Minutes

Scheduled Council Meeting

MINIMINIST STATE OF THE PAINT O

Tuesday 18 March 2025 at 6pm

Online via Zoom





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 Deputy Mayor, Cr Zinni opened the meeting at 6pm.

"Welcome to this Scheduled Council Meeting of 18 March 2025 which is being held online following a request from 10 Councillors to be in attendance by electronic means. This meeting is also being live streamed.

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

Cr Stow, Cr Lenberg, Cr Gunn, Cr Colwell, Cr Kozmevski, Cr Brooks, Cr Cox, Cr Lappin 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."

In accordance with Governance Rule 62.8.3 Councillors who are attending a meeting by electronic means must be seen by all Councillors and members of Council staff. As Cr McLindon was not visible online, the Chief Executive Officer requested that he be removed until such time he re-joins the meeting and complies with the requirements set out in Governance Rule 62.

1.2 Apology

Mayor, Cr McLindon

1.3 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement

The Chair, Cr Zinni 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 Zinni read the following statement:

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

1.5 Acknowledgements

The Chair, Cr Zinni made the following acknowledgements:

Community Festival

On Sunday, we held our annual Community Festival, on the Council lawns at the Civic Centre in South Morang.

While unfortunately the weather was not favourable, and we had to wrap up the outdoor aspects of the festival a little early, it was great to see so many people come along and enjoy the performances and activities on offer.

A big thank you to all the City of Whittlesea staff who have worked for many months on planning for this event, and also to the many community groups, stallholders and organisations who were in attendance on the day.

Community Awards

At the Community Festival, it was my pleasure along with the Mayor to announce the recipients of the 2024 City of Whittlesea Community Awards.

We had a record number of nominations, testament to the amazing work being done right across our municipality by people going above and beyond. A big thanks to our Community Awards Committee for their work in assessing all the nominations.

Congratulations to our award recipients:

- Dr. Sarvesh Soni, Citizen of the Year;
- Bill McGillivray, Senior Citizen of the Year;
- Zachary Melvaine, Young Citizen of the Year;
- Zoe Brown, Access and Inclusion Citizen of the Year; and
- Jim Bannan, Sustainable Citizen of the Year.



New Youth Mayor and Deputy Mayor

Congratulations to Kaynat Virk and Emily Tricarico, who were elected to lead the City of Whittlesea's Youth Council for the next 12 months as Youth Mayor and Youth Deputy Mayor.

The Youth Council are a passionate group of young people, who meet monthly and provide feedback on matters referred to them from Council, as well as advocate on important issues, challenges and opportunities for young people.

We wish Kaynat and Emily all the best in their role and look forward to working closely with the Youth Council over the next 12 months.

Cultural Diversity Week

This week is Cultural Diversity Week. Cultural Diversity Week is celebrated across the state, and brings people together to celebrate our diverse and vibrant community.

This year's theme is "Embrace the Journey, Shape Our Future" and is all about celebrating and honouring the unique and shared journeys of many in our community. To celebrate, the City of Whittlesea is hosting a range of free events throughout the week.

All the details of these events can be found on our website.

2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

No declarations.

3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s

COUNCIL	COUNCIL RESOLUTION		
Moved:	Cr Stow		
Seconded:	Cr Kozmevski		

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

- Scheduled Council meeting held on 18 February 2025; and
- Unscheduled Council meeting held on 25 February 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



4 Public Questions, Petitions and Joint Letters

4.1 Public Question Time

Question from Nick Brain of Epping

Can Council please confirm if implementation of the Whittlesea Basketball/Netball stadium strategy is on track to deliver new community sporting facilities to Epping North/Wollert by 2030, and if not, why?

Response:

Thank you for your question.

Council continues to implement the Whittlesea Netball and Basketball Plan and is on track to deliver new facilities to the western growth corridor, including Wollert and Epping North, by 2030.

Design has commenced for four new outdoor netball courts at Edgars Creek Recreation Reserve. Investigation and early planning is also underway for an indoor stadium in Epping North. Two new outdoor netball courts have also been constructed and are now open for community and club use at Olivine Recreation Reserve.

Council continues to work closely with local developers, Netball Victoria and Basketball Victoria to monitor land availability across all future project sites and review local participation demand for both netball and basketball respectively. This will continue to support the implementation of the Whittlesea Netball and Basketball Plan to 2041.

Question from Mike Moore of Epping

How much is the yearly budget on putting up Christmas decorations and holding Christmas events?

Response:

Thank you for your question.

