5.5 Integrated Transport Plan - Council Endorsement

**5.5 Integrated Transport Plan - Council Endorsement**

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

**Report Author:** Senior Transport Planner

**In Attendance:** Acting Manager Urban Design & Transport
Senior Transport Planner

# Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to present and seek the endorsement of the Integrated Transport Plan 2024-2034 (ITP) following community consultation on the draft document.

The ITP sets out a high level vision for transport planning in the municipality over the next ten years. It will allow Council to strategically plan for, and respond to, future challenges and opportunities, inform advocacy for our transport needs and guide the development and expansion of the transport network in Whittlesea.

The ITP will demonstrate Council’s leadership and commitment to improving transport outcomes in the municipality. It is also envisaged to guide and influence future investment decisions.

The ITP will support the Whittlesea 2040 vision as an action item in the Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy Action Plan and will become a Level 3 document within the Integrated Planning Framework. It will supersede the existing Integrated Transport Strategy 2014 (ITS).

Community and stakeholder consultation was undertaken on the Draft ITP between 22 April and 19 May 2024. The consultation sought to ensure that the Draft ITP aligned with community and stakeholder feedback. The consultation was undertaken in the form of an online survey on the engage page and community pop ups which were promoted to the community through social media, existing community contacts and key stakeholders.

The feedback reflected the following priorities:

* a diverse range of opinions and priorities among residents, with support for the Draft ITP’s guiding principles, whilst balancing the need for car-friendly infrastructure with the desire for improved public transport and safer, more accessible sustainable transport options.
* a community that is invested in the practicalities and requirements of daily commuting, immediate transport needs and transport infrastructure investment.
* a community concerned with the financial feasibility of proposed investments, congestion around schools, improved parking management and the balance between car-centric and sustainable transport infrastructure.

Part of the feedback received indicated a preference towards prioritising road improvements rather than investing in sustainable transport. There were also some concerns expressed about the staging, funding and monitoring of the action plan.

In response to this feedback, Council’s position is that the ITP aims to improve convenient transport choices for our residents, including walking and cycling, which can help relieve some of the costs associated to car ownership and provide better options to those without a car. However, Council will continue to advocate for investment in targeted road infrastructure where it is warranted, acknowledging an ongoing level of car dependency. The ITP’s action plan will be reviewed every two years, with an appropriate staging of actions, is funded through existing operating budgets and will be monitored using outcome indicators linked to Council’s Integrated Planning Framework.

Council support is sought to present the ITP to Council Meeting, in seeking formal Council endorsement to give effect to its implementation.

# Officers’ Recommendation

**THAT Council:**

1. **Note the engagement summary from the community consultation undertaken between 22 April – 19 May 2024 for the Integrated Transport Plan 2024 – 2034 at Attachment 1.**
2. **Endorse the Integrated Transport Plan 2024 – 2034 at Attachment 2.**
3. **Acknowledge and thank the community and stakeholders who have contributed to the development of the Integrated Transport Plan.**

# Background / Key Information

The ITP will supersede the existing ITS, which facilitated the delivery of the Road Safety Strategy 2017, the Roads and Public Transport Plan 2017, the Whittlesea Bicycle Plan 2016-2020 and its successor Walking and Cycling Plan 2022-2027. The ITS was also successful in supporting advocacy for the Mernda Rail Extension Project (delivered in 2018) and a number of arterial road and intersection upgrades.

The ITP was informed by the prior development of a Background Paper and Directions Paper.

The Background Paper provided an assessment of the current transport patterns, including population growth and the ongoing prevalence of car dependency, traffic congestion and long commutes.

The Directions Paper has helped to shape the vision, guiding principles and objective statements for the ITP. It has also offered a number of potential future scenarios based on different transport and land use approaches.

The ITP has been established to set a high-level vision for transport planning in the municipality over the next ten years. It will also allow Council to plan strategically for future challenges and opportunities and to inform our transport advocacy portfolio.

The ITP has identified eight focus areas (see below) with corresponding objectives and actions for each area:

* Land Use Integration
* Walking and Cycling
* Public Transport
* Road Network
* Travel Behaviour Change
* Technology and Innovation
* Freight
* Parking Management

Council’s advocacy priorities have been updated and reinforced in the ITP to reflect our future infrastructure needs and associated delivery timings.

The ITP promotes convenient transport choices, with a particular focus on sustainable transport (walking and cycling) opportunities for local trips. The ITP also makes the linkage between the improvement of transport choices and tackling affordability issues associated to car dependency.

Community Consultation was undertaken on the Background Paper and Directions Paper (between 11 December 2023 to 15 February 2024). The feedback received helped to shape and influence the development of the ITP and its actions.

Council resolved at the Council Meeting on 16 April 2024 to endorse the Draft ITP for community consultation between 22 April – 19 May 2024. The feedback arising from this round of consultation has been reviewed and incorporated.

The Draft ITP also underwent a professional peer review process by a transport consultancy (Institute for Sensible Transport) in April 2024, which has allowed it to be further informed.

# 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 ITP is an action item in the Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy Action Plan.

The ITP contains actions to implement Level 4 documents, including both the Walking and Cycling Plan 2022-2027 and Northern Trails 2022, and to prepare a new Road Safety Plan.

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

Financial Management

The cost of implementing the ITP is included in the current operating budget.

Community Consultation and Engagement

The development of the ITP has been informed by community and stakeholder consultation and supported by an approved communications and engagement plan. In addition, Council’s internal working groups from a range of disciplines have contributed.

