



# Agenda

**Hearing of Submissions**

**Committee Meeting**

Tuesday 5 May 2026 at 5pm

Council Chamber,  
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang



**City of  
Whittlesea**

## Attendance

### Councillors

Cr Blair Colwell, Deputy Mayor  
Cr Michael Labrador  
Cr Jarrod Lappin  
Cr Christine Stow  
Cr Martin Taylor

### Officers

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

### Apologies

Nil

## Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement

The Chair will open the meeting by reading the following Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners 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."*

## Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

The Chair will ask those in attendance the following question: *"Does any Councillor or Officer have a conflict of interest in any matter on the agenda today?"*

**Order of Business**

1 Reports from Officers .....4  
    1.1 Hearing of Submissions Committee - Proposed Budget Submissions .....4  
2 Close Meeting .....14

## 1 Reports from Officers

### 1.1 Hearing of Submissions Committee - Proposed Budget Submissions

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

**Report Author:** Chief Financial Officer

**In Attendance:** Chief Financial Officer  
Unit Manager Financial Development & Accountability  
Unit Manager Financial Strategy & Performance

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 confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a).

#### Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is for the Hearing of Submissions Committee (the Committee) to hear all the submitters who wish to speak and elaborate on their written submission received by Council regarding the Proposed Budget 2026-27 (the 'Proposed Budget').

The Committee also have the opportunity to ask questions to the submitter, seeking clarification if required.

## Background / Key Information

At the Council meeting held on 21 April 2026, Council endorsed the Proposed Budget to be advertised for community consultation and submissions from Wednesday 22 April 2026 to Tuesday 28 April 2026.

95 submissions have been received in relation to the Proposed Budget.

27 submitters wish to be contacted regarding their submissions, and seven of these submitters wish to speak in support of their submission at the scheduled Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting.

## Considerations of *Local Government Act (2020) Principles*

### Financial Management

The cost is included in the current budget.

### Community Consultation and Engagement

An extensive program of community engagement has been conducted to inform the development of the Proposed Budget. Throughout September 2025 Council asked the community to tell us what was important to them to help shape Council's Proposed Budget 2026-27. More than 1,050 people shared their thoughts both online, at 15 community-based pop-ups or through 11 short survey activities.

Our community told us their top five priorities were community safety; roads, public transport and footpaths; ageing well services; community facilities; community wellbeing.

We again checked in with the community during December 2025 and January 2026 to confirm the priorities identified. Of the 125 people that participated, 65% agreed with the order of the priorities.

In February 2026, 46 carefully selected community members, representing the diverse demographics of the community, participated in three focus groups to discuss local priorities. They looked at the order of the priority service areas and identified those they would like to see enhanced.

At the Scheduled Council Meeting on Tuesday 21 April 2026, Proposed Budget was endorsed for a further phase of consultation and to allow the community an opportunity to lodge formal submissions between Wednesday 22 April 2026 to Tuesday 28 April 2026.

### Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Under Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* officers providing advice to Council are required to disclose any conflict of interest they have in a matter and explain the nature of the conflict.

The Responsible Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

### Attachments

1. Proposed Budget 2026-27 Submissions - HoS [1.1.1 - 7 pages]

**Proposed Budget 2026-27: Hearing of Submissions Committee**

No.	Organisation, club, community group name or an individual	Name(s) of presenter(s)
8	Mill Park Football Club	Nathan Allison

**Submission**

Mill Park Football Club appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the Proposed Budget 2026–27 and acknowledges Council’s continued investment in community sport infrastructure, including the proposed upgrade at Kelynack Reserve.

We strongly support the inclusion of the Kelynack Reserve fair access amenities upgrade in this proposed budget and request that it proceed as planned. This investment will improve inclusivity and functionality at that facility, which is an important secondary ground for our growing club.

However, we note a continued lack of investment in Redleap Recreation Reserve, which remains our primary home ground and the venue for all match-day activity and the majority of training. Despite significant growth in participation in recent years, including a notable jump in female participation, infrastructure at Redleap has not kept pace with demand, placing increasing pressure on existing facilities and limiting the club’s ability to safely and effectively accommodate current usage.

Importantly, Council previously advised the club in writing that Redleap upgrades would be progressed following our 2023–24 budget submission, including detailed design work and consideration of key infrastructure elements. However, these commitments have not yet translated into delivered upgrades on the ground.

We respectfully request that this 2026-27 budget includes funding for the delivery of essential infrastructure upgrades at Redleap Recreation Reserve. Ensuring both reserves are adequately resourced is critical to supporting safe, inclusive, and sustainable community sport for current and future participants.

**Proposed Budget 2026-27: Hearing of Submissions Committee**

No.	Organisation, club, community group name or an individual	Name(s) of presenter(s)
10	Merri Outreach Support Service	Mark Goodie
<p><b>Submission</b></p> <p>I support the overall direction and intent of the City of Whittlesea 2026–27 Proposed Budget, particularly its commitment to community wellbeing, service access, and long-term planning for a growing municipality.</p> <p>However, I note a critical gap in the current budget settings in relation to the identification, engagement, and support of people experiencing rough sleeping across the municipality.</p> <p>Recent scoping work undertaken in partnership with Council has demonstrated that rough sleeping in Whittlesea is both increasing and under-captured, with many individuals not engaging with existing service systems. This highlights a need for a more proactive, coordinated, and place-based response.</p> <p>Given the scale and geographic spread of the City of Whittlesea, service delivery models cannot be directly compared to smaller inner-metro municipalities. Effective responses require appropriately resourced, assertive outreach approaches that can operate across a large and dispersed area.</p> <p>I have attached supporting documentation outlining:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Findings from the Whittlesea Assertive Community Outreach Pilot</li> <li>A proposed service model aligned to local need</li> <li>A breakdown of the cost drivers and expected outcomes</li> </ul> <p>I welcome the opportunity to present further to Council on how a targeted investment in assertive outreach can strengthen early intervention, improve service coordination, and support better long-term outcomes for the community.</p>		
<p><b>Attachments</b></p> <p><a href="#">Attachment 1</a>, <a href="#">Attachment 2</a>, <a href="#">Attachment 3</a></p>		

