



# Minutes

## Scheduled Council Meeting

Tuesday 18 February 2025 at 6pm

Council Chamber,  
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang



**City of  
Whittlesea**

# Councillors

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

# Executive Leadership Team

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

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## **1 Opening**

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

The Chair, Cr McLindon opened the meeting at 6pm.

“Welcome to this Council Meeting of 18 February 2025 which is being held in person in the Council Chamber at Civic Centre, 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang and also being live streamed.

I am Mayor, Cr McLindon and I would also like welcome fellow Councillors and members of the Executive Leadership in attendance tonight.

Deputy Mayor, Cr Zinni, Cr Brooks, Cr Colwell, Cr Cox, Cr Gunn, Cr Kozmevski, Cr Lappin, Cr Lenberg, Cr Stow and Cr Taylor.

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

“Good evening everyone, we also have with us:

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

These members of the Executive Leadership Team will join us during the meeting.”

### **1.2 Apologies**

Nil

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

The Chair, Cr McLindon read the following statement:

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

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

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

The Chair, Cr McLindon read the following statement:

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

## 1.5 Acknowledgements

### **Housing Project Funding** *(read by the Mayor, Cr McLindon)*

We are pleased to have received \$7.1 million in funding from the Federal Government to build the infrastructure which will support the delivery of a residential development on Johnsons Road in Mernda.

This important development will deliver 35 homes, of which three will be affordable housing, providing much-needed homes close to schools, services and public transport.

### **Annual Art Exhibition Winners** *(read by the Deputy Mayor, Cr Zinni)*

Congratulations to the winners and all the entrants in the City of Whittlesea's recent annual art exhibition.

The popular exhibition featured 160 stunning works from 140 local artists, centred around the theme – Hope: A spectrum of Possibility.

Ildiko Kormanyos' piece, titled Contemplation took out the top award, with awards for Excellence also presented to Lucy Cleary and Anna Vidalis, the Youth Award to Narjes and the People's Choice Award to Cyndy Broeker.

### **Australia Day Honours** *(read by Cr Cox)*

I would like to extend my congratulations to the family of the late Mrs Mary Therese Simpson of Mernda, who was posthumously awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in this year's Australia Day honours list for her service to the community.

Mrs Simpson was an active member and volunteer of many clubs, associations and organisations including tennis, probus, church athletics and community health, and was a life governor of the Royal Women's Hospital.

### **Community Awards** *(read by the Deputy Mayor, Cr Zinni)*

A reminder that our Community Awards are now open for nominations.

I would encourage people to think about those in the community who are going above and beyond and nominate them.

Nominations close 5 March so there's still plenty of time. You can find all the details on Council's website.

**Passing of Sofia Mastoris** *(read by Cr Cox)*

I would like to pass on my condolences to the family and friends of Sofia Mastoris, OAM, who recently passed away.

Sofia was an active member of the local community and the wife of former Councillor, Con Mastoris. She was also the founding member and long-serving president of the Hellenic Women's Federation of Victoria.

We would like to acknowledge her leadership and dedication to the community, and in particular to the local Greek Australian community. Our thoughts are with her family and friends.

**2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

The Chair, Cr McLindon declared a conflict of interest relating to item 4.2.1 Petition – Calling for the Resignation of the Mayor on the grounds that the petition pertains to himself.

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

#### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

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

- Council meeting held on 17 December 2024; and
- Unscheduled Council meeting held on 4 February 2025.

*Cr McLindon abstained from voting when confirming the Unscheduled Council Meeting minutes for 4 February 2025.*

**CARRIED**

*Cr Zinni moved a Procedural Motion that the order of business be altered so item 4.2.1 on the agenda be considered immediately after the item as 5.9.*

THAT the order of business be altered so item 4.2.1 on the agenda be considered immediately after item as 5.9.

#### PROCEDURAL MOTION

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

THAT the order of business be altered so item 4.2.1 on the agenda be considered immediately after item as 5.9.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### VOTING – PROCEDURAL MOTION

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

## 4 Public Questions, Petitions and Joint Letters

### 4.1 Public Question Time

#### **Question from Nick Brain of Epping**

Can Council please confirm if it will consider investing in the proposed billion dollar family 'AusVegas' theme park concept floated by the Mayor during the council elections within its upcoming 2025-26 budget, or it will not do so and that which happens in Vegas will stay in Vegas?

#### **Response:**

Thank you for your question.

While ideas such as a theme park were raised during the election period, no formal plans or proposals regarding this project have been presented to Council for consideration.

Any decision to invest in a significant project would require a thorough assessment, including community consultation, feasibility studies, and alignment with Council's long-term vision, financial plan and strategic objectives.

Council is currently seeking feedback and holding focus groups to understand community priorities as part of setting the draft 2025-26 Budget.

The draft Budget will be presented to the community for feedback in coming months.

#### **Question from Sheryl O'Connor of Mill Park**

In relation to the E6 freeway will any houses in Monterey Court, that sit behind the vacant land, be up for acquisition in the next 1-5 years?

#### **Response:**

Thank you for your question.

The E6 freeway is a State Government project, not a Council project.

We can confirm there is no proposal for any property in Monterey Court, Mill Park to be acquired by the State Government for this project.

In 2010 VicRoads applied a Public Acquisition Overlay to nearby vacant land to enable the State Government to compulsorily acquire land for the road in the future.

However, the homes in Monterey Court are not affected by the Public Acquisition Overlay.

Council continues to seek clarity from the Victorian Government on timing for the E6 corridor project, noting its importance to the transport network in our growing municipality.

**Question from Jamie Nikolovski of Bundoora**

Does council find it appropriate that individuals within the council leadership team to nominate themselves in an election in a separate jurisdiction and not a enter leave of absence for the campaign despite being just elected 2 to 3 months ago to their positions?

**Response:**

Thank you for your question.

Like all Victorians, Councillors have the democratic right to stand for election in other levels of government.

Cr McLindon took personal leave from 12pm on 23 January to 11:59pm on 8 February to stand as a candidate in the Werribee by-election.

Deputy Mayor, Cr Zinni assumed mayoral responsibilities during this time.

**Question from Peter of Epping**

Enquiry is regarding the gutters and parking bays in Wedge St near High Street. Is it on the agenda to install these.

**Response:**

Thank you for your question.

Wedge Street, near High Street, in Epping is primarily a residential area with no high-demand parking activities nearby. Currently, the Council does not have plans to formalise car parking bays or change the kerb and channel (gutters) at this location.