Community Consultation was undertaken on the Background Paper and Directions Paper (between 11 December 2023 to 15 February 2024). The feedback received helped to shape and influence the development of the ITP and its actions.

Community Consultation was subsequently undertaken on the Draft ITP (between 22 April – 19 May 2024). The feedback has helped to refine the Draft ITP and test with the community that the approach was well-informed and balanced.

During this phase of consultation, Council hosted an online survey on the Engage Page, which was promoted to our community through social media, existing community contacts and key stakeholders, plus flyers and posters displayed at Council facilities and offices. The Draft ITP Vision, Guiding Principles and Focus Areas were highlighted and displayed as infographics for greater accessibility.

Community members were invited to partake in a survey that asked:

* What do you think about the Draft ITP?
* Do you have any suggestions for improvement for the Draft ITP?
* Do you have any other comments on the Draft ITP?

There were 873 views to the Engage Page, which resulted in 25 online submissions. Notwithstanding the small sample size, 68% were supportive of the ITP, with the submissions reflecting:

* a diverse range of opinions and priorities among residents, with support for the Draft ITP’s guiding principles, whilst balancing the need for car-friendly infrastructure with the desire for improved public transport and safer, more accessible sustainable transport options.
* a community that is invested in the practicalities and requirements of daily commuting, immediate transport needs and transport infrastructure investment.
* a community concerned with the financial feasibility of proposed investments, congestion around schools, improved parking management and the balance between car-centric and sustainable transport infrastructure.

There were also six community pop-up events across the municipality, which attracted a total of 56 attendees. The in-person consultation allowed further discussion with project team members. The responses indicated the following priorities: request for new and safe cycling routes, better access and connectivity, improved bus services, improved crossing points, the Wollert Rail extension and better articulating the link between transport and health outcomes.

Stakeholders invited to participate included the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), Federal and State Members of Parliament, Victoria Police, Public Transport Users Association, Transport for Melbourne, Metro Trains, Victoria Walks, Bicycle Network Victoria, the Whittlesea Bicycle Users Group, local businesses and local schools.

The DTP, Transport for Melbourne, Victoria Walks and the Whittlesea Bicycle Users Group provided a submission. Key highlights from these stakeholders indicated the following priorities: participation for under-represented community groups in walking and cycling, providing additional supporting infrastructure for active transport (including improved crossing facilities), encouraging development around activity centres and advocacy for early bus capable network routes to support growth suburbs.

The Draft ITP also underwent a professional peer review process, in April 2024, which helped to further inform and refine it.

A key highlight from the peer review exercise was around managing expectations for congestion reduction. The implementation of the ITP will assist with improving choices for some trips, but car dependency will likely remain. Future transport infrastructure capacity within the municipality is likely to be similar to today’s levels and population growth is set to continue. The combination of these factors will likely keep congestion levels constant over time or reduce the rate of increase. Therefore, references to ‘reducing congestion’ have been updated to ‘managing congestion’ throughout the ITP.

The ITP has therefore been updated to reflect the feedback received from our community, stakeholders and peer-review exercise. The key updates include:

* Creating a new action under Land Use Integration (1.6) to ‘Encourage intensification of housing and other development within the walkable catchment of activity centres and high frequency public transport stops’.
* Creating a new action under Walking and Cycling (2.3) to ‘Engage with under-represented groups, including our CALD community, to encourage greater participation in walking and cycling’.
* Expanding an existing action under Public Transport (3.5) to include advocating for improved access to Myki ticket machines.
* Creating a new action under Public Transport (3.7) to ‘Advocate for the provision of an early connected bus capable network to facilitate the timely implementation of new bus services commensurate with new residents moving in’.
* Creating a new action (3.8) to ‘Propose local bus priority measures and advocate for bus priority on arterial roads’.
* Creating a new action (4.5) to ‘Investigate improvements to crossing facilities to better ensure that pedestrians can safely cross in one movement (and advocate for this on State Government roads)’.
* Expanding an existing action (6.1) to include ‘investigate options to advocate for e-bike subsidies’.
* Changing references of ‘reducing congestion’ to ‘managing congestion’ throughout.
* Additional text around Council continuing to work in partnership with the DTP in the delivery of new infrastructure to support walking and cycling.
* Additional text around the provision of connected footpaths and safe pedestrian crossings and interim turnaround options for buses in developing estates.
* Adding Bus Rapid Transit potential and school buses as additional public transport advocacy items.
* Including a reference to the role of cargo bikes.
* Acknowledging the linkage between transport and health outcomes.
* Acknowledging the opportunity to better understand young people’s travel patterns.

Further information on the consultation process and results can be found in the Phase 2 Engagement Summary (attachment 1).

# Other Principles for Consideration

**Overarching Governance Principles and Supporting Principles**

(b) Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.

Public Transparency Principles

(a) Council decision making processes must be transparent except when the Council is dealing with information that is confidential by virtue of the *Local Government Act* or any other Act.

# Council Policy Considerations

Environmental Sustainability Considerations

Greater walking and cycling participation and fewer car trips.

Social, Cultural and Health

Higher densities will allow a greater number of local and shorter trips by walking and cycling and provide more opportunities for social connections and health benefits.

Economic

Improved accessibility to employment opportunities will lead to reduced commuting levels and reduced car usage.

**Legal, Resource and Strategic Risk Implications**

No implications.

