Northern Councils Alliance: Cr Cox and Cr Stow (Proxy)
  - Victorian Local Governance Association: Cr Stow and Cr Zinni (Proxy) until 30 June 2026
  - Whittlesea Community Futures Partnership: Cr Zinni
  - Yarra Plenty Regional Library Board: Cr Taylor and Cr Stow
  - Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee: Cr Taylor
  - Whittlesea Multicultural Communities Council: Cr Brooks and Cr Lenberg (Proxy)
  - City of Whittlesea Community Awards Committee: Cr Gunn
  - Whittlesea Reconciliation Group: Cr Colwell
  - Whittlesea Youth Commitment Strategic Advisory Group: Cr Colwell
  - Councillor appointed to the National Growth Areas Alliance Strategic Advisory Committee remains as resolved by Council on 22 July 2025
2. Note the Mayor, Cr Cox will be appointed to the Outer Melbourne Councils and Northern Councils Alliance in accordance with their respective Terms of Reference and Charter.
3. Appoint the following Councillors to the Council Advisory Committees as listed at Table B for a period of up to 12 months as follows:
  - City of Whittlesea Disability Advisory Panel: Cr Gunn
  - Whittlesea Disability Network: Cr Brooks and Cr Lappin (Proxy)
  - City of Whittlesea Business Advisory Panel: Cr Labrador, Cr Lenberg and Cr Zinni (Proxy)
  - Rainbow Advisory Committee: Cr Lenberg and Cr Colwell (Proxy)
  - Whittlesea Aboriginal Gathering Place Advisory Group: Cr Zinni
4. Resolve to amend the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy at clause 2.1 Membership to read CEMAC will be comprised of:
  - a) the Mayor;
  - b) Three Councillors; and



c) One independent chair appointed by Council in accordance with this policy.  
And Clause 5.5 a majority of Councillor members of CEMAC constitute a quorum, meaning three Councillors are in attendance with the independent member.

5. Appoint the following Councillors to the Whittlesea City Council Standing Committees listed at Table C for a period of up to 12 months as follows:
- Audit and Risk Committee: Cr Taylor, Cr Lenberg and Cr McLindon (Proxy)
  - CEO Employment Matters Advisory Committee: Cr Cox, Cr Colwell, Cr Gunn and Cr Zinni
  - Hearing of Submissions Committee: Cr Stow, Cr Taylor, Cr Colwell, Cr Lappin and Cr Labrador
  - Councillors appointed to the Epping Cemetery Trust remains for the remainder of this Council term as resolved in November 2024.

### COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

*Cr Colwell, Cr Gunn*

*Cr Taylor proposed the following amendment to Cr Colwell, as the mover of the substantive motion and Cr Gunn, as the seconder. Cr Colwell and Cr Gunn did not accept the amendment.*

*The Chair sought a seconder for Cr Taylor's amendment.*

AMENDMENT	
<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Cr Taylor</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Cr Labrador</i>

THAT Council:

1. Appoint the following Councillors to the State-wide, Metropolitan, Regional and Whittlesea-based organisations as listed at Table A for a period of up to 12 months as follows:
  - Municipal Association of Victoria: Cr Cox and Cr Stow (Proxy)
  - Australian Local Government Women's Association Incorporated: Cr Stow Until 30 June 2026
  - Outer Melbourne Councils: Cr Cox and Cr Colwell (Proxy)
  - Metropolitan Transport Forum Inc: Delegate appointed by the CEO
  - Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action Executive: Cr Lappin
  - Northern Councils Alliance: Cr Cox and Cr Stow (Proxy)
  - Victorian Local Governance Association: Cr Stow and Cr Zinni (Proxy) until 30 June 2026
  - Whittlesea Community Futures Partnership: Cr Zinni
  - Yarra Plenty Regional Library Board: Cr Taylor and Cr Stow
  - Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee: Cr Taylor