However, as we continue upgrading High Street, Council will continue conversations with key stakeholders to address parking requirements in the area.

**Question from Phillip De Lima of Wollert**

What is happening with the rubbish dumping situation in the area as it's turning the suburb into a ghetto? Is there going to be more enforcement/penalties?

**Response:**

Thank you for your question.

Council understands there are significant community concerns around the level of dumped rubbish in some areas of the municipality.

We have set up a waste taskforce and are taking a multi-faceted approach to addressing this issue including enforcement action against those who are caught illegally dumping, as well as increased surveillance and waste collection in illegal dumping hot spots. A detailed report on illegal dumping is scheduled to come to the March Council meeting.

**Question from Mike Moore of Epping**

With covid cases and bad outcomes increasing over the Christmas period, what is the council doing for residents to help them get the safe and effective vaccines and get access to other resources like masks and test?

**Response:**

Thank you for your question.

Public Health response to diseases like COVID is the remit of the Victorian Department of Health. The Department has been providing information via its channels with tips on staying well and you'll be able to find out more on the Better Health Channel about managing COVID.

**Question from Henry Osadcha of Wollert**

Why can't we change the Mayor, his focus is not this council, so why do we continue with him?

**Response:**

Thank you for your question.

The election and removal of the Mayor is governed by specific requirements of the *Local Government Act*.

Under the *Local Government Act 2020*, a Mayor is elected for either a one-year or two-year term. In November 2024, the Council elected the current Mayor for a one-year term. This means the position will become vacant when the next Mayor is elected, which is scheduled for November this year. However, if the Mayor resigns or becomes ineligible to hold office, an election for a new Mayor would take place at that time.

**Question from Catherine Burke of Wollert**

Thank you for your question.

This question relates to the Mayor running in a completely unrelated election. How exactly does this benefit the city of Whittlesea? And how can the mayor do this without considering resignation now?

**Response:**

Thank you for your question.

Like all Victorians, the Mayor is entitled to stand for election at other levels of government. Cr McLindon took personal leave from 12pm on 23 January to 11:59pm on 8 February to stand as a candidate in the Werribee by-election.

Deputy Mayor, Cr Zinni assumed mayoral responsibilities during this time.

**Question from Ross Lee of Doreen**

I refer to the Unscheduled Council Meeting on Tuesday 4 February 2025, why was this information published and the passing of the recommendation by 10 Councillors listed also. Please confirm whether this conforms to the *Local Government Act*.

**Response:**

Thank you for your question

At the Unscheduled Council Meeting held on 4 February 2025, Council resolved (at point 7 of the Resolution) to make the Resolution of Council public upon formal lodgement of the application for internal arbitration.

It is a requirement of Council's Governance Rules for the minutes of every Council meeting to identify the way in which a Councillor voted on individual agenda items. This practice conforms with the *Local Government Act*.

### 4.3 Joint Letters

#### 4.3.1 Public Toilets in Parks & Improved Public Transport in Epping and Wollert

A joint letter has been received from members of the Epping-Wollert Nepalese Community and 113 residents requesting Council address the need for public toilets in parks and improved public transport in Epping and Wollert.

#### Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the joint letter lodged by Epping-Wollert Nepalese Community.
2. Acknowledge that the existing bus services within our growing suburbs are insufficient and note that Council has been, and will continue, advocating to the Department of Transport and Planning for increased bus services, with a particular focus on services to and from Epping Station.
3. Resolve the Chief Executive Officer write to the Minister for Transport and Department of Transport and Planning requesting they expedite improvements to the bus services to Wollert and share the joint letter with the Minister
4. Note Officers will write to the Epping-Wollert Nepalese Community Council's resolution and advocacy priorities.

*Cr Cox moved the following motion:*

#### Motion

THAT Council:

1. Note the joint letter lodged by Epping-Wollert Nepalese Community.
2. Acknowledge that the existing bus services within our growing suburbs are insufficient and note that Council has been, and will continue, advocating to the Department of Transport and Planning for increased bus services, with a particular focus on services to and from Epping Station.
3. Resolve the Chief Executive Officer write to the Minister for Transport and ~~Department of Transport and~~ Planning requesting they expedite improvements to the bus services to Wollert and include a copy of the joint letter.
4. **Resolve the Chief Executive Officer copy the State Members for Thomastown, Mill Park and Members for Northern Metropolitan seeking their support.**
5. **Investigate the cost of toilet facility at Lyndarum North Community Park as part of future budget considerations.**
6. **Note Officers through the Chief Executive Officer to consider the park as part of the amenity in parks review.**
7. Note Officers will write to the Epping-Wollert Nepalese Community Council's resolution and advocacy priorities.

## COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

### THAT Council:

1. Note the joint letter lodged by Epping-Wollert Nepalese Community.
2. Acknowledge that the existing bus services within our growing suburbs are insufficient and note that Council has been, and will continue, advocating to the Department of Transport and Planning for increased bus services, with a particular focus on services to and from Epping Station.
3. Resolve the Chief Executive Officer write to the Minister for Transport and Planning requesting they expedite improvements to the bus services to Wollert and include a copy of the joint letter.
4. Resolve the Chief Executive Officer copy the State Members for Thomastown, Mill Park and Members for Northern Metropolitan seeking their support.
5. Investigate the cost of toilet facility at Lyndarum North Community Park as part of future budget considerations.
6. Note Officers through the Chief Executive Officer to consider the park as part of the amenity in parks review.
7. Note Officers will write to the Epping-Wollert Nepalese Community Council's resolution and advocacy priorities.

CARRIED

## COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

*Cr Cox and Cr McLindon*

## VOTING

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

## 5 Officers' Reports

### 5.1 Rainbow Advisory Committee - Terms of Reference

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

**Report Author:** Manager Community Strengthening  
Unit Manager Healthy & Inclusive Communities

**In Attendance:** Director Infrastructure and Environment

#### Executive Summary

At its 21 May 2024 meeting, Council received a petition to establish an LGBTIQ+ advisory committee. Council noted the establishment of a committee would be considered as part of a broader review of Council's advisory committees following the October 2024 local government elections.

Currently there is no formal governance mechanism in place for Council to engage with members of the LGBTIQ+ community, representatives and interest groups in the City of Whittlesea.

This report presents the draft Terms of Reference for a City of Whittlesea Rainbow Advisory Committee for Council's endorsement.

#### Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Endorse the establishment of the City of Whittlesea Rainbow Advisory Committee.
2. Endorse the City of Whittlesea Rainbow Advisory Committee Terms of Reference in Attachment 1.
3. Resolves to appoint Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ and Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ as the proxy to the City of Whittlesea Rainbow Advisory Committee.
4. Note the dates of the first two-year appointments to the City of Whittlesea Rainbow Advisory Committee will be brought in line with Council's annual appointments to advisory groups and committees.

*Cr Cox moved the following motion:*

#### Motion

THAT Council:

1. Endorse the establishment of the City of Whittlesea Rainbow Advisory Committee.
2. Endorse the City of Whittlesea Rainbow Advisory Committee Terms of Reference in Attachment 1.

3. Resolves to appoint Councillor **Lenberg** and Councillor **Colwell** as the proxy to the City of Whittlesea Rainbow Advisory Committee.
4. Note the dates of the first two-year appointments to the City of Whittlesea Rainbow Advisory Committee will be brought in line with Council’s annual appointments to advisory groups and committees.

<b>COUNCIL RESOLUTION</b>	
<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Cr Cox</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Cr Kozmevski</i>

**THAT Council:**

1. Endorse the establishment of the City of Whittlesea Rainbow Advisory Committee.
2. Endorse the City of Whittlesea Rainbow Advisory Committee Terms of Reference in Attachment 1.
3. Resolves to appoint Councillor Lenberg and Councillor Colwell as the proxy to the City of Whittlesea Rainbow Advisory Committee.
4. Note the dates of the first two-year appointments to the City of Whittlesea Rainbow Advisory Committee will be brought in line with Council’s annual appointments to advisory groups and committees.

**CARRIED**

<b>COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION</b>
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*Cr Cox , Cr Colwell and Cr McLindon*

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

## 5.2 Planning Scheme Amendment GC249- Beveridge Intermodal Precinct, Stage 1A- Council Submission

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

**Report Author:** Unit Manager Strategic Planning

**In Attendance:** Manager Strategic Futures  
Unit Manager Strategic Planning

### Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of Planning Scheme Amendment GC249 - Beveridge Intermodal Precinct Stage 1A (the Amendment) and present Council's submission to the proposed Amendment for endorsement.

The Amendment proposes to amend the Whittlesea Planning Scheme and Mitchell Planning Scheme to facilitate the development of Stage 1A of the Beveridge Intermodal Precinct. The National Intermodal Corporation (NIC) are the proponents for the project and have requested that the Minister for Planning prepare and approve the Amendment under clause 20(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (refer to Attachment 1).

The Beveridge Intermodal Precinct will be a significant freight and logistics hub which is proposed to be developed in the north of the municipality adjoining the existing Melbourne-Albury-Sydney rail freight corridor (refer to Attachments 2 and 3). According to the NIC, at completion the Beveridge Intermodal Precinct is anticipated to deliver up to 7,000 direct jobs and an estimated 20,000 associated jobs. Noting the economic benefits of the project to the municipality and region, delivery of the Beveridge Intermodal Precinct has been an advocacy priority for Council.

The planning and delivery of Beveridge Intermodal Precinct and broader Northern Freights Precinct is being broken up into stages (refer to Attachment 4). This initial phase (Stage 1A) involves the construction and operation of a permanent rail connection to the existing Melbourne-Albury-Sydney rail freight corridor, an interim intermodal terminal and associated infrastructure (refer to Attachment 5 and 6). The interim terminal will have the capacity to handle up to two 1,800-metre interstate freight trains daily, eventually handling double-stacked container services to enable improved freight services across Melbourne and through to Sydney, Brisbane, and Perth. Planning for stages 1B and 2 will proceed during 2025 and is expected to be finalised in 2026.

The Department of Transport and Planning, on behalf of the Minister for Planning, referred the proposed Amendment to Council on 6 November 2024. A full suite of documentation was received on the 25 November 2024. Feedback was invited until 23 December 2024.

Noting the short timeframe for feedback, Council officers have prepared a submission to the Amendment and provided it to the Department of Transport and Planning (refer to Attachment 7). The feedback will be considered by the Minister for Planning as part of the decision making on the proposed Amendment and final planning controls.

The submission notes that the updated Amendment documents prepared by the NIC addresses many of the issues raised by Council officers as part of earlier consultations (refer to Attachment 8). The submission requests a number of final changes to the proposed planning controls and comments on the documents submitted for review. These items relate to issues including road network and infrastructure contributions, cultural heritage, native vegetation, environmental management framework and hydrology.

This report recommends that Council endorses the Council Officers submission to Amendment GC249.

It is expected that the Minister for Planning will make a decision on the proposed Amendment in early 2025.

**Officers' Recommendation**

THAT Council:

1. Note the request by the National Intermodal Corporation for the Minister for Planning to approve Planning Scheme Amendment GC249 - Beveridge Intermodal Precinct Stage 1A.
2. Endorse the Council submission to Planning Scheme Amendment GC249 - Beveridge Intermodal Precinct Stage 1A at Attachment 7 of this report.

*Cr Brooks moved the Officer Recommendation as the motion*

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

THAT Council:

1. **Note the request by the National Intermodal Corporation for the Minister for Planning to approve Planning Scheme Amendment GC249 - Beveridge Intermodal Precinct Stage 1A.**
2. **Endorse the Council submission to Planning Scheme Amendment GC249 - Beveridge Intermodal Precinct Stage 1A at Attachment 7 of this report.**

**CARRIED**

## COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

*Cr Stow, Cr Cox and Cr McLindon*

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

### 5.3 Planning Scheme Amendment C249 – Municipal Planning Strategy and Planning Policy Framework Update - Exhibition Outcomes and Adoption

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

**Report Author:** Strategic Planner

**In Attendance:** Coordinator Planning Policy & Implementation

#### Executive Summary

This report discusses outcomes of the exhibition process in respect to Planning Scheme Amendment C249wsea – Planning Scheme Review Implementation (Amendment C249). The report recommends that Amendment C249 is adopted by Council in accordance with the planning provisions included at attachments 1 and 2 of this report and submitted to the Minister for Planning for approval.

Amendment C249 seeks to update the Whittlesea Planning Scheme (**WPS**) to implement the outcomes and recommendations of the Planning Scheme Reviews (**PSR**) undertaken in 2018 and 2022. The Amendment comprises largely administrative changes to implement some of the outstanding recommendations from the 2018 PSR.