# Implementation Strategy

Communication

The ITP includes an action plan with a short-term, medium-term or long-term timeframe allocated to each action.

Critical Dates

N/A

# 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. ITP Engagement Summary Report Phase 2 [**5.5.1** - 21 pages]
2. Integrated Transport Plan 2024 – 2034 v 7 [**5.5.2** - 29 pages]

 5.6 Quarry Hills Parkland Naming

**5.6 Quarry Hills Parkland Naming**

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

**Report Author:** Open Space Planner

**In Attendance:** Acting Manager Urban Design & Transport

Open Space Planner

# Executive Summary

Quarry Hills Parkland is the defining open space in the City of Whittlesea; a stunning natural landscape with breathtaking views and rich biodiversity. It’s rich and unique cultural heritage with unparalleled connection to country make it the ideal location for the Aboriginal Gathering Place which is currently being constructed on the site. This report seeks to recognise the significant cultural heritage of the parkland through the formal endorsement of a traditional Woi-wurrung language name.

The Quarry Hills Parkland Future Directions Plan, endorsed by Council on August 15, 2023, included an action to adopt a name for the site that uses ‘bunjil nganga’ which means ‘eagle view’ to honour Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung custodianship of the land and help to inform the community of the significant cultural heritage of the site. This action was a recommendation from the Woi-wurrung Cultural Values Study, which identified the parklands as the bunjil nganga cultural landscape. In accordance with Aboriginal Naming Rules, the name "bunjil nganga Parkland" was chosen and supported by the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (WWCHAC).

“bunjil nganga (Eagle View) is situated in Narrm (Melbourne) rising to over 200 meters above sea level. The western ridgeline of the parkland provides panoramic views across the landscape, reaching out to the west, to the Melbourne CBD in the south, and east beyond the Henderson’s Creek Wetlands. It lies within the suburbs of Epping and South Morang. Morang is a Woi-wurrung word that in some records is interpreted as ‘sky’ – and this is a place well situated for an eagle’s eye view across Wurundjeri Country”

*Quotation from bunjil nganga Woi-wurrung Cultural Values Study’ prepared by Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation*

Renaming the parkland holds significant social and cultural implications. It acknowledges and demonstrates respect for the rich Aboriginal heritage of the site, contributes to reconciliation efforts and fosters a sense of belonging for Aboriginal communities and promotes cultural diversity and inclusivity within the broader community.

The traditional name is proposed to be used in conjunction with ‘Quarry Hills’ for a period of up to five years as we support the community to transition to the new name. The traditional name is always to be given precedence in use for example:

**bunjil nganga Parkland**

Quarry Hills

The Council Naming for Features Committee, at the 24 July 2023 and 23 May 2024, meetings, supported progressing with formally naming the site bunjil nganga Parkland and the supported the transition approach.

Community consultation to commence the formal naming process was undertaken in early 2024.

The purpose of this report is to:

* provide an update on the outcomes of the community consultation for Quarry Hills Parkland naming
* seek Council endorsement of the proposed name and the transition approach.

# Officers’ Recommendation

**THAT Council:**

1. **Approve the formal naming process of the Quarry Hills Parkland, to be known as ‘bunjil nganga Parkland,’ with Geographic Names Victoria (GNV) in accordance with the *Geographic Place Names Act 1998*.**
2. **Note the formal application process with Geographic Names Victoria, and associated audit, gazettal and notification period, is estimated to take one to two months.**
3. **Approve the new name, ‘bunjil nganga Parkland’ to take effect upon the name being formally approved following the process outlined in point 2 above.**
4. **Thank community members for their contributions, and the support of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation for nominating the preferred name ‘bunjil nganga Parkland’.**

# Background / Key Information

Quarry Hills Parkland is the largest regional park in the City of Whittlesea. It is identified as a regional parkland of significance by the State Government and is a defining open space feature in our municipality.

The 330-hectare parkland will ultimately expand to cover approximately 1100 hectares and will be home to an Aboriginal Gathering Place, the Granite Hills Major Community Park and an extensive trail network.

**Parklands naming process**

1. As part of the development of the Quarry Hills Parklands Future Directions Plan, a Cultural Values Study was commissioned, and following the Aboriginal Naming Rules, Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung names were selected by the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Naming Committee.
2. The Cultural Values Study states “To help visitors better understand and appreciate Woi-wurrung custodianship it is recommended that the name Quarry Hills Regional Parkland be replaced with a Woi-wurrung language name. bunjil nganga (meaning ‘eagle view’), or garra darrang (meaning ‘windy trees’) were suggested.
3. These names were considered on Country by the traditional owners participating in the development of the Cultural Values Study and bunjil nganga was selected as the preferred name.
4. The name proposal with recording was then presented to the WWCHAC who supported bunjil nganga as the preferred name.
5. Regular briefings have been provided to the WWCHAC on the development of the Future Directions Plan and the naming process. Consultation has also been undertaken with the Whittlesea Reconciliation Group WRG and the Wurundjeri Environmental Sub-committee as part of the partnership arrangement.
6. Briefings have been provided to the Council Naming for Features Committee on 24 July 2023 and 23 May 2024, respectively, outlining the Quarry Hills Parkland naming process and outcome of the community consultation. The committee supported progressing with renaming the Quarry Hills Parkland to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung name ‘bunjil nganga Parkland’ and supported a transition approach where ‘Quarry Hills’ is used in conjunction with the new name for a period of up to five years.
7. At the 15 August 2023 meeting Council endorsed the Quarry Hills Parkland Future Directions Plan and commenced with the formal naming process of Quarry Hills Parkland to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung name bunjil nganga in early 2024.
8. A 30-day community consultation on the Quarry Hills Parkland Re-naming was undertaken from 26 February to 25 March 2024 as a requirement of the ‘Naming rules for places in Victoria.’
9. The Council Naming Committee has sought further advice from GNV, which confirmed that Quarry Hills has never been formally registered. The GNV recommended applying through the naming process, not the “renaming” process.
10. Officers have confirmed with WWCHAC the transition approach is supported.

