

Agenda

Scheduled Council Meeting Monday 15 August 2022 at 6:30 pm

You are advised that a Meeting of Council has been called by the Chief Executive Officer on Monday 15 August 2022 at 6:30 pm for the transaction of the following business.

In accordance with section 394 of the Local Government Act 2020 this meeting will be held remotely by electronic means and will be livestreamed via Council's website.

C Lloyd Chief Executive Officer



Administrators

Lydia Wilson

Chair of Council

Peita Duncan

Administrator

Chris Eddy

Administrator

On 19 June 2020 the Acting Minister for Local Government appointed the Panel of Administrators for the City of Whittlesea and appointed Ms Lydia Wilson as Chair of the Panel. The Panel of Administrators comprises of Ms Lydia Wilson, Ms Peita Duncan and Mr Chris Eddy who will undertake the duties of the Council of the City of Whittlesea until the October 2024 Local Government Election.

Senior Officers

Craig Lloyd	Chief Executive Officer
Kate McCaughey	Director Community Wellbeing
Justin O'Meara	Director Planning & Development
Sarah Renner	Director Customer & Corporate Services
Debbie Wood	Director Infrastructure & Environment
Frank Joyce	Executive Manager Governance & Strategy
Janine Morgan	Executive Manager Public Affairs



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Note:

At the Chair of Council's discretion, the meeting may be closed to the public in accordance with Section 66(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020*. The provision which is likely to be relied upon to enable closure is set out in each item. These reports are not available for public distribution.

Question Time:

During the meeting, the Chief Executive Officer will answer questions from residents and ratepayers. Questions are required to be submitted in writing prior to the advertised commencement time of a Scheduled Council Meeting. It is preferred to receive any questions by 3.30pm unless this unreasonably prevents or hinders you from participating. A Question Time form can be downloaded from Council's website and copies of the form are available at the meeting. Refer: <u>https://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/about-us/council/council-meetings/</u>

Council will hold public question time for up to 30 minutes at each Scheduled Council Meeting to allow members of the public to present the questions they have submitted to Council. When Council Meetings are held remotely by electronic means in accordance with Section 394 of the *Local Government Act 2020,* members of the public will be unable to present their questions, however the Chief Executive Officer will read out and answer questions from residents and ratepayers.

Council is committed to ensuring that all residents and ratepayers of the municipality may contribute to Council's democratic process and therefore, if you have special requirements, please telephone the Governance Team prior to any Council Meeting on (03) 9217 2294.



1 Opening

1.1 Meeting Opening and Introductions

Administrator Chris Eddy will open the meeting and introduce the Administrator and Chief Executive Officer:

Administrator, Ms Peita Duncan; and Chief Executive Officer, Mr Craig Lloyd.

The Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd will introduce members of the Executive Leadership Team:

Director Community Wellbeing, Ms Kate McCaughey; Director Planning and Development, Mr Justin O'Meara; Director Corporate & Customer Services, Ms Sarah Renner; Director Infrastructure and Environment, Ms Debbie Wood; Executive Manager Governance and Strategy, Mr Frank Joyce; and Executive Manager Public Affairs, Ms Janine Morgan.

Following the Introductions, the Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd will then read the following prayer:

Almighty God, we ask for your blessing upon this council to make informed and good decisions to benefit the people of the City of Whittlesea.

Our father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.

Amen

1.2 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement

Administrator Chris Eddy will read the following statement:

"On behalf of the City of Whittlesea I recognise the rich Aboriginal heritage of this country and acknowledge the Wurundjeri Willum Clan as the Traditional Owners of this place."

1.3 Attendance



2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s

Recommendation

THAT the following Minutes of the preceding meeting as circulated, be confirmed:

Scheduled Meeting of Council held 18 July 2022



4 Public Questions, Petitions and Joint Letters

- 4.1 Public Question Time
- 4.2 Petitions

Nil Petitions

4.3 Joint Letters

4.3.1 Request to upgrade Wildwood Road, Whittlesea

"We are residents who utilize the eastern position of Milky Lane aka Wildwood Road.

The bridge repairs on Wallan Road that require a detour along Milky Lane to access the village of Whittlesea have exacerbated a problem that has been increasing especially in the last decade. There are now more road users along this particular section of road as subdivision and subsequent housing has occurred and there is a greater through put of use as people traverse from Wallan Road to Yea Road and vice versa with a greater number of heavy vehicles. The eastern end of Milky Lane is heavily utilized in November when the Whittlesea Show occurs and this is the entrance for the horse exhibitors and some of the car parking.

The comparison of Masons Lane to Milky Lane is unfair. Masons Lane has predominantly a straight road, quite wide and on an even ground level with good visibility. Milky Lane is a narrow winding lane with substantial large tree growth and in one area significant vertical fall. The Yea Road bridge is a single lane on a semi blind and right angled curve and this also needs remedial work. The road is inadequate for the traffic that uses it and the road needs to be upgraded before a major accident happens."

Recommendation

THAT Council receive the joint letter from 11 residents requesting to upgrade Milky Lane aka Wildwood Road, Whittlesea and that a final report will be presented to Council at its meeting of 21 November 2022.



5 Officers' Reports

- 5.1 Connected Communities Nil reports
- 5.2 Liveable Neighborhoods

5.2.1 Proposed Planning Scheme Amendment- Rezoning of Mernda Regional Recreation Reserve- Request for Authorisation

Responsible Officer	Director Planning & Development
Author	Qaisara Mohamad Iqbal, Strategic Planner (Graduate)
In Attendance	Qaisara Mohamad Iqbal, Strategic Planner (Graduate) Liam Wilkinson, Coordinator Strategic Planning & Economic Development

Attachments

- 1. Attachment 1- Subject Site- Aerial Plan [5.2.1.1 1 page]
- 2. Attachment 2- Subject Site- Zoning Plan [5.2.1.2 1 page]
- 3. Attachment 3- Heritage Overlay [5.2.1.3 1 page]

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to commence a Planning Scheme Amendment process to facilitate the delivery of the Mernda Regional Sports and Aquatic Facility at the Mernda Regional Recreation Reserve, 1485 Plenty Road, Mernda). The proposed Amendment will rezone the land to Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ) which supports the intended use of the land as a regional recreation reserve.