- Whittlesea Multicultural Communities Council: Cr Brooks and Cr Lenberg (Proxy)
  - City of Whittlesea Community Awards Committee: Cr Gunn
  - Whittlesea Reconciliation Group: Cr Colwell
  - Whittlesea Youth Commitment Strategic Advisory Group: Cr Colwell
  - Councillor appointed to the National Growth Areas Alliance Strategic Advisory Committee remains as resolved by Council on 22 July 2025
2. Note the Mayor, Cr Cox will be appointed to the Outer Melbourne Councils and Northern Councils Alliance in accordance with their respective Terms of Reference and Charter.
  3. Appoint the following Councillors to the Council Advisory Committees as listed at Table B for a period of up to 12 months as follows:
    - City of Whittlesea Disability Advisory Panel: Cr Gunn
    - Whittlesea Disability Network: Cr Brooks and Cr Lappin (Proxy)
    - City of Whittlesea Business Advisory Panel: Cr Labrador, Cr Lenberg and Cr Zinni (Proxy)
    - Rainbow Advisory Committee: Cr Lenberg and Cr Colwell (Proxy)
    - Whittlesea Aboriginal Gathering Place Advisory Group: Cr Zinni
  4. Resolve to amend the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy at clause 2.1 Membership to read CEMAC will be comprised of:
    - a. the Mayor;
    - b. **Four** Councillors; and
    - c. One independent chair appointed by Council in accordance with this policy.
 And Clause 5.5 a majority of Councillor members of CEMAC constitute a quorum, meaning three Councillors are in attendance with the independent member.
  5. Appoint the following Councillors to the Whittlesea City Council Standing Committees listed at Table C for a period of up to 12 months as follows:
    - Audit and Risk Committee: Cr Taylor, Cr Lenberg and Cr McLindon (Proxy)
    - CEO Employment Matters Advisory Committee: Cr Cox, Cr Colwell, Cr Gunn, Cr Zinni **and Cr Labrador**
    - Hearing of Submissions Committee: Cr Stow, Cr Taylor, Cr Colwell, Cr Lappin and Cr Labrador
    - Councillors appointed to the Epping Cemetery Trust remains for the remainder of this Council term as resolved in November 2024.

#### COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO AMENDMENT

##### IN FAVOUR

*Cr Labrador, Cr Taylor*

##### IN OPPOSITION

*Cr Cox, Cr Zinni*

##### RIGHT OF REPLY

*The Chair put the amendment to the vote.*

<b>VOTING</b>		
<b>FOR</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)</b>
<i>Cr Labrador</i> <i>Cr McLindon</i> <i>Cr Stow</i> <i>Cr Taylor</i>	<i>Cr Colwell</i> <i>Cr Cox</i> <i>Cr Gunn</i> <i>Cr Lappin</i> <i>Cr Zinni</i>	<i>Cr Lenberg</i>

*The amendment was defeated, therefore the original motion remained as the substantive motion.*

### **SUBSTANTIVE MOTION**

THAT Council:

- Appoint the following Councillors to the State-wide, Metropolitan, Regional and Whittlesea-based organisations as listed at Table A for a period of up to 12 months as follows:
  - Municipal Association of Victoria: Cr Cox and Cr Stow (Proxy)
  - Australian Local Government Women's Association Incorporated: Cr Stow Until 30 June 2026
  - Outer Melbourne Councils: Cr Cox and Cr Colwell (Proxy)
  - Metropolitan Transport Forum Inc: Delegate appointed by the CEO
  - Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action Executive: Cr Lappin
  - Northern Councils Alliance: Cr Cox and Cr Stow (Proxy)
  - Victorian Local Governance Association: Cr Stow and Cr Zinni (Proxy) until 30 June 2026
  - Whittlesea Community Futures Partnership: Cr Zinni
  - Yarra Plenty Regional Library Board: Cr Taylor and Cr Stow
  - Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee: Cr Taylor
  - Whittlesea Multicultural Communities Council: Cr Brooks and Cr Lenberg (Proxy)
  - City of Whittlesea Community Awards Committee: Cr Gunn
  - Whittlesea Reconciliation Group: Cr Colwell
  - Whittlesea Youth Commitment Strategic Advisory Group: Cr Colwell
  - Councillor appointed to the National Growth Areas Alliance Strategic Advisory Committee remains as resolved by Council on 22 July 2025
- Note the Mayor, Cr Cox will be appointed to the Outer Melbourne Councils and Northern Councils Alliance in accordance with their respective Terms of Reference and Charter.
- Appoint the following Councillors to the Council Advisory Committees as listed at Table B for a period of up to 12 months as follows:

- City of Whittlesea Disability Advisory Panel: Cr Gunn
  - Whittlesea Disability Network: Cr Brooks and Cr Lappin (Proxy)
  - City of Whittlesea Business Advisory Panel: Cr Labrador, Cr Lenberg and Cr Zinni (Proxy)
  - Rainbow Advisory Committee: Cr Lenberg and Cr Colwell (Proxy)
  - Whittlesea Aboriginal Gathering Place Advisory Group: Cr Zinni
4. Resolve to amend the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy at clause 2.1 Membership to read CEMAC will be comprised of:
- a) the Mayor;
  - b) Three Councillors; and
  - c) One independent chair appointed by Council in accordance with this policy.
- And Clause 5.5 a majority of Councillor members of CEMAC constitute a quorum, meaning three Councillors are in attendance with the independent member.
5. Appoint the following Councillors to the Whittlesea City Council Standing Committees listed at Table C for a period of up to 12 months as follows:
- Audit and Risk Committee: Cr Taylor, Cr Lenberg and Cr McLindon (Proxy)
  - CEO Employment Matters Advisory Committee: Cr Cox, Cr Colwell, Cr Gunn and Cr Zinni
  - Hearing of Submissions Committee: Cr Stow, Cr Taylor, Cr Colwell, Cr Lappin and Cr Labrador
  - Councillors appointed to the Epping Cemetery Trust remains for the remainder of this Council term as resolved in November 2024.

*Cr Labrador proposed the following amendment to Cr Colwell, as the mover of the substantive motion and Cr Gunn, as the seconder. Cr Colwell and Cr Gunn accepted the amendment which then became the substantive motion.*

## AMENDMENT

THAT Council:

1. Appoint the following Councillors to the State-wide, Metropolitan, Regional and Whittlesea-based organisations as listed at Table A for a period of up to 12 months as follows:
  - Municipal Association of Victoria: Cr Cox and Cr Stow (Proxy)
  - Australian Local Government Women's Association Incorporated: Cr Stow Until 30 June 2026
  - Outer Melbourne Councils: Cr Cox and Cr Colwell (Proxy)
  - Metropolitan Transport Forum Inc: Delegate appointed by the CEO
  - Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action Executive: Cr Lappin
  - Northern Councils Alliance: Cr Cox and Cr Stow (Proxy)
  - Victorian Local Governance Association: Cr Stow and Cr Zinni (Proxy) until 30 June 2026
  - Whittlesea Community Futures Partnership: Cr Zinni

- Yarra Plenty Regional Library Board: Cr Taylor and Cr Stow
  - Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee: Cr Taylor
  - Whittlesea Multicultural Communities Council: Cr Brooks and **Cr Lenberg Cr Labrador** (Proxy)
  - City of Whittlesea Community Awards Committee: Cr Gunn
  - Whittlesea Reconciliation Group: Cr Colwell
  - Whittlesea Youth Commitment Strategic Advisory Group: Cr Colwell
  - Councillor appointed to the National Growth Areas Alliance Strategic Advisory Committee remains as resolved by Council on 22 July 2025
2. Note the Mayor, Cr Cox will be appointed to the Outer Melbourne Councils and Northern Councils Alliance in accordance with their respective Terms of Reference and Charter.
  3. Appoint the following Councillors to the Council Advisory Committees as listed at Table B for a period of up to 12 months as follows:
    - City of Whittlesea Disability Advisory Panel: Cr Gunn
    - Whittlesea Disability Network: Cr Brooks and **Cr Lappin Cr Labrador** (Proxy)
    - City of Whittlesea Business Advisory Panel: Cr Labrador, Cr Lenberg and Cr Zinni (Proxy)
    - Rainbow Advisory Committee: Cr Lenberg and Cr Colwell (Proxy)
    - Whittlesea Aboriginal Gathering Place Advisory Group: Cr Zinni
  4. Resolve to amend the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy at clause 2.1 Membership to read CEMAC will be comprised of:
    - a. the Mayor;
    - b. Three Councillors; and
    - c. One independent chair appointed by Council in accordance with this policy.