In summary, these changes are:

- Incorporate relevant content from the following Council-endorsed strategies and policies adopted since the 2018 PSR:
  - Amended Cooper Street West Position Paper (Whittlesea City Council, October 2017).
  - Biodiversity Strategy 2019 – 2029 (Whittlesea City Council, June 2019).
  - Cooper Street Employment Area Design Guidelines (Whittlesea City Council, March 2018).
  - Stage Two Dry Stone Wall Study Thematic History and Precincts (David Moloney, August 2020).
  - Greening Whittlesea – City Forest Strategy 2020-2040 (Whittlesea City Council, April 2021).
  - Open Space Strategy: Technical Report (Thompson Berrill Landscape Design, August 2016).
  - Strong Local Economy 2022 – 2026 (Whittlesea City Council, February 2022).
  - Sustainable Environment Strategy 2022 – 2032 (Whittlesea City Council, November 2022).
  - Thomastown Industrial Area Plan 2018 – 2038 (Whittlesea City Council, March 2018).
  - Whittlesea 2040: A Place for All (Whittlesea City Council, September 2022).

- o Whittlesea Water for All: Our Water Strategy 2020-2030 (Whittlesea City Council, December 2020).
- Update the Municipal Planning Strategy (**MPS**) and other Planning Policy Framework (**PPF**) to incorporate relevant content from the Council Plan and other Council strategies and policies adopted since the 2018 PSR Background Report was itself adopted by Council.
- Make minor updates to various local planning policies and schedules to improve readability and provide greater clarity to users of the WPS.
- Include a new local policy to reflect key outcomes of the adopted Amended Cooper Street West Position Paper (October 2017).
- Correct anomalies in Zones and Overlays, including updated terminology and policy-neutral changes to improve clarity for users of the scheme.
- Delete two local policies which were identified as being redundant and no longer required (Clause 19.03-4L - Satellite dishes and Clause 19.03-4L - Telecommunications conduits).
- Edits the schedules to the Urban Growth Zones (which implement adopted Precinct Structure Plans) to reduce ambiguity or improve consistency, following consultation with the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA).
- Update to the Precinct Infrastructure Plan mandatory condition within the Urban Growth Zone Schedules (UGZ) 3 through to 7, to clarify the intent of the requirements in terms of the quantum and timing of payments of development contributions within the growth areas.
- Delete the Public Acquisition Overlay Schedule 4 at 605 O'Herns Road, Epping which is no longer required.

In summary, the exhibited changes are focused on maintenance of the scheme rather than introducing major strategic changes to the WPS. These changes are informed by internal and external feedback, as well as adopted Council strategies and plans. These updates reduce ambiguity and bring the WPS into line with best practice, as well as the State Government's requirements in terms of the form and content of Planning Schemes.

At its meeting on 27 June 2023, Council resolved to seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to commence the amendment process.

Ministerial authorisation was provided on 12 January 2024, on the condition some administrative updates to the drafting of the proposed Amendment, required by the Department of Transport and Planning (**DTP**), were made prior to exhibition.

Amendment C249 was publicly exhibited from 25 June until 16 August 2024, concurrently with Planning Scheme Amendment C275 – Local Policy Updates (Amendment C275), which similarly implements recommendations of the 2018 and 2022 PSRs. Amendment C275 is being considered as a separate item on this Council agenda.

Three submissions were received during the exhibition period and are described in more detail in the body of the report.

Council officers engaged with submitters and resolved each of the submissions with no changes required to the exhibited Amendment. The WPS clauses amended by C249 are included at attachment 1 and the updated zone and overlay maps at attachment 2.

A tracked changes version showing all changes proposed to the current, operational version of the WPS is included at attachment 3 and a summary of the submissions and officer responses at attachment 4.

Amendment C249 is being presented to Council for a decision to allow the Amendment to be submitted for Ministerial approval. Attachment 5 shows the status of the Amendment in the planning scheme amendment process.

It is recommended that Amendment C249 in accordance with the planning provisions and maps included at attachments 1 and 2 of this report be adopted by Council and forwarded to the Minister for Planning for approval.

**Officers' Recommendation**

THAT Council:

1. Adopt Amendment C249wsea - Planning Scheme Review Implementation, in accordance with the planning provisions and maps included at attachments 1 and 2 of this report.
2. Submit Amendment C249wsea - Planning Scheme Review Implementation, as per point 1 above, to the Minister for Planning for approval.
3. Advise submitters to Amendment C249wsea – Planning Scheme Review Implementation of Council’s decision.

*Cr Stow moved the Officer Recommendation as the motion*

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

THAT Council:

1. **Adopt Amendment C249wsea - Planning Scheme Review Implementation, in accordance with the planning provisions and maps included at attachments 1 and 2 of this report.**

2. Submit Amendment C249wsea - Planning Scheme Review Implementation, as per point 1 above, to the Minister for Planning for approval.
3. Advise submitters to Amendment C249wsea – Planning Scheme Review Implementation of Council’s decision.

CARRIED

**COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION**

*Nil*

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

## 5.4 Planning Scheme Amendment C275 – Local Planning Policies Update - Exhibition Outcomes and Request for Appointment of Planning Panel

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

**Report Author:** Strategic Planner

**In Attendance:** Coordinator Planning Policy & Implementation

### Executive Summary

This report discusses the outcomes of the public exhibition of Planning Scheme Amendment C275wsea – Local Policies Update (Amendment C275) which updates three local planning policies in the Whittlesea Planning Scheme (**WPS**). The report recommends the appointment of an independent Planning Panel to consider an unresolved submission to Amendment C275.

Amendment C275 seeks to update three existing local policies within the WPS, to implement recommendations of the Planning Scheme Reviews (**PSR**) undertaken in 2018 and 2022. Specifically, the Amendment updates the Display homes, Material recycling centres, and Medical centres local policies. The updated local planning policy clauses are included at attachment 1. A track changes version showing all changes proposed to the current, operational version of the WPS is included at attachment 2.

At its meeting on 19 December 2023, Council resolved to seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to commence the amendment process.

Ministerial authorisation was provided on 8 April 2024, on the condition some administrative updates to the drafting of the proposed Amendment, required by the Department of Transport and Planning (**DTP**), were made prior to exhibition.

Amendment C275 was publicly exhibited from 25 June until 16 August 2024, concurrently with Planning Scheme Amendment C249 – Planning Scheme Review (Amendment C249), which similarly implements recommendations of the 2018 and 2022 PSRs. Amendment C249 is being considered as a separate item on this Council agenda.