Brief Overview

The Mernda Regional Recreation Reserve (MRRR) site was identified in the Mernda Strategy Plan (MSP) and was incorporated in the Whittlesea Planning Scheme in 2004, with minor amendments made in 2008 and 2016.

The site is currently zoned General Residential Zone – Schedule 1 (GRZ1), which was applied as an underlying zone to the precinct at the time when the land was being developed and the lot boundaries for the reserve were still yet to be created. Since then, the majority of the reserve has been acquired or transferred to Council (the final small portion is currently being acquired to facilitate the Everton Drive and Plenty Road intersection) and is now in Council ownership.



As such it is now appropriate to ensure the zoning of the land reflects its public ownership and intended recreational use. In this respect, the Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ) is considered the most suitable zoning. This will also streamline approvals required for development of the regional recreation reserve including the Mernda Regional Sports and Aquatic Facility project.

Given the proposed change of zoning, it is also recommended that the heritage controls which apply to Preston Hall (heritage building on the site) be amended to enable prohibited land uses to be permitted at the heritage place, subject to a planning permit. This will provide greater flexibility in respect to options for the future use of the heritage buildings located within the recreation reserve.

Recommendation

That Council seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit an amendment to the Whittlesea Planning Scheme to:

- a) Rezone the land at the Mernda Regional Recreation Reserve at 1470 (land to the west of Plenty Road), 1475W, 1485 and 1485W Plenty Road, Mernda and 15A and 55A Everton Drive, Mernda to a Public Park and Recreation Zone.
- b) Subject to a planning permit, enable prohibited land uses to be permitted at the Preston Hall heritage place (HO68).

Key Information

Background

The MRRR has been strategically identified and planned through the MSP as a regional open space area to service the Mernda and Doreen communities. The reserve has been acquired over time as the precinct has developed and is almost entirely in Council ownership. The final portion of the reserve at 1470 Plenty Road is currently being acquired.

The reserve is the proposed location of the Mernda Regional Sports and Aquatic Facility project which will ultimately comprise of a sports and aquatic centre, outdoor courts, outdoor playing fields and associated infrastructure. It is a significant regional project to service the broader Mernda/Doreen area. The project will be a key facility in Council's sports and leisure network and is a significant investment into social and health infrastructure to support healthy and active lifestyles across the municipality.



The Mernda Regional Sports and Aquatic Facility project will be delivered in stages. The scope of Stage 1 is expected to include the

- Plenty Road & Everton Drive intersection,
- access road into MRRR,
- bulk earthworks / rock removal,
- retarding basins / drainage,
- service utilities provided to the site.

Stage 2 will comprise of indoor and outdoor courts and Stage 3 detailed design. Stage 3 will be the aquatics and leisure facility.

The MRRR is currently affected by the underlying General Residential Zone – Schedule 1 (GRZ1). Under the GRZ1, a permit is required to use the land for a range of purposes including minor sports and recreation facilities. This blanket zone was applied to the entire MSP upon its approval (including neighbouring residential areas) as the area was being initially developed. Since then, the lot boundaries of the reserve have been established and the land has been transferred into public ownership.

As such it is appropriate that the ultimate zoning of the land reflect its public ownership and intended use as a regional recreation facility as identified in the MSP.

Site Context

The subject land is located at 1470 (part of land to the west of Plenty Road), 1475W, 1485 and 1485W Plenty Road, Mernda and 15A and 55A Everton Drive, Mernda. An aerial view is shown in Attachment 1 and plan with zoning is shown at Attachment 2. The MRRR is approximately 23 hectares in size and has been identified as a large active open space in accordance with the MSP.

The subject site is now almost completely owned by Council. The final parcel at 1470 Plenty Road is currently being acquired. The MRRR is a regional recreational node that is central to its regional catchment and located close to the Mernda Town Centre.

The reserve is adjoined by residential development to the south, the Mernda Primary School to east, Plenty Road to the west and conservation/drainage reserves and residential development to the north. The reserve will integrate strongly with the passive open space, conservation and drainage reserves located in proximity to the site.



The site also contains the historic Preston Hall and outbuildings, which is of local heritage significance. The Preston Hall and its curtilage is affected by a Heritage Overlay (HO68) as shown in Attachment 3. The heritage property is owned by Council and leased as a private residence. The future use of the heritage building will be explored as part of the future planning for the recreation reserve by Council.

Access to the reserve will be via Everton Drive and a new intersection to be constructed at Plenty Road and Everton Drive.

Planning Context

The subject site is currently affected by the following planning controls:

• General Residential Zone – Schedule 1 (refer to Attachment 2).

It is also affected by the following Overlay controls:

- Development Contributions Plan Overlay Schedule 7;
- Development Plan Overlay Schedule 5;
- Incorporated Plan Overlay Schedule 1;
- Heritage Overlay HO68 (refer to Attachment 3); and
- Vegetation Protection Overlay Schedule 1.

Part of the subject site is also within an area of cultural heritage sensitivity.

In addition to the above, the subject site, specifically, 1470 Plenty Road, Mernda, is affected by the following additional Overlay controls:

- Public Acquisition Overlay 15;
- Public Acquisition Overlay 4;
- Development Contributions Plan Overlay Schedule 9; and
- Development Plan Overlay Schedule 15.

Schedule 1 to the Incorporated Plan Overlay incorporates the MSP. The MSP is the primary strategic plan guiding the development in the Mernda precinct. The MSP strategically identifies the land required for the MRRR.

The MSP Development Contributions Plan (MSPDCP) identifies the MRRR project which obligates Council as the delivery agency to deliver the project.

Planning Scheme Amendment Proposal

The proposed Amendment is to rezone the subject land (as shown in Attachments 1 and 2) to PPRZ. The subject land now referred to as the MRRR, is reflective of the land identified and subsequently assembled in accordance with the MSP for regional open space.