# Alignment to Community Plan, Policies or Strategies

Alignment to Whittlesea 2040 and Community Plan 2021-2025:

**Connected Communities**

We work to foster an inclusive, healthy, safe and welcoming community where all ways of life are celebrated and supported.

**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.

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

Financial Management

No implications.

Community Consultation and Engagement

* Facilitation of the proposed name has occurred through Future Directions Plan monthly briefings to the WWCHAC and Whittlesea Reconciliation Group.
* The name proposal and process were presented to and supported by the WWCHAC Environmental Sub-committee, who as a project partner, have been integral to the Future Directions Plan, Implementation Plan, and naming proposal.
* A standard 30-day consultation was housed on the Engage Whittlesea platform. The project page provided details on the proposed name change including the origins/meaning of the proposed new name as well as its pronunciation, demonstrated through a voice recording by Aunty Gail Smith.
* The community were invited to provide feedback in accordance with the Naming Rules for Places in Victoria, by answering a few questions online or alternatively, email feedback directly to the project team's shared inbox.
* The project engage page received 517 visitors with a total of 160 community members participated in the digital consultation by voting to indicate whether they supported the proposed name. 100 submissions (62.5%) voted in support of the proposal and 60 submissions (37.5%) voted they did not support the proposal.
* Participants who voted against the proposed name were invited to provide feedback on their reasons. Their comments offered valuable insights into the concerns and preferences within the community, the below table provides a summary of these themes with responses from Council.

| **Common themes from the community feedback** | **Response** |
| --- | --- |
| Difficulty in pronunciation and remembering | Council will undertake community education to support the community to learn the correct pronunciation of ‘bunjil nganga’ and assist with the transition to the new name; such as the MP3 featuring the voice of Aunty Gail Smith available on the project engage page. |
| Concerns about cost and priority | Signage for Quarry Hills Parkland is yet to be implemented. Cost associated with signage have already been budgeted and programmed; the name does not impact these costs.  |
| Preference for simplicity and keeping the Quarry Hills name | Quarry Hills is not an official name for the parkland though it is widely used by the local community. The Naming Rules for Places in Victoria, dictate that names should have a link to place to ensure the preservation of our cultural heritage. The proposed name, **bunjil nganga Parkland** seeks to deepen connection between the name and place by acknowledging the significant Aboriginal heritage associated with the area. Council is proposing to use the name **bunjil nganga Parkland** supported by the commonly used name of Quarry Hills for a period of time – approximately five years – to assist the community to transition to the new name. |
| Preference for English Names, not supportive of Aboriginal name | The Naming Rules for Places in Victoria outlines 13 principles, one of which, is *Recognition and use of Traditional Owner languages.* Following this principle acknowledges and demonstrates respect for the rich Aboriginal heritage of the site, contributes to reconciliation efforts and fosters a sense of belonging for Aboriginal communities, promotes cultural diversity and inclusivity within the broader community. |
| Questioning real reconciliation benefits through Aboriginal renaming | While we understand that renaming alone may not directly foster reconciliation, it is part of a broader commitment to acknowledging and honouring Aboriginal culture and language, which are integral to reconciliation efforts. The proposed name reflects our commitment to honouring and preserving Aboriginal languages and heritage, contributing to reconciliation and cultural understanding. |
| Limited consultation and options | Council has followed the Aboriginal Place naming and formal naming processes as per the Naming Rules for Places in Victoria. |
| Preference for dual naming | Council is proposing to support the community to transition to the use of the new name through community education and adopting a transition approach which supports the new name being used in conjunction with the existing name for a period of up to five years.  |
| Overuse of the word bunjil | A name check has been conducted, and no duplication was found. The most similar other name registered on the Register of Geographic Names is Bunjil Reserve in Panton Hill, within the Shire of Nillumbik. |

# Other Principles for Consideration

**Overarching Governance Principles and Supporting Principles**

(a) Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.

(b) Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.

(d) The municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making.

**Public Transparency Principles**

(a) Council decision making processes must be transparent except when the Council is dealing with information that is confidential by virtue of the *Local Government Act* or any other Act.

# Council Policy Considerations

Environmental Sustainability Considerations

Renaming the parkland presents an opportunity to highlight Aboriginal land management practices, fostering a deeper connection to the environment and promoting ecological conservation. It encourages stewardship efforts to preserve biodiversity and geological features while educating the community about environmental sustainability. Engaging with Traditional Owners facilitates sharing Aboriginal ecological knowledge, enriching contemporary environmental management.

Social, Cultural and Health

Renaming the parkland holds significant social and cultural implications. It acknowledges and demonstrates respect for Aboriginal culture, contributes to reconciliation efforts and fosters a sense of belonging for our local Aboriginal communities. By recognising the parkland as the bunjil nganga cultural landscape and naming the park with the Woi-wurrung language we embrace Aboriginal language and heritage, promote cultural diversity and inclusivity within our broader community.