And Clause 5.5 a majority of Councillor members of CEMAC constitute a quorum, meaning three Councillors are in attendance with the independent member.
  5. Appoint the following Councillors to the Whittlesea City Council Standing Committees listed at Table C for a period of up to 12 months as follows:
    - Audit and Risk Committee: Cr Taylor, Cr Lenberg and Cr McLindon (Proxy)
    - CEO Employment Matters Advisory Committee: Cr Cox, Cr Colwell, Cr Gunn and Cr Zinni
    - Hearing of Submissions Committee: Cr Stow, Cr Taylor, Cr Colwell, Cr Lappin and Cr Labrador
    - Councillors appointed to the Epping Cemetery Trust remains for the remainder of this Council term as resolved in November 2024.

**SUBSTANTIVE MOTION**

THAT Council:

1. Appoint the following Councillors to the State-wide, Metropolitan, Regional and Whittlesea-based organisations as listed at Table A for a period of up to 12 months as follows:
  - Municipal Association of Victoria: Cr Cox and Cr Stow (Proxy)
  - Australian Local Government Women's Association Incorporated: Cr Stow Until 30 June 2026
  - Outer Melbourne Councils: Cr Cox and Cr Colwell (Proxy)
  - Metropolitan Transport Forum Inc: Delegate appointed by the CEO
  - Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action Executive: Cr Lappin
  - Northern Councils Alliance: Cr Cox and Cr Stow (Proxy)
  - Victorian Local Governance Association: Cr Stow and Cr Zinni (Proxy) until 30 June 2026
  - Whittlesea Community Futures Partnership: Cr Zinni
  - Yarra Plenty Regional Library Board: Cr Taylor and Cr Stow
  - Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee: Cr Taylor
  - Whittlesea Multicultural Communities Council: Cr Brooks and Cr Labrador (Proxy)
  - City of Whittlesea Community Awards Committee: Cr Gunn
  - Whittlesea Reconciliation Group: Cr Colwell
  - Whittlesea Youth Commitment Strategic Advisory Group: Cr Colwell
  - Councillor appointed to the National Growth Areas Alliance Strategic Advisory Committee remains as resolved by Council on 22 July 2025
2. Note the Mayor, Cr Cox will be appointed to the Outer Melbourne Councils and Northern Councils Alliance in accordance with their respective Terms of Reference and Charter.
3. Appoint the following Councillors to the Council Advisory Committees as listed at Table B for a period of up to 12 months as follows:
  - City of Whittlesea Disability Advisory Panel: Cr Gunn
  - Whittlesea Disability Network: Cr Brooks and Cr Labrador (Proxy)
  - City of Whittlesea Business Advisory Panel: Cr Labrador, Cr Lenberg and Cr Zinni (Proxy)
  - Rainbow Advisory Committee: Cr Lenberg and Cr Colwell (Proxy)
  - Whittlesea Aboriginal Gathering Place Advisory Group: Cr Zinni
4. Resolve to amend the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy at clause 2.1 Membership to read CEMAC will be comprised of:
  - a. the Mayor;
  - b. Three Councillors; and
  - c. One independent chair appointed by Council in accordance with this policy.

And Clause 5.5 a majority of Councillor members of CEMAC constitute a quorum, meaning three Councillors are in attendance with the independent member.