The PPRZ is a standard zone used for parks and active open space areas in public ownership. The purpose of the PPRZ is:

- To recognise areas for public recreation and open space.
- To protect and conserve areas of significance where appropriate.
- To provide for commercial uses where appropriate.

The PPRZ is considered the most appropriate zone to reflect the use of the land for a regional recreation reserve.

The PPRZ permits the land to be used for a range of uses, buildings to be constructed and works carried out without the need for a planning permit if they are carried out by or on behalf of the public land manager (such as Council). This would mean that the future use of the MRRR and development of the Mernda Regional Sports and Aquatic Facility project would not require planning permits (except where triggered by an Overlay such as the Heritage Overlay).

The Amendment will also update the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay in respect to site 68, Preston Hall (HO68) located on the subject site, to enable prohibited land uses to be permitted, subject to a planning permit. This will provide greater flexibility in respect of potential options for the future use of Preston Hall to be determined as part of future planning for the site to be undertaken by Council.

Adjoining open space land used for local open space, conservation and drainage is not proposed to be rezoned as part of this amendment which is focused specifically on the regional open space land (MRRR). Other open space land may be investigated for rezoning as part of a subsequent broader review of open space land.

Community Consultation and Engagement

Community consultation and engagement was included as part of the preparation and implementation of the MSP which identified the regional recreation reserve location. There has also been significant engagement and consultation with the community on the proposed Mernda Regional Sports and Aquatic Facility project in 2013 (Major Leisure and Aquatic Facility Strategy), 2017 (Mernda Aquatic Centre Planning Study and Active Whittlesea) and 2020 (Whittlesea Netball Basketball Plan) to ensure that the facilities will suitably reflect the various health and wellbeing needs of the municipality's diverse community.

Noting the above, it is considered that the strategic intent of the site is well known and this amendment is, in essence, procedural in nature by applying the appropriate zone to the site reflective of its ultimate purpose as regional open space.



If the Minister for Planning authorises exhibition of the amendment, formal notice of this Amendment will be required to be given in accordance with the requirements of s19 of the Planning and the Environment Act. This includes notice in the local newspaper and direct notice to adjoining property owners/occupiers and relevant government agencies.

Alignment to Community Plan, Policies or Strategies

Alignment to Whittlesea 2040 and Community Plan 2021-2025:

Liveable neighbourhoods

Our City is well-planned and beautiful, and our neighbourhoods and town centres are convenient and vibrant places to live, work and play.

The Planning Scheme Amendment aligns with the directions of Whittlesea 2040. The amendment will help facilitate the delivery of the Mernda Regional Sports and Aquatic Facility and will assist with providing recreational services and facilities for the local community.

Considerations

Planning Assessment

Whittlesea Planning Policy

The Amendment is consistent with and implements the following planning policy:

- Clause 02.03-9 Infrastructure Community Facilities "Council supports the development of multi-purpose community facilities that are adaptable and encourage integrated service provision, [and] Council aims to: enhance community wellbeing through building social and physical infrastructure that: facilitates community connections, generates social capital, [and] enables residents of all ages to undertake daily activities."
- Clause 02.03-9 Infrastructure Open Space "Council aims to: facilitate an appropriate range and proportion of open space types to reflect community expectations for nature conservation, formal and informal recreation."

Ministerial Directions

The Amendment will be prepared considering the following ministerial directions:

- Ministerial Direction: The Form and Content of Planning Schemes
- Direction No. 11: Strategic Assessment of Amendment

Planning Practice Notes

The Amendment documents will be prepared considering the following practice notes:

- PPN01: Applying the Heritage Overlay
- PPN46: Strategic Assessment Guidelines



A Practitioner's Guide to Victoria's Planning Schemes

The Amendment controls will be drafted with reference to this guide.

Whittlesea 2040

The Amendment supports the Goal 2 – Liveable neighbourhoods and the recommended actions which involves building health and recreational facilities and provide more public amenities.

Mernda Strategy Plan

The subject site is located within Precinct 3 of the Development Plan Areas (Plan 1.2) and the plans for the development of a regional recreational node for active recreation on site to strongly integrate the site with medium density housing areas and passive open space.

Other Considerations

1470 Plenty Road, Mernda

A small portion of the proposed MRRR is currently privately owned. A Public Acquisition Overlay (PAO) has been applied to the land and Council is in process of acquiring the land. It should be noted that the rezoning of this portion of land to the PPRZ (being a public zone) cannot be finalised until the land is in public ownership.

Preston Hall

Preston Hall is affected by a Heritage Overlay (HO68). The Preston Hall and its associated land is of historic, aesthetic and architectural significance to the City of Whittlesea. It is historically significant as a remnant of early pastoral and/or farming activity in the Mernda district and has remained a prominent house in Mernda since its construction. The development is architecturally significant as a good example of an early 1860s substantial dwelling. It is aesthetically significant for its siting away from and above the Plenty Road where it is a significant element in an otherwise open landscape.

The site is owned by Council and currently leased as a private residence. Its future use will be determined as part of future planning for the site to be undertaken by Council. Whilst the PPRZ provides flexibility in respect to uses carried out on or behalf of Council it is more restrictive in respect to other uses. As such, it is recommended that the planning controls be amended to make all potential uses of the Preston Hall site permissible subject to a planning permit, to provide flexibility in respect to the options available for its future use.



Discussion

The current General Residential Zone is a legacy of the controls placed over the precinct prior to development occurring in the area. The use of the site as a regional recreation reserve whilst permissible does not align entirely consistently with its purpose. Further, under the General Residential Zone planning permits will likely be triggered for use of the site and for construction of the Mernda Regional Sports and Aquatic Facility. This risks delays in the planning and delivery of the project for an area that was specifically set aside for this purpose.

The PPRZ is considered the most appropriate zone for the site given it is now in public (Council) ownership and its intended use as a regional recreation reserve. The rezoning of the land to PPRZ will streamline the approval process for the Mernda Regional Sports and Aquatic Facility project as permits will not be required for most uses, buildings or works. This will provide greater certainty for the project and to the community in respect to the long term use of the reserve.