Council does not have a budget for Christmas decorations. We do host a very popular Christmas Carols event which has been running since 1976. The event features a volunteer community choir and was last year attended by thousands of people. Council also supports community groups and individuals to deliver Christmas events and celebrations in their local area through our Community Grants program.



Question from John Nguyen of Donnybrook

Are there plans to build cycling infrastructure that connects Donnybrook to the surrounding suburbs such as Woodstock, Yan Yean, Whittlesea, Wollert & Mernda?

Response:

Thank you for your question.

Donnybrook is connected to Whittlesea, Wollert, and Mernda via Donnybrook Road, Plenty Road, and Epping Road. These roads are arterial roads and are managed by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP). At this stage, Council is not aware of any planned cycling infrastructure upgrades in the area by DTP.

Council understands cycling infrastructure is important to improve connectivity across the City of Whittlesea.

We will continue advocating to state government and working with developers for walking and cycling infrastructure along Donnybrook Road, particularly improving connections to Donnybrook Station.

Question from Noeleen Anderson of Doreen

What organisations does the City of Whittlesea belongs to?

Response:

Thank you for your question.

The City of Whittlesea along with many other Councils holds memberships to a variety of sector-wide organisations and professional bodies to support a collaborative approach to delivering services to our community. Some of these include the Municipal Association of Victoria and the Victorian Local Governance Association.



4.2 Petitions

4.2.1 Dust Levels - Botanica Park Residents

A petition has been received from 25 residents of Botanica Park requesting Council investigate the levels of dust that is affecting residents of Scarlet Drive Bundoora, which is being caused by the development at McKimmies Road.

Recommendation

THAT Council:

- 1. Note the petition.
- 2. Refer the matter to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration.
- 3. Note the Chief Executive Officer will report back to Council at a future Council Briefing on any action taken in relation to the petition.

Cr Cox moved the Recommendation as the motion:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION		
Moved:	Cr Cox	
Seconded:	Cr Gunn	

THAT Council:

- 1. Note the petition.
- 2. Refer the matter to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration.
- Note the Chief Executive Officer will report back to Council at a future Council Briefing on any action taken in relation to the petition.

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Cox and Cr Zinni



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

4.3 Joint Letters

No Joint Letters



5 Officers' Reports

5.1 Q1 & Q2 Community Grants Update

Director/Executive Manager: Director Customer & Corporate Services

Report Author: Grants Coordinator

Executive Summary

This report is to provide a brief overview of the grants processed for the Quarter 1 and Quarter 2, 2024-2025 Financial Year, from 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024.

As this was an election year, to ensure we adhered to the requirements during this period, notifications to grant recipients were delayed until after the election period. This did not significantly impact the grant applications submitted during this period, however, has delayed the reporting of Quarter 1.

The Grant Management Steering Group (Management Panel) met twice during this period to consider and approve medium and large grants and requests for additional funding for an addendum to the six Neighbourhood Houses across our municipality.

For Q1 and Q2 of this financial year, a total of 134 applications for grants has been received and processed across 8 programs. To date, we have managed to approve at least 50% of the applications received. This is a 6-7% increase in approval rates since the last report.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council note:

- 1. The Quarter 1 & Quarter 2 Management Panel Report attached.
- 2. That from 1 March 2025 31 March 2025, small and individual grants will be off-line due to staff leave.

Cr Gunn moved the following motion:

Motion

THAT Council note:

- 1. The Quarter 1 & Quarter 2 Management Panel Report attached.
- 2. That from 1 March 2025 31 March 2025, small and individual grants will be offline due to staff leave.



COUNCIL	COUNCIL RESOLUTION		
Moved:	Cr Gunn		
Seconded:	Cr Kozmevski		

THAT Council note the Quarter 1 & Quarter 2 Management Panel Report attached.

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Gunn, Cr Kozmevski, Cr Taylor, Cr Stow and Cr Cox

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



5.2 Sarissa Street, Lalor - Proposed Partial Road Discontinuance and Sale

Director/Executive Manager: Director Planning & Development

Report Author: Project Manager Community Infrastructure

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to finalise the statutory procedures under the *Local Government Act 1989* and *Local Government Act 2020* for the discontinuance and potential future sale of a section of road in Sarissa Street, Lalor (including road splays).

This report seeks to inform Council of the submissions received in response to the public notice for the proposal to discontinue and sell part of Sarissa Street, Lalor, and to provide recommendations for a Council decision.

The discontinuance of Sarissa Street in Lalor will remove the 'road' status and formally nullify the identified section as a road. The section of road being considered for discontinuance and potential sale is shown as the 184sqm approx. highlighted area marked 'Subject Land' on the road discontinuance and sale plan (Attachment 1) and is contained in certificate of title Volume 11355 Folio 699, registered in Council's name. It forms part of Plan of Subdivision PS634223T.