Six submissions were received during the exhibition period and are described in more detail in the body of the report.

Council officers engaged with submitters to resolve submissions received. As a result of this process officers are recommending one minor change to the exhibited Amendment documents, which is identified by a comment in attachment 2.

One submission remains unresolved because the submitter did not respond to multiple attempts to make contact. The submissions and officer’s response are summarised at attachment 3.

Amendment C275 is being presented to Council for a decision to allow the Amendment to progress to an independent Planning Panel for its review of the submissions. Attachment 4 outlines the status of Amendment C275 in the planning scheme amendment process.

Noting the above, it is recommended that Council request that the Minister for Planning appoint a Planning Panel for Amendment C275. Further it is recommended that Council note the Amendment documents included at attachment 1 as Council’s preferred drafting of the Amendment documents for the Panel process. The outcomes of the Panel process will be presented at a future Council meeting to be considered as part of Council’s final decision on Amendment C275.

**Officers’ Recommendation**

THAT Council:

1. Request the Minister for Planning appoint an Independent Planning Panel to consider submissions made in relation to proposed Amendment C275wsea – Local Policies Update to the Whittlesea Planning Scheme.
2. Note that for the purposes of submissions to the Planning Panel on Amendment C275wsea – Local Policies Update, the Councils preferred Amendment documents should be generally in the form of the exhibited documents at attachment 1.
3. Note the outcomes any independent Planning Panel process for Amendment C275wsea – Local Policies Update will be reported at a future Council meeting to make a final decision on the Amendment.
4. Advise submitters to Amendment C275wsea – Local Policies Update of Council’s decision.

*Cr Taylor moved the Officer Recommendation as the motion*

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

THAT Council:

1. **Request the Minister for Planning appoint an Independent Planning Panel to consider submissions made in relation to proposed Amendment C275wsea – Local Policies Update to the Whittlesea Planning Scheme.**
2. **Note that for the purposes of submissions to the Planning Panel on Amendment C275wsea – Local Policies Update, the Councils preferred Amendment documents should be generally in the form of the exhibited documents at attachment 1.**

3. Note the outcomes any independent Planning Panel process for Amendment C275wsea – Local Policies Update will be reported at a future Council meeting to make a final decision on the Amendment.
4. Advise submitters to Amendment C275wsea – Local Policies Update of Council’s decision.

**CARRIED**

**COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION**

*Cr Taylor, Cr Stow and Cr McLindon*

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

## 5.5 Amendment to Rural Residential Precinct 4a Outline Development Plan - Council Decision

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

**Report Author:** Senior Strategic Planner

**In Attendance:** Manager Strategic Futures

### Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to discuss the assessment of a proposed amendment to the *Rural Residential Precinct 4A Outline Development Plan Part 1, March 2017 Amended* (the Development Plan). The amendment proposes subdivision, and construction of a dwelling at 126 Ridge Road, Whittlesea.

The proponent has submitted the application despite being previously advised in writing by Council officers that the proposed amendment to the Development Plan is not supported by the relevant strategic planning framework, relevant statutory planning policy, or by Council policy.

The Development Plan applies to a low-density residential precinct which is located on the eastern edge of Whittlesea Township, adjacent to the forested catchment for Yan Yean Reservoir.

Bushfire planning policy has been a significant consideration in the assessment of the proposal, noting that in bushfire affected areas the decision making of planning and responsible authorities must prioritise the protection of human life over all other policy objectives or issues. From a settlement planning perspective, there is no support in the planning scheme for directing additional housing growth to this location, particularly noting that the area is identified as under threat from environmental risks, and the potential for the decision to set a precedent for further applications for additional dwellings in areas of bushfire risk. In accordance with bushfire and settlement planning policy, the proposal cannot be refined or renegotiated to comply – it must be refused.

Neighbourhood design has been considered in the assessment. The proposed amendment seeks to achieve infill development that fails to respond to the existing neighbourhood character. The subject precinct and surrounding areas have developed over time under Outline Development Plans approved in accordance with the *Whittlesea Township Local Structure Plan 1994* and the Whittlesea Planning Scheme.

The existing neighbourhood character has developed under this subdivision and development framework, which is designed to protect natural landscape features and the environment. With respect to the protection of the environment, the proposal also fails to provide sufficient evidence to support the response to managing household wastewater and the significantly reduced area proposed for effluent disposal.

Noting the planning considerations above, the report recommends that Council refuse the proposed amendment to the Development Plan due to non-compliance with settlement and bushfire planning considerations, and urban design policy in the Whittlesea Planning Scheme.

**Officers' Recommendation**

THAT Council:

1. Refuse the proposed amendment to the Rural Residential Precinct 4A Outline Development Plan Part 1, March 2017 (Amended) as detailed in Attachment 4, on the following grounds:
  - a. The proposal does not meet the requirements of the Development Plan Overlay Schedule 2 (Whittlesea Rural Residential Area) at Clause 43.04 of the Whittlesea Planning Scheme.
  - b. The proposal is inconsistent with the Planning Policy Framework of the Whittlesea Planning Scheme, including Clauses 13.02-1S and 13.02-1L (Bushfire planning), and 15.01-5S (Neighbourhood character).
  - c. The proposal is inconsistent with the Whittlesea Township Local Structure Plan 1998, and the Whittlesea Township Plan 2021.
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to appoint Council representation at any Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal hearing or pre-hearing practice days including compulsory conferences, conducted in respect to the Rural Residential Precinct 4A Outline Development Plan.
3. Advise the proponent of the Council's decision.

*Cr Stow moved the Officer Recommendation as the motion*

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

THAT Council:

1. Refuse the proposed amendment to the Rural Residential Precinct 4A Outline Development Plan Part 1, March 2017 (Amended) as detailed in Attachment 4, on the following grounds:
  - a. The proposal does not meet the requirements of the Development Plan Overlay Schedule 2 (Whittlesea Rural Residential Area) at Clause 43.04 of the Whittlesea Planning Scheme.

- b. The proposal is inconsistent with the Planning Policy Framework of the Whittlesea Planning Scheme, including Clauses 13.02-1S and 13.02-1L (Bushfire planning), and 15.01-5S (Neighbourhood character).
  - c. The proposal is inconsistent with the Whittlesea Township Local Structure Plan 1998, and the Whittlesea Township Plan 2021.
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to appoint Council representation at any Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal hearing or pre-hearing practice days including compulsory conferences, conducted in respect to the Rural Residential Precinct 4A Outline Development Plan.
  3. Advise the proponent of the Council’s decision.