Financial Implications

The cost of preparing and resourcing the Amendment is covered in Council's current operating budget.

Link to Strategic Risk

Strategic Risk *Service Delivery - Inability to plan for and provide critical community services and infrastructure impacting on community wellbeing*

The Planning Scheme Amendment is necessary to facilitate the Mernda Regional Sports and Aquatic Facility project. The project will be an important facility for the community and community wellbeing.

Strategic Risk Community and Stakeholder Engagement - Ineffective stakeholder engagement resulting in compromised community outcomes and/or non-achievement of Council's strategic direction

Notice is proposed to be given as part of this Amendment process. There has also been broader community engagement and consultation with residents and stakeholders in respect to the Mernda Regional Sports and Aquatic Facility project.

Implementation Strategy

Communication

If the Minister for Planning provides authorisation for the Amendment, Council will give notice of the Amendment in the local newspaper and to affected residents and agencies.



Next Steps

- The Amendment will be drafted and submitted to the Minister for Planning for authorisation;
- Amendment to be reviewed by officers and Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). Authorisation may be granted by the Minister for Planning;
- If Authorisation is granted, the Amendment will be exhibited (within 40 business days) for a period of one month;
- A report will be presented to Council to consider any submissions received during the exhibition period.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Under Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Rule 47 of the Governance Rules 2021, 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.

Conclusion

The subject site (MRRR) has been set aside as regional open space in accordance with the MSP which includes future open space and active recreation facilities. The land is currently affected by the underlying General Residential Zone which was always expected to be amended once the open space land had been assembled by Council. The open space land is now almost entirely in public ownership (except for the small parcel currently in the process of being acquired to facilitate the construction of Everton Drive and Plenty Road) and therefore can be rezoned to a public zone such as the PPRZ. Noting the intended use of the MRRR as a regional open space reserve and that the land is now owned by Council, a PPRZ for the site is considered the appropriate zone for the site.

Council has also commenced planning for the Mernda Regional Sports and Aquatic Facility project which is to be located at the MRRR. The planning and approval process for this project is more complex under the General Residential Zone. Application of the PPRZ will streamline the approval process for the Mernda Regional Sports and Aquatic Facility project once the Planning Scheme Amendment process has been finalised.



Further, it is recommended that the Amendment seeks to amend the heritage controls relating to Preston Hall to allow for prohibited uses to be considered for the heritage place subject to a planning permit. This will provide flexibility as to the options available for the future use of the heritage building to be determined as part of future planning to be undertaken by Council.

As such, it is recommended that Council commence a process to rezone the MRRR to the PPRZ and amend the heritage controls for Preston Hall by requesting the Minister for Planning to authorise Council to prepare and exhibit the Amendment.



Attachment 1: Subject Site- Aerial Plan

Mernda Regional Recreation Reserve (MRRR). Indicative area proposed to be rezoned to Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ).



Attachment 2: Subject Site: Zoning Plan

Mernda Regional Recreation Reserve (MRRR). Area proposed to be rezoned to Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ)

General Residential Zone (GRZ) – existing

Attachment 3: Heritage Overlay



Mernda Regional Recreation Reserve (MRRR). Area proposed to be rezoned to Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ)



Heritage Overlay – Place 68 (HO68)



5.3 Strong Local Economy

5.3.1 Highlights and review of the first year of the Business Advisory Panel

Responsible Officer	Director Planning & Development
Author	Craig Emmerson, Senior Business Engagement Officer
In Attendance	Sarah Rowe, Manager Economic Development
	Craig Emmerson, Senior Business Engagement Officer

Attachments

1. Co W Business Advisory Panel Terms of Reference Proposed August 2022 Council Meeting [**5.3.1.1** - 4 pages]

Purpose

To provide an overview of the highlights and activity on the Business Advisory Panel from the first year of operation.

To seek approval from Council on proposed changes to the Terms of Reference.

Brief Overview

This report on the first 12 months of the Business Advisory Panel (the Panel) provides an overview of the highlights and achievements of the Panel in 2021-2022, as well as recommendations for changes to the Terms of Reference. The proposed changes aim to further enhance the purpose of the Panel to increase and broaden its membership.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Note the highlights and achievements of the Business Advisory Panel
- 2. Approve the updated Terms of Reference as shown in Attachment 1

Key Information

Establishment of the Business Advisory Panel (the Panel) was approved by Council on 1 June 2021 and the Panel members were approved in September 2021. The Panel members represent a broad representation of diverse backgrounds, industry sectors and locations. Since its launch, the Panel has:



- Convened five times during the 2021-2022 financial year, with meetings taking place in October 2021, December 2021, February 2022, April 2022, and June 2022. Meetings have taken place in person, online and in a hybrid format while navigating the COVID-19 restrictions. The in-person meetings have been held at Quest Epping, Repurpose-it, Epping and That's Amore Cheese in Thomastown, all three businesses are members of the Panel. These opportunities provided exposure and insight to the hosting business; a concept that will continue moving forward.
- Presented an overview of activities carried out to date by the Panel to a Council Briefing in March 2021. Activities included shared challenges regarding staff and skills shortages, highlighting their involvement to arrange future industry tours with the Hume Whittlesea Local Learning and Employment Network (HWLLEN) and Wine by the Glass' Northern Business Achievement Award nomination.
- Council Officers have presented to the Panel and received feedback on key initiatives and draft plans including Council's Advocacy priorities, Community Plan overview and the 2022-2023 Annual Budget.

The Panel has also received presentations and had discussions with external stakeholders including;

- October 2021: Consultants NDP Consultancy, were engaged to assist Council with development of the Strong Local Economy Strategy. NDP Consultancy provided an overview of the draft Strategy and sought feedback from Panel members on key challenges and economic opportunities for the City of Whittlesea. Panel members feedback was considered in the development of the Strategy.
- December 2021: Kim Stadtmiller, Executive Officer, HWLLEN, presented on the services and opportunities for local businesses to become involved in the HWLLEN, including the ability to offer workplace placements to students and identification of future workforce needs to help inform training and education needs of the region.
- December 2021: Andrew Drivas, General Manager and Colleen Bell, Retail Manager from Pacific Epping provided a review of retail activity over the previous 18 months, highlighting the effects of COVID-19 lockdowns on retail businesses and the forecast recovery period. They also highlighted emerging consumer demand as we moved into the recovery stage of the pandemic.