Economic

No implications.

**Legal, Resource and Strategic Risk Implications**

No implications.

# Implementation Strategy

Communication

The community and stakeholder consultations were undertaken as follows:

* 2022-2023: Partnership with WWCHAC on the development of the Quarry Hills Future Directions Plan and the adherence to the Aboriginal Naming Rules, through the Wurundjeri Environmental Sub-committee and in consultation with Whittlesea Reconciliation Group, on the proposed name as part of the Quarry Hills Future Direction Plan development.
* 26 February to 25 March 2024: A standard 30-day community consultation has been undertaken on Quarry Hills Parkland re-naming as per the Naming Rules for Places in Victoria, including advice of consultation to all Aboriginal Community Groups and organisations operating within the City of Whittlesea.

Communication will be undertaken to inform the community of the new name for the parkland; this will include a strong education component to strengthen understanding of the cultural significance of the new name and the site more broadly.

Critical dates

* July 2024: Notify submitters and objectors
* August 2024: Submit the proposal to GNV
* 2024: GNV audit, gazette and notification which may take 30-60 days

# 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

Nil

 5.7 Draft Mill Park Place Framework

**5.7 Draft Mill Park Place Framework**

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

**Report Author:** Senior Urban Designer

**In Attendance:** Acting Manager Urban Design & Transport

 Senior Urban Designer

# Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement to undertake community consultation between the period 22 July 2024 to 25 August 2024.

# Officers’ Recommendation

**THAT Council:**

1. **Endorse the draft Mill Park Place Framework at Attachment 1 to go out for community consultation between the period 22 July 2024 to 25 August 2024.**
2. **Note as part of the community consultation process, officers will also seek feedback from the Youth Council.**
3. **Note following community consultation, a subsequent report will be presented back to Council seeking approval for the adoption of the Mill Park Place Framework.**

# Background / Key Information

### Background

Mill Park Place Framework was identified through research and internal engagement as the next Place Framework to be undertaken. The Framework aims to build on the success of the Thomastown and Lalor Place Framework 2023. It is a Community Action Plan 2024-2025 item: *“Develop the Mill Park Place Framework to enhance our investment planning and prioritise city shaping opportunities”.*

A Council Briefing memo was provided on November 28, 2023, titled “Place Framework 2.0” identifying that Mill Park was the next Place Framework to be developed and a community reference group was to be established to help develop the draft report.

### Place Framework Overview

The draft Mill Park Place Framework (the draft Framework) outlines a vision, themes, key focus areas and place projects to locally translate Whittlesea 2040’s goals to Mill Park. This will guide and support future priority projects, activities, and drive change.

The key drivers for the draft Framework are to:

* Translate the Whittlesea 2040 vision to Mill Park by identifying local challenges and opportunities.
* Establish a local, place responsive vision that connects to community aspirations.
* Fill the gap in strategic direction for the established area and aging infrastructure and articulate a clear Council direction for priority projects.
* Ensure Council planning and delivery considers the unique qualities of Mill Park and enhances this over time.

### Place Projects

There are four themes and (eleven) key place-shaping projects within the draft Framework for various Council departments, teams, and units to collaborate and deliver the final vision of the document. The community will be asked to prioritise these opportunities. A summary is presented below that demonstrates alignment to Council’s Goals.

**Short and medium term place project ideas:**

1. Safer streets to walk or ride to school.
2. Improvement to community hubs.
3. Revitalise Key Destinations.
4. Re-imagining transmission line easements.
5. Upgrading parks and improving residential interfaces.
6. Improving walkability through future development.

**Long term projects and advocacy ideas:**

1. McKimmies Road improvements.
2. Advocacy for Child’s Road improvements.
3. Advocacy for Plenty Road Upgrades.
4. Darebin creek and Plenty River corridor.
5. Town centre activation and upgrades, including improvements to shopfronts and planning controls to improve quality of development around town centres.

Please note, final outcomes may vary due to factors such as existing projects, availability for funding, investigations required, budgets, etc.

### Draft Framework development process

1. November 2023 – Internal research and engagement to identify the next Place Framework, identifying Mill Park as the priority suburb.
2. December 2023 - A workshop was conducted with Council officers from Local Area Team East. Officers provided their insights about Mill Park and shared their experiences. An engage page to collect broader feedback and insights was created. This was only accessible by internal staff shared via Staff Matters and internal communication.
3. February 2024 - A workshop was conducted with the community reference group (CRG). The group was established with 10 members of the local community who either work, study or live in the suburbs of Mill Park. The group provided input about their lived experience in Mill Park. There were approximately 100 contributions made from this group through the workshop and online portal, which was only accessible to members.
4. February 2024 - May 2024 - An Opportunities and Challenges Report was prepared by the Urban Design Team which summarised background analysis, internal and external stakeholder workshops and over 400 contributions which have informed the draft Framework’s direction.
5. May 2024 - An early draft of the Framework was prepared and released for review by the project’s Project Working Group, Project Control Group and CRG for feedback. A second CRG workshop was conducted to ensure Council place projects and report were heading in the right direction. Feedback from the above has been integrated into the draft Framework attached to this report.
6. Next steps - The draft Framework will be used in the community engagement in August 2024. Input received from the community, authorities and internal stakeholders will inform the final document, its direction and main project ideas which aims to be finalised for Council endorsement by the end of the 2024-2025 financial year.