5. Appoint the following Councillors to the Whittlesea City Council Standing Committees listed at Table C for a period of up to 12 months as follows:
  - Audit and Risk Committee: Cr Taylor, Cr Lenberg and Cr McLindon (Proxy)
  - CEO Employment Matters Advisory Committee: Cr Cox, Cr Colwell, Cr Gunn and Cr Zinni
  - Hearing of Submissions Committee: Cr Stow, Cr Taylor, Cr Colwell, Cr Lappin and Cr Labrador
  - Councillors appointed to the Epping Cemetery Trust remains for the remainder of this Council term as resolved in November 2024.

*The Chair then put the substantive motion to the vote.*

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
<b>Moved:</b>	Cr Colwell
<b>Seconded:</b>	Cr Gunn

**THAT Council:**

1. Appoint the following Councillors to the State-wide, Metropolitan, Regional and Whittlesea-based organisations as listed at Table A for a period of up to 12 months as follows:
  - Municipal Association of Victoria: Cr Cox and Cr Stow (Proxy)
  - Australian Local Government Women's Association Incorporated: Cr Stow Until 30 June 2026
  - Outer Melbourne Councils: Cr Cox and Cr Colwell (Proxy)
  - Metropolitan Transport Forum Inc: Delegate appointed by the CEO
  - Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action Executive: Cr Lappin
  - Northern Councils Alliance: Cr Cox and Cr Stow (Proxy)
  - Victorian Local Governance Association: Cr Stow and Cr Zinni (Proxy) until 30 June 2026
  - Whittlesea Community Futures Partnership: Cr Zinni
  - Yarra Plenty Regional Library Board: Cr Taylor and Cr Stow
  - Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee: Cr Taylor
  - Whittlesea Multicultural Communities Council: Cr Brooks and Cr Labrador (Proxy)
  - City of Whittlesea Community Awards Committee: Cr Gunn
  - Whittlesea Reconciliation Group: Cr Colwell
  - Whittlesea Youth Commitment Strategic Advisory Group: Cr Colwell
  - Councillor appointed to the National Growth Areas Alliance Strategic Advisory Committee remains as resolved by Council on 22 July 2025



2. Note the Mayor, Cr Cox will be appointed to the Outer Melbourne Councils and Northern Councils Alliance in accordance with their respective Terms of Reference and Charter.
3. Appoint the following Councillors to the Council Advisory Committees as listed at Table B for a period of up to 12 months as follows:
  - City of Whittlesea Disability Advisory Panel: Cr Gunn
  - Whittlesea Disability Network: Cr Brooks and Cr Labrador (Proxy)
  - City of Whittlesea Business Advisory Panel: Cr Labrador, Cr Lenberg and Cr Zinni (Proxy)
  - Rainbow Advisory Committee: Cr Lenberg and Cr Colwell (Proxy)
  - Whittlesea Aboriginal Gathering Place Advisory Group: Cr Zinni
4. Resolve to amend the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy at clause 2.1 Membership to read CEMAC will be comprised of:
  - a. the Mayor;
  - b. Three Councillors; and
  - c. One independent chair appointed by Council in accordance with this policy.And Clause 5.5 a majority of Councillor members of CEMAC constitute a quorum, meaning three Councillors are in attendance with the independent member.
5. Appoint the following Councillors to the Whittlesea City Council Standing Committees listed at Table C for a period of up to 12 months as follows:
  - Audit and Risk Committee: Cr Taylor, Cr Lenberg and Cr McLindon (Proxy)
  - CEO Employment Matters Advisory Committee: Cr Cox, Cr Colwell, Cr Gunn and Cr Zinni
  - Hearing of Submissions Committee: Cr Stow, Cr Taylor, Cr Colwell, Cr Lappin and Cr Labrador
  - Councillors appointed to the Epping Cemetery Trust remains for the remainder of this Council term as resolved in November 2024.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



<b>VOTING</b>		
<b>FOR</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)</b>
<i>Cr Colwell</i> <i>Cr Cox</i> <i>Cr Gunn</i> <i>Cr Labrador</i> <i>Cr Lappin</i> <i>Cr Lenberg</i> <i>Cr McLindon</i> <i>Cr Stow</i> <i>Cr Taylor</i> <i>Cr Zinni</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