Panel members have discussed future opportunities including;

- Involvement in the Whittlesea Business Network (WBN) educational modules and membership. Panel members can also join the WBN and will be used as a sounding board when Council roll out the suite of educational and training modules.
- Interest in further understanding the future broader strategic plan objectives of Council for the community at future meetings. The Panel also welcomed the



opportunity to provide feedback on the development of draft strategies and plans as they are released for community engagement.

Increasing the membership and breadth of the Panel. Following feedback at the June 2022 Panel meeting it is proposed to increase the Panel membership from 11 business industry professionals to 15, taking the overall membership total to 19. This would include two representatives from the recently endorsed WBN and three more from the wider business community. Additional members will be considered based on completing an Expression of Interest form submitted to Council's Economic Development Department. The existing Panel members will then review the applications and decide on the new members.

Taking into consideration feedback, the Terms of Reference (Attachment 1) was updated and reflects the following changes that aims to empower the function of the Panel:

- Increase membership numbers,
- Meeting frequency,
- Authorise the Manager Economic Development to make changes to the Terms of Reference that have no material effect.

Community Consultation and Engagement

Members of the Panel provided feedback at its June 2022 meeting regarding the proposed changes to the Terms of Reference. These changes were discussed following a review of the first year by the Panel and represent a way of further enhancing the Panel.

The proposed changes to the Terms of Reference have also been reviewed and amended based on feedback provided by Council's Legal Advisor.

Alignment to Community Plan, Policies or Strategies

Alignment to Whittlesea 2040 and Community Plan 2021-2025:

Strong local economy

Our City is a smart choice for innovation, business growth and industry as well as supporting local businesses to be successful, enabling opportunities for local work and education

The Panel assists in enhancing collaboration between Council and the business community. Through collaboration, the Panel will support successful, innovative local businesses who offer employment and training opportunities for our community.



Considerations

Environmental

Positive impact – the Panel will provide feedback and advice to Council as to how local businesses can work closer together and employ more residents. These outcomes will help to reduce transportation to outside the municipality and the reliance on the road network.

Social, Cultural and Health

Positive impact – the Panel supports economic outcomes and aligns with the vision and key directions of Whittlesea 2040 A place for all. The Panel provides opportunities for engagement with senior business leaders from the City of Whittlesea.

Economic

Positive impact – the Panel supports economic outcomes and aligns with the vision and key directions of Whittlesea 2040 A place for all and is a key direction in the Economic Development Strategy 2022-2026. The Panel will provide opportunities for local businesses to collaborate.

Financial Implications

No financial implications, the Panel activity is included in the current budget.

Link to Strategic Risk

Strategic Risk Not linked to the risks within the Strategic Risk Register

Implementation Strategy

Communication

Following approval of the amended Terms of Reference, Panel members will be communicated to via email and formally noted at the Panel's November meeting. All members will receive a copy of the updated Terms of Reference.

Critical Dates

Following approval, the amended Terms of Reference will be shared following the Council meeting and formally noted at the Panel meeting on 24 November 2022.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Under Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Rule 47 of the Governance Rules 2021, 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.



Conclusion

The Panel has had a successful first 12 months and will continue to enhance and compliment Council's existing engagement with the local business community. The function of the Panel will continue to provide business leaders the opportunity to engage with Council leaders and will be supported by the Terms of Reference.

The proposed expansion of membership from 11 business industry professional members to 15 will enable more business representation and therefore more productive engagement. The full business industry membership will also include two members from the recently commenced Whittlesea Business Network.



City of Whittlesea Business Advisory Panel

Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

The Business Advisory Panel (the Panel) will enable business members to work together with Council in delivering the key objectives and advocacy for a Strong Local Economy (one of the four overarching objectives in Council's 2040 Plan).

The Plan, endorsed in 2020, outlines the need for the City of Whittlesea to be home to successful, innovative local businesses, who offer employment and education for our community.

2. Membership

Membership is comprised of up to 19 members, including:

- a) Up to 15 Business Industry Professionals
- b) Two City of Whittlesea Administrators or Councillors
- c) Director Planning and Development
- d) Manager Economic Development

The Business Industry Professionals must own or operate a business located within the City of Whittlesea. Applications to the Panel will be via an Expression of Interest responding to selection criteria. Each representative shall be appointed for a term of two years with all positions undertaken on a voluntary basis. Two members will be selected from Council's Whittlesea Business Network. Administrator/Councillor representatives shall be for a one-year term.

Business representatives must be:

- A local business owner, operator or manager located in the City of Whittlesea
- Willing to commit up to 10 hours per annum (up to five meetings) and additional hours when required per annum for post meeting related activities
- Willing to attend key business-related functions and events (e.g. Women in Business)
- Willing to act as an ambassador for the Panel and Council's business-related activities
- Willing to participate in and provide input to stakeholder engagement activities to the support the strategic activities of Council. This will include deliberative engagement activities of Council as required by the Local Government Act 2020.

Business representatives must have:

- Demonstrated business experience
- An understanding of the key issues facing businesses in Whittlesea and the northern region
- An understanding of the challenges and issues experienced by businesses within their industry
- Established networks and/or affiliations with peak industry associations
- The ability to work collaboratively with other businesses, government and key stakeholders.

Co-opted Members

The Panel may invite suitably skilled persons to a meeting of the Panel in an advisory capacity, for a specified purpose and for a specified period. Co-opted members are not entitled to vote.