# 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.

### Alignment to Whittlesea 2040

The draft Framework aligns to the Whittlesea 2040 Goals which are translated to Mill Park through four key themes:

* Sustainable Environment: Greener spaces.
* Liveable Neighbourhoods: Connected places.
* Connected Community: Thriving community hubs.
* Strong Local Economy: Land use and built form.
* Liveable Neighbourhoods: Land use and built form.

Each theme identifies key goals and opportunities that have been derived from analysis and stakeholder feedback. The draft Framework illustrates areas and corridors that have clear opportunities for improvement. It provides place specific guidelines to improve Mill Park and incrementally deliver the local vision over time.

The draft Framework incorporates a high-level implementation plan which identifies key partners, community priorities and broad timeframes for opportunities to be undertaken by Council. Discussions have started to be supported and discussed with other departments and units within Council.

**Alignment to Community Plan 2024-2025**

Key Direction 2.2

* Develop the Mill Park Place Framework to enhance our investment planning and prioritise city shaping opportunities.

### Alignment to the Integrated Planning Framework and Place Based Approach

The Framework is situated within Level Three of the Integrated Planning Framework (IPF) under Long Term Plans and aligns with the Place Based Approach at a Precinct level.

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

Financial Management

The draft and Final Report are being developed entirely in-house by the Urban Design Team.

The draft Framework identifies ‘place projects’ to deliver the vision for the area. The opportunities are intended to inform Integrated Planning Framework Strategy Action Plans and budget processes which may have financial implications for Council in the future.

Some opportunities are the responsibility of other agencies to deliver or require more considered investigation from Council to implement.

Community Consultation and Engagement

The draft Mill Park Place Framework, has been developed in consultation with internal stakeholders, including Local Area East team, Project Working Group and Project Control Group and external stakeholders, which consisted of the Community Reference Group (CRG).

The project team has met with the Community Reference group twice, which includes key community stakeholders from Mill Park. A project page on Council’s Engage Whittlesea site has been active since early December 2023 for internal staff and CRG members comments and information only.

Following the Council Meeting on 16 July 2024, it is intended to release the draft Framework report to the community for comment for at least three weeks. Community consultation is to be conducted in the month of August 2024 and will be finalised before local government elections caretaker period. The engagement dates are as follows:

* Stables Shopping Centre, 8 August 2024,3:30- 5:30pm
* Millers Community Centre, 12 August 2024,2:30- 4:30pm
* Mill Park Library, 15 August 2024,5:30- 7:30pm
* Mill Park Leisure Centre, 20 August 2024,9:30- 11:30pm
* Plenty Valley Westfield, 23 August 2024,11:00- 12:30pm

# Other Principles for Consideration

**Overarching Governance Principles and Supporting Principles**

(a) Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.

(b) Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.

(c) The economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.

(d) The municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making.

(e) Innovation and continuous improvement is to be pursued.

(f) Collaboration with other Councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought.

(g) The ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured.

(h) Regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision making.

(i) The transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

Public Transparency Principles

(a) Council decision making processes must be transparent except when the Council is dealing with information that is confidential by virtue of the *Local Government Act* or any other Act.

(c) Council information must be understandable and accessible to members of the municipal community.

# Council Policy Considerations

Environmental Sustainability Considerations

The draft Framework highlights priorities for Mill Park to incorporate increased tree canopy cover, consider climate change impacts and re-establish biodiversity.

Social, Cultural and Health

The draft Framework identifies place projects and opportunities to improve social, cultural and health outcomes in Mill Park.

Economic

The draft Framework identifies place projects to improve economic outcomes in Mill Park.

**Legal, Resource and Strategic Risk Implications**

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

The draft Framework identifies place projects to prioritise infrastructure projects that will have a positive impact on community wellbeing. The draft Framework will also better inform a wide variety of service and infrastructure planning to consider the local place qualities of Mill Park.

*Life Cycle Asset Management - Failure to effectively plan for the construction, on-going maintenance, and renewal of Council’s assets.*

The draft Framework provides a coordinated approach to asset management by providing an overarching strategic direction and vision for the area. The draft Framework identifies key assets that should be prioritised for renewal or delivery to maximise community use such as access to path networks, open spaces, and community facilities.

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

The draft Framework provides the community an opportunity to help shape the vision and priorities for their local area. Through this the community will have an improved understanding of Council’s strategic direction and how it applies to Mill Park.

**Resources**

The project is currently resourced by 0.5 FTE of one Senior Urban Designer (Band 7) and 0.6 FTE of one Urban Designer (Band 5).

# Implementation Strategy

Communication

If the draft Framework is endorsed by Council, the document will be released publicly, and community and stakeholders involved will be informed of its release. The draft Framework will help guide Council’s future actions, budgets and priorities. See Attachment 2 for more detailed information.

Critical Dates

* Council caretaker period from 17 September – 26 October 2024.
* Finalise the Mill Park Place Framework for Council endorsement by end of June 2025:
	+ To ensure this is achievable with the election of a new Council in November 2024, community engagement is proposed in August 2024 prior to the local government elections caretaker period. If delayed, this may impact the ability to finalise the report by June 2025.