## **6 Notices of Motion**

No Notices of Motion

## **7 Urgent Business**

No Urgent Business

## **8 Reports from Councillors and CEO Update**

### **8.1 Reports from Councillors**

#### **Cr Colwell**

- Attended Donnybrook Community Christmas Carols - A special shout out to Jason, Catherine & Nick and many others.
- Cr Colwell noted a small gesture of kindness during the event as a member of the community offered him their jacket as he was cold. Cr Colwell thanked the community member for their thoughtfulness and hopes to pay it forward. Cr Colwell felt this highlighted a sense of empathy from the community and hopes this story inspires others as the holiday season approaches.

#### **Cr Zinni**

- Attended Encompass Care Christmas Luncheon alongside Cr Taylor - touched by the commitment the volunteers have to ensuring those in need have their Christmas party and feel a sense of belonging at this time of year. Cr Zinni encouraged businesses to donate and help those in need in the community.
- Attended the Aboriginal Gathering Place soft launch and visited the new Granite Hills Community Park in South Morang.
- On 28 November, attended a meeting with Minister Lily D'Ambrosio regarding the Findon Road duplication and Council's advocacy for a Youth Hub.
- Attended December Citizenship Ceremonies and provided a welcoming speech.
- On 12 December, attended the Carols by Candlelight at the Civic Centre Lawns.
- Cr Zinni wished all the residents, a happy and holy Christmas and New Year.

#### **Cr Labrador**

- Attended Coffee with Council in Lalor – noting complaints from residents pertaining to dumped rubbish and uncut grass. Cr Labrador hopes to ensure these concerns are addressed.
- Cr Labrador wished all a Merry Christmas

**Cr Gunn**

- Attended Council Briefings and training.
- Several coffee meetings with community members.
- Attended Yan Yean Road sod turn for the road extension.
- Attended Mernda Community Hospital opening.
- Attended NORTH Link 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dinner and business awards.
- Attended a barbecue at Granite Hills Park.
- On 14 December, attended the Christmas Carols at Laurimar Wetland Market.
- Looking forward to a visit with the Mayor & Deputy Mayor to Love Thy Neighbour who are packing goods for 400 families throughout the City of Whittlesea.
- Shoutout to colleagues at Waverley Council after the devastating events of Sunday night. Cr Gunn reiterated that *there is no room for hate of any kind in this Country, we are a free and just society and must call out hate in all its forms.*
- Cr Gunn wished all a safe festive season.

**Cr McLindon**

- Attended Coffee with Council – thanked the CEO, staff and Councillor colleagues for their attendance.
- Noted Epping Road has officially opened to the community.
- Attended Wollert Rise Park opening, alongside Mayor Cr Cox.
- Special shoutout to Angelo De Vincentis who was awarded the 2025 School Crossing Supervisor of the Year.
- Thanked all School Crossing Supervisors for their work.
- Special shoutout to Brendan and the team at Bread Hub in Bundoora.
- Cr McLindon encouraged the community to reach out to one another during this holiday season.

**Extension of Speaking Time**

*The Mayor, Cr Cox exercised his discretion in accordance with Governance Rule 35.5, to allow up to four minutes for Cr Lappin to present his Councillor Report.*

**Cr Lappin**

- On 12 December, attended the Carols by Candlelight at the Civic Centre Lawns.
- Attended Aboriginal Gathering Place soft launch and Granite Hills Parkland.
- Attended Mernda Multipurpose Centre opening alongside Cr Taylor.
- Attended Mernda Community Hospital opening.
- Attended Mernda Community Building Activities which was started by local residents.

- Cr Lappin acknowledged the passing of his pop who worked for what was formally known as the City of Broadmeadows. Cr Lappin noted his pop always spoke fondly of his time at Council as he worked there with family and built a career from the age of 15 onward. Cr Lappin made this special mention as he felt his pop had a special influence on his journey now as a Councillor.