**Proposed Budget 2026-27: Hearing of Submissions Committee**

No.	Organisation, club, community group name or an individual	Name(s) of presenter(s)
11	Rivergum Cricket Club	Gabriele Sorrentino

**Submission**

Thank you for the opportunity to document & present our support for this budget, with particular reference to the facilities and surrounding areas at Kelynack Reserve.

Given that community facilities is one of top 5 priorities for the City of Whittlesea, we believe the redevelopment of Kelynack Reserve clubrooms should be seriously considered in the budget plans moving forward.

We believe given the state of the facility; it is hindering female participation in our club. We believe new/upgraded facilities will promote and enhance female participation at our club (and reserve).

The RCC is a relatively young sporting club formed in the late 1990s. We have grown from our initial membership base of about 30 adult members to now having 140+ adult members (approximately 20 female) & 89 junior members (approximately 15% girls). In the last 4 years participation has increased by almost 50% (majority of the growth in Women's & Juniors).

Our strategic plan is for this area of our club to continue to grow. We have grown our Cricket Club to become a true Community Club.

The facilities & surrounding areas were built when the club was formed. The clubrooms are really changerooms for sport. We have spent time & finance to make these rooms a place for our members & visitors to enjoy. Also, due to time, these facilities & surrounding areas have deteriorated but more importantly, given our growth (& change in gender balance), the clubrooms are outdated, inappropriately designed & redundant for our club's needs.

We appreciate what we have & want to work with the City of Whittlesea to have Kelynack Reserve change to a location for our community. We understand that there are provisions in this budget to upgrade the amenities at Kelynack Reserve & we hope that this budget is approved.

**Proposed Budget 2026-27: Hearing of Submissions Committee**

No.	Organisation, club, community group name or an individual	Name(s) of presenter(s)
37	WARM Inc	Louise Kenney-Shen Brendan Murphy
<p><b>Submission</b></p> <p>On behalf of WARM Inc., we support the investment in housing delivery and improved service coordination outlined in the budget. However, we are concerned that this is not matched by a strong enough emphasis on proactive and preventative responses to disadvantage, housing insecurity and homelessness. These efforts should go hand in hand with targeted outreach, early intervention and community-based support programs.</p> <p>As cost-of-living pressures continue to rise, more residents are at risk of housing stress and crisis. WARM Inc. is a community-based emergency accommodation provider that works closely with existing specialist services to connect individuals to ongoing support. We see firsthand that empowering community members to engage with these services helps restore dignity, build trust, and leads to better long-term local outcomes.</p> <p>Without stronger investment in prevention and early support, demand for crisis responses will continue to grow. To assist with this, WARM Inc. seeks a modest allocation of \$5,000 to support our service delivery and strengthen our capacity to work alongside local support services. This investment would help stabilise people in crisis and improve pathways into longer-term housing and support.</p>		

**Proposed Budget 2026-27: Hearing of Submissions Committee**

No.	Organisation, club, community group name or an individual	Name(s) of presenter(s)
84	Donnybrook Community Group	Laura Ryan - Vice President Kat Jensen
<p><b>Submission</b></p> <p>The Donnybrook Community Group has held a communal brainstorm session to create a list of suggestions for the 2026 budget submissions which is attached.</p>		
<p><b>Attachments</b></p> <p><a href="#">Attachment 1</a></p>		

**Proposed Budget 2026-27: Hearing of Submissions Committee**

No.	Organisation, club, community group name or an individual	Name(s) of presenter(s)
91	Individual	Hristina Brown Matthew Brown
<p><b>Submission</b></p> <p>Prioritise sporting facilities at the following locations;</p> <p>Corner of de Rossi boulevard and Epping Road in Wollert behind Kirrip community centre.</p> <p>Corner of harvest home road and Epping Road.</p> <p>If we are not provided funding for Craigieburn Road or bridge in road or Epping Road to Donnybrook Road Prioritise to re seal the whole road, place safer barriers and lines. Prioritise weekly rubbish dumping pick up along Craigieburn Road east and maintenance of same. Prioritise frequent emptying of local park bins and more lighting at parks at night (similar to fairy lights around tree trunks would make the parks welcoming and appealing). More security around bus stops due to damage caused to them. Cameras at bus stops. Regular street sweeps in areas, graffiti removal on private and public places (next to zap fitness - kinder fencing), more EV charges, audits of uneven footpaths, maintenance where bus stops are, maintenance of large grass lands areas dedicated to the Wollert rail (to maximise appearance until it is done), more speed humps and lines on Yann drive (Wollert), tip vouchers to remove dumping of rubbish.</p>		

**Proposed Budget 2026-27: Hearing of Submissions Committee**

No.	Organisation, club, community group name or an individual	Name(s) of presenter(s)
92	Innovation Youth Centre	Paul Papadatos Sarah Denton
<p><b>Submission</b></p> <p>Young people and I have met with the council's senior staff and councils to discuss the matter. Innovation Youth Centre has a proven record in supporting young people in the City of Whittlesea. Please refer to the service evaluation attached.</p>		
<p><b>Attachments</b></p> <p><a href="#">Attachment 1</a></p>		

**2 Close Meeting**