City of Whittlesea Business Advisory Panel - Terms of Reference, revised and endorsed (Insert Date)

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3. Roles of the Panel

The role of the Panel is to provide considered advice, insight and feedback to Council:

- On the current outlook for the local economy
- On industry specific opportunities and challenges that impact the local business community
- On policies and strategic objective involving its business community
- That will help develop new incentives and programs, assisting activities from the Economic Development Department
- Deliver advocacy efforts in partnership with Council
- Act as a sounding board for future Council funded proposals and projects
- Present and report back to Council twice a year

Where the Panel is unable to reach consensus, a vote shall be conducted, and a simple majority shall be sufficient. Council officers are not entitled to vote.

The Panel's purpose and objectives will be underpinned by a Terms of Reference.

Council will provide secretariat support and officers will coordinate membership of the Panel and provide expertise and context as required. Council officers will prepare documentation including meeting agendas, required readings and all other documents.

4. Chairperson

The position of Chair will be an independent member (not Administrator or Councillor) and will be based on the submission a nomination form to the Manager Economic Development. If multiple nomination forms are received, the position of Chair will be voted on by the Panel members. A new Chair will be appointed every 12 months. In the absence of the Chair, at the beginning of the meeting, the Panel will elect a temporary Chairperson for that meeting.

5. Code of Conduct

All members are expected to:

- Operate with integrity, objectivity, accountability, honesty and openness
- Declare any potential conflict of interest
- Dedicate appropriate time and effort to the functions of the Panel
- Prepare for and actively participate in meetings
- Exercise independent judgment
- Maintain effective working relationships with each other.

All members are also bound by Council's Code of Conduct.

Conflict of Interest

In the event of a conflict of interest arising, a Panel member will disclose the interest prior to the matter being considered. The Chair will determine if the member remains or leave the room whilst the matter is discussed.

City of Whittlesea Business Advisory Panel - Terms of Reference, revised and endorsed (Insert Date)

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The declaration and nature of the conflict of interest will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

6. Resignation or expulsion

Members of the Panel may resign at any time in writing to the Manager Economic Development.

Membership may be terminated for any of the following reasons:

- The member's business (and/or employment) is no longer within the City of Whittlesea.
- Failure to attend two consecutive meetings without prior notice.
- The member does not declare a conflict of interest, breaches confidentiality or exhibits behavior unbecoming a member of this Panel.
- The member expresses views on behalf of Panel or Council.

If members resign or Council is required to terminate membership of any Panel member, the vacancy will be advertised on the Council's website.

7. Meetings

- The Panel will generally meet up to five times per year.
- Meetings shall not proceed without 50 per cent of business representatives in attendance.
- Meetings will be approx. two hours in duration
- Other representatives will attend meetings as appropriate or requested
- Meetings will take place across the City of Whittlesea with the Economic Development Department coordinating locations and venues
- Further Panel meetings may arise from time to time as issues dictate
- Members of the Panel may be approached to provide further input into the development of programs or issues that fall outside of the formal meeting cycle.

Attendance

- Within reason members are expected to attend all meetings
- If a Panel member fails to attend two consecutive meetings a new member will be sought through an expression of interest process.

Quorum

A quorum of members must be present before a meeting can proceed. A quorum is half of the membership. When a quorum is not achieved the members of the Panel may, at the discretion of the Chairperson, continue the meeting, but any decisions made at the meeting must be ratified at the next Panel meeting, or by email within one month.

Panel Papers and Minutes

The agenda and supporting documentation will be delivered to Panel members one week in advance of each meeting. Meeting agendas will be set by the Manager Economic Development, in consultation with the Panel Chair. All members will be asked to provide any meeting agenda items at least eight days prior to the meeting date.

City of Whittlesea Business Advisory Panel - Terms of Reference, revised and endorsed (Insert Date)

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Minutes of Panel meetings will be prepared and disseminated within one week of the meeting. These Minutes will be entitled a 'Record of Proceedings'. This reflects the legal status of the Panel in being an advisory body, providing advice to Council.

Reimbursement of Expenses

In accordance with Council's Volunteer Policy, individual members of the Panel attending as volunteers, may be reimbursed for out of pocket expenses that have arisen whilst undertaking duties on behalf of Council. Prior authorisation by a nominated council officer must be given, otherwise claims for out of pocket expenses may not be met.

Public Statements

Members of the Panel will agree to follow **Council's media policy** and cannot make public statements on behalf of Council.

Terms of reference

The Terms of Reference of the Panel may be reviewed on a biennial basis, however, must be reviewed every four years or earlier if deemed necessary by either Council or the Panel. Changes to the Terms of Reference that have no material effect may be made by the Manager Economic Development.



5.4 Sustainable Environment Nil reports

5.5 High Performing Organisation

5.5.1 Contract 2019-71 Temporary Agency Staff Management

Responsible Officer	Director Customer & Corporate Services
Author	Dario Cecala, Unity Manager Human Resources George Alabakov, Unit Manager Procurement - Acting John Parry, Procurement Specialist Sharon Durantini, Manager People & Culture
In Attendance	Sarah Renner, Director Customer & Corporate Services Dario Cecala, Unit Manager Human Resources Sharon Durantini, Manager People & Culture

Attachments

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - 2019 71 Contract Extension Report Confidential Attachment [**5.5.1.1** - 4 pages]

The attachment contains information designated as confidential by the Director Customer & Corporate Services under delegation from the Chief Executive Officer and under Rule 53 of the Governance Rules 2021 and sections 66(5) and 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 on the grounds that it contains private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that relates to trade secrets or, if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

The attachment contains contract spending that is commercially confidential. The release of this information could reasonably be expected to prejudice the commercial position of the persons who supplied the information or to confer a commercial advantage on a third party.

Purpose

It is proposed that contract number 2019-71 for Temporary Agency Staff Management is extended, exercising the final 12-month extension option.



Brief Overview

The contract manager advises that:

- This contract was awarded to Comensura Pty Ltd;
- The contract has been performing satisfactorily to date;
- A financial variation is required to exercise the final 12-month optional extension to 31 October 2023;
- This was a collaborative contract with the Northern Region Councils; and
- Variation and extension of this contract is required for the hire of temporary agency staff throughout key areas of the organisation to assist in the delivery of key services to the community.