#### Cr Taylor

- On 12 December, attended the Carols by Candlelight at the Civic Centre Lawns – noted a fantastic job undertaken by Council officers.
- Attended the Whittlesea Community Connections summer law student's clerkship graduation.
- Represented the Mayor at the South Morang Football, Cricket & Netball Club for the sod turn in relation to the installation of the new lighting system.
- Attended Encompass Care Christmas Luncheon alongside Cr Zinni.
- Met with approximately 15 community groups in South Morang.
- Has been involved in door knocking to connect with the community in South Morang and hopes to continue in 2026.
- Cr Taylor highlighted some of the business legends in South Morang. Cr Taylor stated that *there is no place for racism within the City of Whittlesea, there is no place for people to make racist comments, we are a multicultural municipality and that's the way we should move forward.*
- Attended Aboriginal Gathering Place soft launch and Granite Hills Parkland with fellow Councillor colleagues.

#### Cr Stow

- Gave condolences to the citizens of Waverley and acknowledged the tragic events that occurred.
- Gave condolences to Cr Lappin on the passing of his pop.
- Attended several meetings with the residents of Whittlesea regarding the dam and Grants Road.
- Attended meetings with residents in Donnybrook pertaining to concerns about Donnybrook Road.
- On 12 December, attended the Carols by Candlelight at the Civic Centre Lawns.
- Attended Carols by Candlelight in the North Ward.
- Attended NORTH Link 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dinner and business awards.
- Attended Yarra Plenty Regional Library board meeting.
- Attended Donnybrook Carols by Candlelight.
- Attended the launch of Beveridge Intermodal Freight Terminal.
- Cr Stow wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

**Cr Lenberg**

- Cr Lenberg reflected on his first year as a Councillor for the Epping Ward with the following statements: *When I was first elected to the City of Whittlesea Council, I thought I had a fair idea of what to expect, as I quickly learned there was no real guidebook for the realities of Local Government. This first year has been challenging in ways I didn't anticipate. It has also been one of the most rewarding experiences connecting with the community. I learned a great deal about how our community functions and just as importantly about myself. I've discovered that integrity isn't just a word or a value to quote, it's a daily practice. It's the compass that keeps you steady when the pressures of politics threaten to pull you off course. Integrity is something I'll hold close, especially because it can sometimes feel rare in politics and even in our society.*

*In my first year I've been proud to stay true to my principles and focus on tangible outcomes that genuinely matter to peoples lives. I've championed the duplication of Findon Road between High Street and Plenty Road, a vital project that will ease congestion and make travel safer for our residents. I've also worked hard to support the vision of the Melbourne Arboretum, ensuring its planning permit reflects both environmental stewardship and community value. Beyond projects, some of my most meaningful work has come from listening, helping residents navigate issues as they arise and standing alongside our business community in Epping as they continue to grow and adapt. The new Epping project is one that I have a keen interest in, and I look forward to it taking shape over the next 10 years. The first year has reminded me why Local Government matters: it's where integrity meets impact, it's where small decisions and actions can make a difference, and it's where my connection to this community feels stronger than ever. Thank you.*

**Cr Cox**

- Gave condolences to Cr Zinni due to the loss of a family member.
- Attended the Greek Orthodox Women's Christmas function.
- Attended the Northern Mauritius Seniors Club Christmas function.
- On 12 December, attended the Carols by Candlelight at the Civic Centre Lawns.
- Had plenty of opportunities and meetings and gave special thanks to the Deputy Mayor for participating in a majority of these and being readily available.
- Attended City of Whittlesea staff awards function, alongside Deputy Mayor, Cr Colwell.
- *I would like to emphasise, tonight has shown again, this Council does work, does provide stability and does provide respect. As I said previously, it's been a long time for me going backwards and forwards over amendments and processes, it's been a bit of a memory jogger, but it's been good and I hope people have understood it and supported the process in all respects.*

*It's been fantastic, the good will being shown by all Councillors to each other but also to our officers, the officers that are present tonight, and the officers that are not present. To our employees again, a great year, I wish you all a very happy festive season and a good break. Come back in 2026 and more challenges will be ahead of us.*

## **8.2 Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd Update**

### **Granite Hills Major Community Park**

The Granite Hills Major Community Park has proved very popular people of all ages and abilities since it opened to the public last week.