**CARRIED**

**COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION**

*Cr Stow and Cr Taylor*

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

## 5.6 2025 Infrastructure Grant Opportunities

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

**Report Author:** Coordinator Capital Programming & Reporting

**In Attendance:** Coordinator Capital Programming & Reporting

### Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of the available grant funding through the 2024-25 Growing Suburbs Fund and the 2025 Growth Areas Infrastructure Contribution Fund seeking endorsement to proceed with applications. A mandatory requirement for both funding programs is Council Resolution supporting applications in priority order be submitted with the application.

### Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Support and approve the submission of applications for three projects listed in priority order to the 2024-25 Growing Suburbs Fund administered by the Office of Suburban Development, Department of Transport and Planning:
  - a) Derby Meadows Preschool and Boori Children’s Centre Redevelopment, \$1,000,000.
  - b) Construction of Koukoura Park, \$200,000.
  - c) Olivine Recreation Reserve Skate Park Development, \$300,000.
2. Support and approve the submission of application for one project to the 2025 Growth Areas Infrastructure Contribution Fund administered by the Department of Transport and Planning:
  - a) Construction of High Street Shared Path, Keon Park Station to Thomastown Station \$3,000,000.

*Cr Zinni moved the Officer Recommendation as the motion*

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

THAT Council:

1. Support and approve the submission of applications for three projects listed in priority order to the 2024-25 Growing Suburbs Fund administered by the Office of Suburban Development, Department of Transport and Planning:
  - a) Derby Meadows Preschool and Boori Children’s Centre Redevelopment, \$1,000,000.
  - b) Construction of Koukoura Park, \$200,000.
  - c) Olivine Recreation Reserve Skate Park Development, \$300,000.

2. Support and approve the submission of application for one project to the 2025 Growth Areas Infrastructure Contribution Fund administered by the Department of Transport and Planning:
  - a) Construction of High Street Shared Path, Keon Park Station to Thomastown Station \$3,000,000.

CARRIED

**COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION**

*Cr Zinni, Cr Gunn and Cr Cox*

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

## 5.7 Contract Variation 2018-58 Cloud Infrastructure Services

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

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

**In Attendance:** Chief Information Officer

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:

- (i) relates to trade secrets; or
- (ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

### Executive Summary

It is proposed that contract number 2018-58 for Cloud Infrastructure Services is varied to suit operational requirements. Cloud Infrastructure Services is a cloud computing model that provides on-demand access to computing resources such as servers, storage, networking, data protection and virtualisation. This Cloud based services module has given City of Whittlesea competitive advantages by providing the most innovative technology available and improving not only council’s IT system availability, reliability, and performance but also the IT efficiency. The contractor has demonstrated excellent performance and co-operation with City of Whittlesea while keeping competitive pricing since the induction of the contract.

### Officers’ Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Resolve to extend the contract with Thomas Duryea Logicalis Pty Ltd (TDL) for a two year period ending 27 February 2027 at a cost of \$1,080,000 (ex GST) bringing the cumulative value to \$3,897,442.41 (ex GST).
2. Note the contract has performed satisfactorily to date.
3. Note budget is available within the current operating budget.

*Cr Lenberg moved the Officer Recommendation as the motion*

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

**THAT Council:**

1. Resolve to extend the contract with Thomas Duryea Logicalis Pty Ltd (TDL) for a two year period ending 27 February 2027 at a cost of \$1,080,000 (ex GST) bringing the cumulative value to \$3,897,442.41 (ex GST).
2. Note the contract has performed satisfactorily to date.
3. Note budget is available within the current operating budget.

**CARRIED**

**COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION**

*Cr Lenberg*

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

## 5.8 Pricing Policy - Fees and Charges

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

**Report Author:** Unit Manager Financial Development & Accountability

**In Attendance:** Chief Financial Officer

### Executive Summary

Council currently reviews its fees and charges on an annual basis as part of the annual Budget process, a practice that is common across the Local Government sector. However, to strengthen the process a formal Pricing Policy - Fees and Charges (Attachment 1) will ensure a structured, consistent and transparent approach to setting fees and charges for services delivered by Council for the community.

The policy has been developed to establish a sustainable financial management framework for setting fees and charges. The policy responds to the rising costs of delivering services to the community which in turn impacts on Council budgets. It also acknowledges the increasing complexity of delivering certain services due to legislative requirements and the need to meet community expectations. The policy also considers the circumstances of beneficiaries or users of a service when establishing an approach to setting fees and charges, with high regard to minimising impacts to cost of living for our community.

It has been identified through benchmarking across the Local Government sector that many of City of Whittlesea's fees and charges are significantly lower than other Councils who provide the same or similar services. As such, this policy will assist to ensure our services better reflect the cost of delivering the service, defined as cost recovery, while making sure we remain aligned with sector norms.

By implementing this policy, Council will be making evidence-based decisions about the services it wishes to subsidise, including those with broad community benefit, and where it may seek full cost recovery where the services unlock significant commercial benefit. By adopting this policy, the Council seeks to balance community versus commercial benefits, to promote fairness, transparency and sustainability while ensuring alignment with community expectations and strategic objectives.

Key objectives of the policy include:

- Ensuring that fees and charges reflect the actual cost of providing high-quality services.
- Establishing a balance between affordability for residents and the need for financial sustainability.
- Enhancing budgetary self-sufficiency and securing long-term service continuity.

- Providing clear guidance and transparency to Council, its officers, and the community on the rationale behind fees and charges.
- Promoting accountability in setting fees that meet strategic objectives and address community needs.
- Ensuring Council’s fees and charges are aligned with sector norms.

The policy is guided by principles of equity, accessibility, and social inclusion, ensuring that services and resources are distributed transparently.

**Officers’ Recommendation**

THAT Council endorse the Pricing Policy – Fees and Charges at Attachment 1.

*Cr Gunn moved the Officer Recommendation as the motion*

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

**THAT Council endorse the Pricing Policy – Fees and Charges at Attachment 1.**

**CARRIED**

**COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION**

*Cr Gunn, Cr Lenberg, Cr Cox and Cr McLindon*

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

## 5.9 Quarterly Corporate Performance Report - Q2 ended 31/12/2024

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

**Report Author:** Unit Manager Financial Strategy & Performance

**In Attendance:** Chief Financial Officer

### Executive Summary

This report provides the Quarterly Corporate Performance (Q2) outcomes and comprehensive summary for the period ended 31 December 2024 provided at Attachment 1 relating to:

- Council’s financial performance;
- Community Plan Action Plan 2024-25; and
- Good Governance Actions.