# 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. Draft Mill Park Place Framework [**5.7.1** - 48 pages]

 5.8 Tender 2024-3 Construction of a Signalised Intersection at Findon Rd and Williamsons Rd, South Morang

**5.8 Tender 2024-3 Construction of a Signalised Intersection at Findon Rd and Williamsons Rd, South Morang**

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

**Report Author:** Senior Engineering Project Manager

**In Attendance:** Manager Capital Delivery

 Unit Manager Engineering Design & Construction

 Coordinator Civil Engineering Delivery

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 private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that:

1. relates to trade secrets; or
2. if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

# Executive Summary

It is proposed that contract number 2024-3 for Construction of a Signalised Intersection at Findon Road and Williamsons Road, South Morang is awarded to BMD Constructions Pty Ltd for the lump price of $2,554,918.25 (excluding GST).

The Tender Evaluation Panel advises that:

* Five tenders were received.
* The recommended tenderer is the highest ranked and has demonstrated the required capability, capacity, qualification.
* Collaborative tendering was not undertaken in relation to this procurement because it is not listed in the Northern Councils Alliance consolidated contract register and this contract relates to a unique need for the City of Whittlesea.
* this contract commits capital budget in the 2025-25 Council Budget.

This contract was publicly tendered on 20 January 2024 and tenders closed on 20 February 2024.

# Officers’ Recommendation

**THAT Council:**

1. **Resolve to award the following contract to BMD Constructions Pty Ltd:**

**Number: 2024-3**

**Title: Construction** **of a Signalised intersection at Findon Road and Williamsons Road, South Morang**

**Cost: A lump sum of $2,554,918.25 (excluding GST)**

**subject to the following conditions:**

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

# Background / Key Information

The purpose of this contract is to upgrade the existing intersection at Findon Road and Williamsons Road, South Morang to a signalised intersection. Works include road widening, drainage works, installation of traffic signals, streetlights, signage, line marking and landscape works.

Public tenders for the contract closed on 20 February 2024. The tendered prices and a summary of the evaluation are detailed in the confidential attachment.

No member of the Tender Evaluation Panel declared any conflict of interest in relation to this tender evaluation.

A Tender Probity and Evaluation Plan was designed specifically for this tender process, and it was authorised prior to this tender being advertised. All tenders received were evaluated in accordance with that plan. The evaluation involved scoring of conforming and competitive tenders according to these pre-determined criteria and weightings:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Criteria** | **Weighting(standard)** |
| Price | 60 % |
| Capability | 15 % |
| Capacity | 15 % |
| Sustainability | 10 % |

The weightings reflect the relative importance of each element to this particular contract. They were determined as being most appropriate after considering numerous factors including (but not restricted to) the time, quality, risk and contract management requirements to achieve best value. The allocated weighting are standard as per Council’s Procurement Procedures.

Only tenders that were conforming and competitive were fully scored. Tender submissions that were evaluated as non-conforming or not sufficiently competitive were set aside from further evaluation. In cases where this occurred the reasons for that outcome are detailed in the confidential attachment.

Council received five tender submissions, which were evaluated based on price and contract conformance. Out of five tender submissions only one tender submission (Tenderer A) was considered to be conforming and competitive.

Tenderer B was not conforming as they did not meet the mandatory pre-qualification levels and the other three tenderers were not sufficiently competitive as their prices were more than 20% above the pre-tender cost estimate.

The Tender Probity and Evaluation Plan specified that tenders with a price greater than 20% above the pre-tender cost estimate be set aside during the initial tender evaluation phase, to aid the shortlisting and evaluation process. These higher priced tenders are unlikely to be considered any further unless:

* the lower priced tenders are considered inadequate and are eliminated from the tender evaluation process,
* it is the opinion of Council that retendering the works would not result in lower tender prices;
* and Council approves the allocation of additional budget should a higher priced tender be recommended for award of contract.

In this case, the three tenders set aside were priced significantly more than 20% of the pre-tender cost-estimate and were not considered value for money. If no suitably priced tenders were available for shortlisting in the tender evaluation process, then Council would have re-tendered the works to seek more competitive tender prices.

The evaluation outcome was as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Tenderer** | **Conforming** | **Competitive** | **Score** | **Rank** |
| **Tenderer A****BMD Constructions Pty Ltd**  | **Yes** | **Yes** | **98.1**  | 1 |
| Tenderer B | No  | Yes  | N/A  | N/A  |
| Tenderer C | Yes | No | N/A  | N/A |
| Tenderer D | Yes | No | N/A  | N/A |
| Tenderer E | Yes | No | N/A | N/A |

Refer to the confidential attachment for further details of the evaluation of all tenders.

# Alignment to Community Plan, Policies or Strategies

Alignment to Whittlesea 2040 and Community Plan 2021-2025:

**Connected Communities**

We work to foster and inclusive, healthy, safe and welcoming community where all ways of life are celebrated and supported.

The construction of a signalised intersection at Findon Road and Williamsons Road will improve local access to surrounding community facilities such as schools, train station and shopping centre, as well as reducing travel times, congestion and delay. Safety of the intersection will also be enhanced through the provision of traffic signals.

**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 completion of the project will, not only provide for efficient movement of traffic around the school and the train station, but also support the local economy by providing improved transport connectivity.

**Sustainable Environment**

We prioritise our environment and take action to reduce waste, preserve local biodiversity, protect waterways and green space and address climate change.

The installation of improved drainage along the south side of Findon Road will assist with management of stormwater for existing and future developments in the area.