Located in bunjil nganga Parkland Quarry Hills, the new \$8 million attraction is a fantastic addition to the mix of parks and playgrounds across the City of Whittlesea.

The park connects to the precinct's recently expanded network of walking trails and includes a large playground with an array of slides, swings and other features.

There are also shelters, picnic tables, built-in barbecues, public toilets, a Changing Places facility for people with higher care needs and a new car park.

Council contributed \$5.5 million towards the project and we are grateful for a \$2.5 million grant from the Victorian Government's Growing Suburbs Fund.

A festival celebrating the opening of the park will be held in bunjil nganga Parkland Quarry Hills in mid-February 2026.

### **Aboriginal Gathering Place**

As has been mentioned, the construction of one of the City of Whittlesea's most significant projects, the Aboriginal Gathering Place, is now complete.

The project is the culmination of more than 20 years of collaboration and persistence from Council and local First Peoples.

Fully funded by Council, the Aboriginal Gathering Place reflects Council's commitment to reconciliation and self-determination for First Peoples.

The Gathering Place located at bunjil nganga Parkland Quarry Hills will be officially opened at a community event in mid-February.

### **Peter Hopper Lake**

I am delighted to report that the main works to restore the health of Peter Hopper Lake in Mill Park have been completed.

The lake has been troubled by water quality issues and frequent algae blooms for many years. In 2024, Council, with the support of a grant from the Australian Government, embarked on a major, multi-stage project to revitalise the lake.

The project included the removal of about 3000 cubic metres of silt and other pollutants from the lakebed, and the installation of water-filtering infrastructure.

There is still some landscaping to complete and the temporary fencing will remain in place until the shared path surrounding the lake is reconstructed in the new year.

I would like to thank all of the team that have been involved in this project and the community groups that were involved in the advocacy for the Federal Government funding.

### **Mill Park Lakes Recreation Reserve**

I recently had the pleasure of attending an event to mark the start of a \$434,000 upgrade of sports lighting at the Mill Park Lakes Recreation Reserve.

The project will replace the reserve's ageing lighting system with modern 100-lux LED lights that meet AFL Victoria and Cricket Victoria standards.

The new lights will give the tenant clubs more flexibility with scheduling training, night fixtures, preseason activities and community events.

The benefits will be especially evident for the clubs' women and junior players, who are joining up in record numbers and will enjoy more time playing and training on the main oval.

The project is funded by Council with the support of \$250,000 from the Victorian Government's Local Sports Infrastructure Fund and a \$10,000 contribution from the South Morang Football Netball Club.

## **9 Tabled Reports**

### **9.1 Arbiter Report IAP 2025-2, IAP 2025-4, IAP 2025-5 and IAP 2025-7**

This report was tabled and noted by Council.

*The Mayor Cr Cox invited Cr McLindon to speak.*

Cr McLindon made the following statement:

*'Under sub-section 147 (2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020 at the Council meeting today after the reasons have been tabled by the Arbiter, I have been directed to make the following apology which will be made in this open component of the meeting.*

*On Sky News on 26 January 2025, I made a statement that Councillors in Victoria have just got enough time to read what's put in front of them and to rubber stamp it. I accept that this comment would be understood as reflecting on how Whittlesea City Council operates, I did not intend to suggest that this was my personal experience as a Whittlesea Councillor or that Council staff were not giving me enough time to consider the Council papers. I wish to apologise to Council staff for my remarks and hope that that apology will be accepted.'*

## **10 Confidential Business**

No confidential business.

## **11 Closure**

There being no further business the Mayor formally closed the meeting at 9:47pm.

Confirmed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February 2026.

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Cr Lawrie Cox  
Mayor