### Officers’ Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the Quarterly Corporate Performance Report for the period ended 31 December 2024 in Attachment 1.
2. Note the financial performance for the period ended 31 December 2024 contained within Attachment 1.

*Cr Brooks moved the Officer Recommendation as the motion*

### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Cr Brooks</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Cr Cox</i>

THAT Council:

1. **Note the Quarterly Corporate Performance Report for the period ended 31 December 2024 in Attachment 1.**
2. **Note the financial performance for the period ended 31 December 2024 contained within Attachment 1.**

**CARRIED**

### COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

*Cr Cox*

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

## 4.2 Petitions

The Chair, Cr McLindon declared a conflict of interest relating to item 4.2.1 Petition – Calling for the Resignation of the Mayor on the grounds the petition pertains to himself.

The Chair, Cr McLindon left the meeting at 7:17pm and the Deputy Mayor, Cr Zinni assumed Chair of the meeting.

### 4.2.1 Calling for the Resignation of the Mayor

A petition has been received containing 1153 signatures calling for the resignation of the Mayor as residents have lost faith in his ability to carry out the duties of Mayor. After only 9 weeks in office, he has chosen to seek election for the seat of Werribee, raising concerns about his commitment to the responsibilities and obligations that come with leading our community.

The position of Mayor demands full attention, dedication, and focus on the needs and wellbeing of the residents of Whittlesea. The current Mayors decision to pursue another political role so soon after being elected to serve our city reflects a disregard for the trust placed in him by the residents. His actions suggest that he is more focused on advancing his personal political career rather than fulfilling the promises he made to the community.

The residents of Whittlesea deserve a Mayor who prioritizes their interests and dedicates the necessary time and effort to serve the city effectively. We believe that the Mayors actions have undermined public confidence and trust in his leadership. Therefore, we respectfully call for his resignation and the election of a new Mayor who is committed to serving the people of Whittlesea with integrity and dedication.

#### Recommendation

THAT Council note the petition.

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

*Cr Taylor moved the following motion:*

#### Motion

THAT Council:

1. Pursuant to the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020 (Victoria)*, resolves to pass a Vote of No Confidence in the Mayor, Cr Aidan McLindon, citing alleged breaches of:
  - a. The Councillor Model Code of Conduct; and

- b. Public confidence in both the position of Mayor and the broader Whittlesea City Council.**
- 2. Calls for the immediate resignation of Cr Aidan McLindon from the office of Mayor.**
- 3. Directs that the Deputy Mayor, Cr Daniela Zinni send a copy of this resolution to the Minister for Local Government in Victoria for the Minister's information.**

*Cr Gunn proposed an amendment to the motion, with the following changes, which was accepted by the mover and seconder and became the substantive motion.*

### Substantive Motion

THAT Council:

1. Pursuant to the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020 (Victoria)*, resolves to pass a Vote of No Confidence in the Mayor, Cr Aidan McLindon, citing alleged breaches of:
  - a. The Councillor Model Code of Conduct; and
  - b. Public confidence in both the position of Mayor and the broader Whittlesea City Council.
2. Calls for the immediate resignation of Cr Aidan McLindon from the office of Mayor.
3. Directs that the Deputy Mayor, Cr Daniela Zinni send a copy of this resolution to the Minister for Local Government in Victoria for the Minister's information.
- 4. Note the Petition.**

*Cr Kozmevski proposed an amendment to the motion, with the following changes, which was accepted by the mover and seconder and became the substantive motion.*

### Substantive Motion

THAT Council:

1. Pursuant to the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020 (Victoria)*, resolves to pass a Vote of No Confidence in the Mayor, Cr Aidan McLindon, citing alleged breaches of:
  - a. The Councillor Model Code of Conduct; and
  - b. Public confidence in both the position of Mayor and the broader Whittlesea City Council.
2. Calls for the immediate resignation of Cr Aidan McLindon from the office of Mayor.
3. Directs that the Deputy Mayor, Cr Daniela Zinni send **the Petition** and a copy of this resolution to the Minister for Local Government in Victoria for the Minister's information.
4. Note the Petition.

## COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

### THAT Council:

1. Pursuant to the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020 (Victoria)*, resolves to pass a Vote of No Confidence in the Mayor, Cr Aidan McLindon, citing alleged breaches of:
  - a. The Councillor Model Code of Conduct; and
  - b. Public confidence in both the position of Mayor and the broader Whittlesea City Council.
2. Calls for the immediate resignation of Cr Aidan McLindon from the office of Mayor.
3. Directs that the Deputy Mayor, Cr Daniela Zinni send the Petition and a copy of this resolution to the Minister for Local Government in Victoria for the Minister's information.
4. Note the Petition.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

*Cr Taylor, Cr Lappin, Cr Stow, Cr Colwell and Cr Cox*

## VOTING

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

The Mayor, Cr McLindon returned to the meeting at 7:40pm and resumed the chair.

## **6 Notices of Motion**

No Notices of Motion

## **7 Urgent Business**

No Urgent Business

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

### **8.1 Reports from Councillors**

#### **Deputy Mayor, Cr Zinni**

- Annual Art Exhibition – Hope: A Spectrum of Possibility.
- Whittlesea Country Music Festival.
- New Year’s celebration with Whittlesea Chinese Association.
- City of Whittlesea Citizenship Ceremonies.
- Business Advisory Committee with Cr Taylor and Cr Lenberg.

#### **Cr Stow**

- Attended three Whittlesea Fire Management meetings to speak with community members who are concerned with engaging the community should another fire break out just like Black Saturday.
- Meet your Councillor – 10 February 2025. Five groups of residents attended to raise concerns regarding rubbish, litter, illegal truck parking and historical society.
- Attended the Hellenic Women’s Group. Met with Sofia Mastoris and mentioned her great achievements over the years.

#### **Cr Lenberg**

- Met with Monica Daninsky from the Animal Advocacy Australia.
- Met with Bronwyn Halfpenny, Lily D’Ambrosio, Richard Welch and Joel Drysdale.
- New Year’s Celebration with BAPS temple in Mill Park.
- City of Whittlesea Citizenship Ceremonies.
- Photoshoot at Regional Sports Precinct for City of Whittlesea Local Scoop.
- Pride March in St Kilda.
- Whittlesea Multicultural Community Committee.
- Business Advisory Committee.
- Connecting with the residents in the Epping community.