Recommendation

That Council, in relation to Contract No. 2019-71 for Temporary Agency Staff Management:

- 1. Approve a variation of \$440,000.00 (excluding GST) making a revised contract sum of \$5,571,595.00 (excluding GST) for the full 4-year term;
- 2. Note the funding arrangements detailed in the confidential attachment; and
- 3. Approve extension of the contract end date to 31 October 2023.

Key Information

This contract was awarded to Comensura Pty Ltd. A summary of the financial performance of the contract is provided in the confidential attachment.

The contractor's prices have been checked and are considered competitive.

Options exist to extend the contract up to 31 October 2023. Extension of the contract to 31 October 2023 is requested because it will enable Council to continue to source temporary labour hire services via a single online sourcing portal which reduces repetitive administrative processes, tracks the approval process and ensures achievement of competitive industry rates.

The contract has been performing satisfactorily to date and a variation of \$440,000.00 is now required to exercise the final optional extension period. Further details of the requested variation are provided in the confidential attachment.

Community Consultation and Engagement

Community consultation and engagement was not required in relation to the subject matter of this report as it relates to commercial arrangements and contractual obligations that are confidential.



Alignment to Community Plan, Policies or Strategies

Alignment to Whittlesea 2040 and Community Plan 2021-2025:

High performing organisation

We engage effectively with the community, to deliver efficient and effective services and initiatives, and to make decisions in the best interest of our community and deliver value to our community.

The provision of temporary staff is vital to ensuring Council can continue as a high performing organisation by delivering key services to the community during periods of unplanned absence, short term project work and/or particular ad hoc requirements.

Considerations

Environmental

No implications

Social, Cultural and Health

No implications

Economic

No implications

Financial Implications

Sufficient funding for this contract is available in the operating budgets for each Council department, with underspend of the approved salary budget being used to offset the costs of short-term labour hire.

Link to Strategic Risk

Strategic Risk Service Delivery - Inability to plan for and provide critical community services and infrastructure impacting on community wellbeing

The provision of temporary staff is vital to ensuring that Council can continue to deliver key services to the community.



Implementation Strategy

Communication

If approved, the decision will be communicated formally to Comensura Pty Ltd and across the Organisation to all employees in leadership positions.

Critical Dates

The contract commenced on 1 November 2019 and the current approved end date is 31 October 2022.

Options exist to extend the contract up to 31 October 2023. Notification of extension is required to be given by 1 October 2022.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No disclosable interest.

Conclusion

Variation and extension of contract No. 2019-71 for Temporary Agency Staff Management is sought in accordance with the contract's terms and conditions and Council's applicable policy and procedures.



5.5.2 Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation Under The Planning And Environment Act

Responsible Officer	Executive Manager Governance & Strategy
Author	Bineet Gujral, Governance Officer
In Attendance	Frank Joyce, Executive Manager Governance & Strategy
Attachments	

1. S 11 A - Delegations - Instrument of Appointment (P& E Act) [5.5.2.1 - 3 pages]

Purpose

The *Planning and Environment Act 1987* requires that Council by resolution appoint Authorised Officers to exercise their powers under the act. This power cannot be delegated to the CEO.

Brief Overview

An Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (the Instrument) in relation to the administration and enforcement of the planning and environment Act 1987 by various officers across the organisation has been prepared and requires authorisation.

Recommendation

THAT Council:

- 1. Appoints Council Officers (attached) as Authorised Officers under section 147(4) of the *Planning & Environment Act 1987* and section 313 of the *Local Government Act 2020*; and
- 2. Have the Instrument come into effect when it is executed and remain in force until Council decides to vary or revoke it.

Key Information

The Instrument has been prepared for various Officers across the organisation that require authorisation in relation to the administration and enforcement of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and carry out the functions outlined in s313 of the Local Government Act 2020.

This enables Officers to effectively perform their duties including enforcing and implementing the planning scheme, entering land, and bring a planning & environment matter to court if required.

The Instrument will come into effect when it is executed and will remain in force until Council decides to vary or revoke it.



Alignment to Community Plan, Policies or Strategies

Alignment to Whittlesea 2040 and Community Plan 2021-2025:

High performing organisation

We engage effectively with the community, to deliver efficient and effective services and initiatives, and to make decisions in the best interest of our community and deliver value to our community.

The Instrument of Delegation will enable the authorised officers to fulfill their statutory duties.

Considerations

Environmental

This authorisation gives relevant authorised council officers the power to perform their duties as prescribed under the Planning and environment Act 1987 in order to avoid potential negative impacts on the community and the environment. Potential negative impacts may include noise, odour, dust, air pollutants and stormwater contamination. The surrounding environment can also affect land uses. For example, from contamination from land and groundwater or landfill gas migration. This authorisation promotes proficient land use planning which ensures that risks are identified early in the planning process and that harmful outcomes are avoided.

Social, Cultural and Health

No implications

Economic

No implications

Financial Implications

The cost is included in the current operating budget.

Link to Strategic Risk

Strategic Risk *Governance - Ineffective governance of Council's operations and activities* resulting in either a legislative or policy breach

The Officers will be unable to fulfil their duties as an authorised officer if the attached Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation is not executed.



Implementation Strategy

Communication

Relevant Council Departments and Officers who require this authorisation have been consulted on the drafted Instrument. The consultations also involved discussion around potential environmental implications related to this authorisation.

Critical Dates

It is important that Instruments of Appointment and Authorisation are executed by 15 August 2022 at the scheduled Council meeting to ensure the Council Officers have the proper authorisation to continue carrying out their duties.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Under Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Rule 47 of the Governance Rules 2021, 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.

Conclusion

It is recommended that the Council Officers referred to in the attached Instrument be appointed as an authorised officer under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and s 313 of the *Local Government Act 2020* to allow them to effectively perform their duties.