BMD Constructions Pty Ltd is committed to sustainable business practices and advise that they use low carbon concrete, recycled crushed rock and reclaimed asphalt to reduce carbon emissions.

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

Financial Management

Funding for this contract is available in the Capital Program for the Findon Road and Williamsons Rd intersection upgrade over a number of financial years. Refer to the confidential information for further information.

Community Consultation and Engagement

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, consideration was given as to whether there were any opportunities to collaborate with other councils and public bodies or to use any existing collaborative procurement arrangements.

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.

# Other Principles for Consideration

**Overarching Governance Principles and Supporting Principles**

1. Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.
2. Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.

Public Transparency Principles

1. Council decision making processes must be transparent except when the Council is dealing with information that is confidential by virtue of the *Local Government Act* or any other Act.

# Council Policy Considerations

Environmental Sustainability Considerations

It is proposed to reduce carbon emissions by maximising the use of local sustainable and recycled products in the construction process wherever possible including recycled crushed concrete in lieu of crushed rock, reclaimed asphalt in the asphalt mixes and the re-use of excavated rock. An Environmental Management Plan will be prepared and implemented during the construction phase.

Social, Cultural and Health

The construction of this signalisation intersection will reduce traffic congestion and improved connectivity in the local precinct.

Economic

Economic benefits will be realised by utilising local businesses or subcontractors during the construction period. The project will also enable more efficient travel in the local precinct.

**Legal, Resource and Strategic Risk Implications**

A formal contract will be executed between Council and the successful tenderer prior to the works commencing.

# Implementation Strategy

Communication

There is no requirement to communicate the contract award decision of this report to the community beyond the Council minutes. However, information regarding the proposed works will be provided via Council’s communication channels and to relevant stakeholders.

Critical Dates

It is anticipated that the project will commence in late 2024 with a timeline for completion of mid to late 2025.

# 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. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED – 2024-3 Confidential Tender Evaluation Summary [**5.8.1** - 3 pages]

 5.9 Councillor Expense and Support Policy

**5.9 Councillor Expense and Support Policy**

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

**Report Author:** EA to Council

**In Attendance:** Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

# Executive Summary

On 26 June 2024, the *Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Act 2024* (**LGA Act**) came into operation. The purpose of this new Act was to make amendments to the Principal Act; namely the *Local Government Act 2020* (**Act**).

The main purposes of the LGA Act are to:

* provide for ongoing mandatory Councillor training;
* improve the Councillor Conduct framework;
* provide for the suspension and disqualification of individual Councillors in certain circumstances;
* provide further powers to the Chief Municipal Inspector;
* other miscellaneous amendments to the *Local Government Act 1989* and Act; and
* minor administrative changes.

This report is to seek Council’s endorsement of the Councillor Expense and Support Policy which takes into consideration at a high level, some of the amendments made to the *Local Government Act 2020*.

# Officers’ Recommendation

**THAT Council Endorse the Councillor Expense and Support Policy at Attachment 1.**

# Background / Key Information

The Councillor Expense and Support Policy was adopted by Council on 21 November 2023 and then further considered by Council on 21 May 2024 in conjunction with the Draft Governance Rules.

In brief, amendments to the current version of the Councillor Expense and Support Policy, to incorporate the new LGA Act, are as follows:

* Section 14.1 Professional Development Training
	+ Requirement for all Councillors to undertake mandatory training annually.
	+ Withholding individual allowances for failure to complete mandatory training until training completed.
* Section 14.2 Mayor Training
	+ Additional content to incorporate mandatory training for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor within one month after their election, even if they have previously undertaken the training.
	+ Withholding the Mayor and or Deputy Mayor allowance for failure to complete the mandatory training within the required one-month period, until training completed.
* Section 21 Indemnity for Councillors – Legal Costs
	+ Additional section to indicate what Council will and will not indemnify.
* Section 23 Standing down a Councillor by VCAT
	+ Additional section to incorporate actions if a Councillor is charged with an offence.
* Minor administrative change

# 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.

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

Financial Management

The cost is included in the current budget.

Community Consultation and Engagement

The Act does not require community consultation when amending the Policy.

# Other Principles for Consideration

**Overarching Governance Principles and Supporting Principles**

(a) Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.

(i) The transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

Public Transparency Principles

(a) Council decision making processes must be transparent except when the Council is dealing with information that is confidential by virtue of the *Local Government Act* or any other Act.

(b) Council information must be publicly available unless— (i) the information is confidential by virtue of the *Local Government Act* or any other Act; or (ii) public availability of the information would be contrary to the public interest.

(c) Council information must be understandable and accessible to members of the municipal community.

(d) Public awareness of the availability of Council information must be facilitated.

# Council Policy Considerations

Environmental Sustainability Considerations

No implications.

Social, Cultural and Health

No implications.

Economic

No implications.

**Legal, Resource and Strategic Risk Implications**

No implications.

# Implementation Strategy

Communication

The Policy will be placed on Council’s website and CoWHUB (Intranet).

Critical Dates

There are no critical dates associated with the adoption of this Policy.

# 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. Councillor Expense and Support Policy [**5.9.1** - 17 pages]

 **6 Notices of Motion**

No Notices of Motion

 **7 Urgent Business**

No Urgent Business

 **8 Reports from Council Representatives and CEO Update**

 **9 Confidential Business**

**9.1 Close Meeting to the Public**

There are no confidential agenda items for consideration in accordance with section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* which allows Council to close the meeting to the public.

 **10 Closure**