### **Cr Gunn**

- Connected with the residents in the Painted Hills ward and raising CRMs regarding issues within the community.
- Attended Doreen United Soccer Club.
- Photoshoot at Regional Sports Precinct for City of Whittlesea Local Scoop.
- Whittlesea Country Music Festival.
- Pride March in St Kilda.
- Community Awards Committee.
- Held a pop-up at the Laurimar shops in Doreen with Cr Lappin.
- Attended Nepalese Gala dinner with Cr Lappin and State Member Lauren Kathage.

### **Cr Colwell**

- Councillor 101 Training on 19 December 2025.
- Whittlesea Annual Arts Exhibition on 16 January 2025.
- Council Inductions on 21 January 2025.
- Councillor Induction on 28 January 2025.
- Whittlesea Country Music Festival on 1 February 2025.
- Pride March in St Kilda on 2 February 2025.
- Councillor Induction on 4 February 2025.
- Media Training on 6 February 2025.
- Council Briefing on 11 February 2025.
- Outer Metropolitan Council's group forum on 12 February 2025.
- Council Briefing on 13 February 2025.
- Acknowledged the passing of Sofia Mastoris.

### **Cr Kozmevski**

- BAPS community event on 19 January 2025.
- Yarra Plenty Regional Library Board special meeting on 30 January 2025.

### **Cr Brook**

- Attended all the Councillor Inductions, Briefings and Media training.
- Multicultural Community Council Committee with Cr Lenberg.
- Raising CRMs regarding issues within the community in Thomastown.

### **Cr Cox**

- BAPS Community event.
- Whittlesea Annual Arts Exhibition.
- Barbecue for the Nepalese Wollert Community at Lyndarum North Park.
- Pride March in St Kilda.
- Sod Turn at Lyndarum Neighbourhood Activity Centre.

**Cr Lappin**

- Met with Federal Member Rob Mitchell and Minister Infrastructure Catherine King at Johnson's Road in Mernda on 16 January 2025.
- Nepalese Gala dinner on 8 February 2025.
- Attended the Meet and Greet with Cr Gunn at the Laurimar shops.
- Meeting with Dean Thomas from the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action.

**Cr Taylor**

- BAPS Festival.
- Ten Individual City of Whittlesea briefings and training sessions.
- Three City of Whittlesea Citizenship Ceremonies.
- The Nepalese Neighbourhood Community Australia Day Festival.
- Attended three meetings of the two major business groups.
- Visited the Regional Sports Precinct.
- Whittlesea Country Music Festival.
- Whittlesea Fire and Safety Planning Meeting.
- Small business panel meeting at RMIT University.
- Meet your Councillor with Cr Stow at the Whittlesea Hub.
- New Year's celebration with Whittlesea Chinese Association.
- Meeting with South Morang Sports Precinct.
- Met with a number of State and Federal Politicians regarding issues in South Morang.

**Mayor, Cr McLindon**

- *"I would like to thank all the Councillors for all the good work that is being done in their respective wards."*
- Visited over sixty small businesses in the last eight weeks across the municipality.
- Encouraging residents to submit nominations for the small business awards.
- The Local Scoop – a great resource for all residents.
- Shout out to Pal Sidhu from Wollert for his courage in saving a life. He deserves to be recognised.

**8.2 Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd Update****Whittlesea Public Gardens skate park and urban zone**

We were delighted to have had hundreds of people turn out for the official opening of the new skate park and urban zone at the Whittlesea Public Gardens in Lalor on 24 January.

It was great to see people enjoying themselves on the new half-court basketball and netball courts, kickabout soccer space and climbing wall and the new 100-metre-long street-style skate park on their skateboards, roller-skates and scooters.

These facilities are complemented by two large shelters with barbecues, seating, drinking fountains, paths, lights and landscaping.

The redevelopment is set to continue with plans well advanced on upgrades to the car park, wetlands, outdoor fitness equipment, extension of the pedestrian and cycle paths and much more.

The first two stages of the Whittlesea Public Gardens redevelopment were supported by funding from the Victorian Government.

### **Alexander Avenue Streetscape Upgrade**

Work started last month on upgrades to the Alexander Avenue Shopping Precinct in Thomastown to make it a more inviting, safe and accessible space for traders and their customers.

We're making improvements to the precinct's parking arrangements and upgrading pavements, pedestrian crossings, seating, lighting and landscaping.

Businesses in the shopping precinct will be open and operating as usual throughout the construction works. The project is supported by a \$200,000 Living Local Suburban Grant from the Victorian Government.

### **Peter Hopper Lake Revitalisation**

I'm pleased to report that the second stage of the Peter Hopper Lake redevelopment commenced last month.

Under the supervision of a qualified ecologist, we have begun the process of lowering the lake's water level to allow for the next phase of works.

These works include removal of the jetties and central island, construction of a new gross pollutant trap, sediment basin, raingarden and floating nesting platform, and installation of pumps to recirculate the water.

The revitalisation project is designed to break the cycle of algae blooms and return the lake to good health, allowing the community to enjoy the precinct to its full potential.

This project is jointly funded by the Australian Government's Urban Rivers and Catchments Program and the City of Whittlesea.

### **Murnong Community Centre**

Construction of the Murnong Community Centre in Donnybrook is progressing well and on track to be finished later this year and opening early 2026.

The steel framework is up on the Olivine Boulevard site and work is continuing on the building's roof and internal walls.

The centre will include a two-room kindergarten, maternal and child health services, mini-branch library, community hall, kitchen and flexible spaces for hire.

The Murnong Community Centre is supported by funding from the Victorian Government through its Building Blocks Program, Growing Suburbs Fund, Living Libraries Infrastructure Program and Changing Places Program.

### **Passing of Rhiannon McKenzie**

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Rhiannon McKenzie, a dedicated Maternal Child Health Nurse in our Children and Families Department. Rhiannon passed away on Saturday 11 January 2025, after a courageous battle with cancer. Her compassion and commitment to the families she served will be deeply missed. Our thoughts are with her loved ones and her colleagues during this difficult time

**9 Confidential Business**

No confidential business.

**10 Closure**

There being no further business the Chair formally closed the meeting at 8:02pm.

Confirmed this 18th day of March 2025.

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Cr Aidan McLindon  
Mayor