S11A Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation

(Planning and Environment Act 1987)

City of Whittlesea Council

Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation

(Planning and Environment Act 1987 only)

Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (Planning and Environment Act 1987)

In this instrument "officer" means -

James Booth **Benjamin Bramich Antoinette Camille Taelyn Craig Amanda Delves** Shivani Desai Amanda Dodd **Robert Cobolli** Justin Fox **Matthew Jones Emily Lam** Diana Lazarevski **Carolyn Leatham** Daniel Lendvai Shiva Malekfarnoud Andrew Mason **Murray Ness Natalie Papadopolous Ricardo Ramos Owen Ryan** Shabnum Saban Sara Seif Sarah Stedwell Julian Thompson Mark Williams Sammi Xu Lachlan Yuill

By this instrument of appointment and authorisation City of Whittlesea Council -

- 1. under s 147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* appoints the officers to be authorised officers for the purposes of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the regulations made under that Act; and
- 2. under s 313 of the *Local Government Act 2020* authorises the officers either generally or in a particular case to institute proceedings for offences against the Acts and regulations described in this instrument.

It is declared that this instrument -

- comes into force immediately upon its execution;
- remains in force until varied or revoked.

This instrument is authorised by a resolution of the City of Whittlesea Council on

Date:

Chair of Administrators

Chief Executive Officer



5.5.3 Council Meeting Schedule Update

Responsible Officer	Executive Manager Governance & Strategy
Author	Amanda Marijanovic, Coordinator Governance Administration
In Attendance	Frank Joyce, Executive Manager Governance & Strategy
Attachments	No Attachments
B	

Purpose

For Council to confirm upcoming Council Meetings in September 2022 including an additional Council Meeting on 5 September 2022 and a change of time and location for the Scheduled Council Meeting for 19 September 2022.

Brief Overview

Council's upcoming Council meeting is scheduled for 19 September 2022 at 7.30pm at Galada Community Centre, 10A Forum Way, Epping.

It is proposed that this meeting is changed to be held remotely online in accordance with Council's business continuity plan to minimise risk to community, Council and Officers due to the recent increase in Covid19 and influenza cases across the municipality. This is also in line with the State Government recommendation for employers to consider working from home if appropriate. It is also proposed to commence this meeting at 6.30pm.

An Additional Council Meeting is proposed to be held online for 5 September 2022 at 4:00pm to consider the following items:

- Sustainable Environment Strategy;
- Sustainable Environment Action Plan;
- Climate Change Action Plan; and
- Any other matters determined by the Chief Executive Officer.

This Additional Council Meeting will enable Council's timely consideration of important strategies and action plans prior to commencing community consultation on them.



Recommendation

That Council confirms the following Council meetings:

- An Additional Council Meeting on 5 September 2022 held remotely online at 4:00pm to consider the following items:
 - Sustainable Environment Strategy
 - Sustainable Environment Action Plan
 - Climate Change Action Plan;
 - Any other matters determined by the Chief Executive Officer and
- 2. A Scheduled Council Meeting held remotely online on 19 September 2022 at 6.30pm.

Key Information

Current State Government advice is for employers to consider working from home. Due to the recent increase in Covid19 and influenza cases across the municipality, a decision has been made in line with Council's business continuity plan to move all Meetings online until 30 September 2022. This will reduce risk to Community, Council and staff and reduce risk of service interruption.

Section 394 of the *Local Government Act 2020* allowed Council Meetings to be held remotely by electronic means and livestreamed to the public, when state Government restrictions were in place relating to COVID-19. This provision was in place until 2 September 2022 and has subsequently been repealed.

The ability to hold council meetings remotely or a hybrid meeting is now able to be included in the Council's Governance Rules.

Council is currently reviewing its Governance Rules with the intent of adopting online and hybrid meeting options in the Rules at its meeting on 19 September 2022.

Until that time a resolution of Council is required to change the location of the Council Meeting from in-person to online.



Alignment to Community Plan, Policies or Strategies

Alignment to Whittlesea 2040 and Community Plan 2021-2025:

High performing organisation

We engage effectively with the community, to deliver efficient and effective services and initiatives, and to make decisions in the best interest of our community and deliver value to our community.

Council considers it in the best interest of the health of our community, Council and staff that these meetings be held remotely online. Community members are encouraged to engage through accessing the live stream of the Council Meetings and submitting public questions.

Considerations

Environmental

No implications

Social, Cultural and Health

To help stop the spread of Covid19 and Influenza, these meetings will be held remotely online and livestreamed for the community.

Economic

No implications

Financial Implications

The cost is included in the current operating budget.

Link to Strategic Risk

Strategic Risk Health, Safety and Welfare - Failure of safety and risk management systems resulting in serious injury or harm to staff or member of public.

In accordance with Council's business continuity plan to minimise risk to community, Council and Officers due to the recent increase in Covid19 and influenza cases across the municipality and in line with State Government advice to work from home if able to.

Implementation Strategy

Communication

Notices will be placed on Council's website to inform the community that the Council Meetings listed in this report will now be held remotely online and will be livestreamed and recorded for access by the community.



Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Under Section 130 of the Local Government Act 2020 and Rule 47 of the Governance Rules 2021, 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.

Conclusion

The Additional Council Meeting proposed will enable timely Council consideration of key strategic documents prior to commencing community consultation. Holding the Council Meetings in September online is in accordance with Council's business continuity plan and the State Government's recommendations to work from home if able to and reduces risk to community, Council and officers.



6 Notices of Motion

Nil Notices of Motion

7 Urgent Business Nil Urgent Business

8 Reports from Council Representatives and CEO Update

9 Confidential Business

Under section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* a meeting considering confidential information may be closed to the public. Pursuant to sections 3(1) and 66(5) of the Local Government Act 2020.

Recommendation

THAT the Chair of Council recommends that the meeting be closed to the public for the purpose of considering details relating to the following confidential matters in accordance with Section 66(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020* as detailed.

- 9.1 Confidential Connected Communities Nil Reports
- 9.2 Confidential Liveable Neighbourhoods Nil Reports
- 9.3 Confidential Strong Local Economy Nil Reports
- 9.4 Confidential Sustainable Environment Nil Reports
- 9.5 Confidential High Performing Organisation Nil Reports
- 9.6 Confidential Notices of Motion Nil Confidential Notices of Motion
- 10 Closure