The proposal forms part of the Downs Road residential development project, identified in the *Whittlesea Public Gardens master plan* 2018 (Attachment 2), endorsed by Council in September 2018. The plan identified a 25-lot residential subdivision along the Public Garden edge, which would provide housing close to amenity and improve public safety of the park.

The section of Sarissa Street being considered for discontinuance and potential future sale connects to the former Downs Road, an 8,495sqm (approx.) section of road that was formally discontinued in 2019 as it was no longer reasonably required for general public use.

Key considerations

- Commencement of the statutory processes for the proposed discontinuance and sale
 of the section of road was authorised, under delegation, by Council's Chief Executive
 Officer on 20 November 2024.
- The statutory process commenced on 26 November 2024 with a public notice of the intention published in the *Whittlesea Review* newspaper and on Council's website for the duration of the statutory 28-day submission period. The consultation period ended on 23 December 2024.



- Letters were issued to 54 neighbouring residents and landowners informing them of the process, including the landowner directly adjacent to the Subject Land at 107 Sarissa Street, Lalor.
- Three submissions were received during the public notice period from residents and landowners, opposing the discontinuance. One submission was received regarding a perceived absence of public toilets in the area and two submissions were received regarding the perceived impacts of possible social housing in the new residential development.
- No submitters wished to be heard in support of their submission.
- An officer's consideration of the submissions confirms that new public toilet facilities
 are available nearby, within the recently upgraded Whittlesea Public Gardens, and
 that the inclusion of any social housing will be addressed in the project business case
 for the residential development. Respondents have been advised that community
 consultation about the proposed residential development and the possible inclusion
 of affordable housing is proposed to follow this statutory discontinuance and sale
 process, if approved.
- Consultation regarding the proposed discontinuance and sale of part of Sarissa Street was also undertaken with service authorities during the public notice period, with service authorities seeking clarification that easement rights be saved.

Officers' Recommendation

- 1. In accordance with section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and sections 206, 207A and 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*:
 - a. by giving public notice in the *Whittlesea Review* newspaper on 26 November 2024;
 - having received and considered three submissions in response to the public notice; and
 - c. by recording that no submitters requested to be heard.
 - Forms the view that the 184sqm section of road located adjacent to 107 Sarissa Street, Lalor (Subject Land), forming part of the Plan of Subdivision PS634223T and contained in Volume 11355 Folio 699, is no longer reasonably required for general public use for the following reasons. The proposal:
 - i. does not restrict any public rights of use or access as the road is unused;
 - ii. will not affect neighbouring properties as the road is not used for vehicular access by neighbouring properties;
 - iii. will not impact on the movement of pedestrians or vehicles within the vicinity of the road; and
 - iv. will not impede access to services, through maintenance or relocation of Council and/or service authority assets.



- 2. Resolve to discontinue and sell the Subject Land and publish a notice in the Victoria Government Gazette confirming the discontinuance and proposed sale, in accordance with section 206 and clause 3(a) of Schedule 10 to the *Local Government Act 1989* and section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
- 3. Resolve that the north-eastern splay of the Subject Land will be offered for sale by private treaty to the owner of 107 Sarissa Street, Lalor.
- 4. Authorise the negotiation and coordination with service authorities, where relevant, for the relocation of service assets to enable the residential development.
- 5. Direct that any easements, rights, or interests required to be created or saved over the road by any public authority, and which cannot be relocated, be applied.
- 6. Authorise the amendment of Council's Register of Public Roads to reflect the discontinuation of the section of road following publication of the Resolution in the *Victoria Government Gazette*.
- 7. Notify all submitters who have made written submissions of Council's decision and reasons for the decision.
- 8. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer, or any such person whom the Chief Executive Officer delegates, to sign all documents relating to the sale of the discontinued road (Subject Land) including the splays, and any other action required to affect the land sale.

Cr Kozmevski moved the Officer Recommendation as the motion:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION		
Moved:	Cr Kozmevski	
Seconded:	Cr Stow	

THAT Council:

- 1. In accordance with section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and sections 206, 207A and 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*:
 - a. by giving public notice in the Whittlesea Review newspaper on 26 November 2024;
 - having received and considered three submissions in response to the public notice; and
 - c. by recording that no submitters requested to be heard.

Forms the view that the 184sqm section of road located adjacent to 107 Sarissa Street, Lalor (Subject Land), forming part of the Plan of Subdivision PS634223T and contained in Volume 11355 Folio 699, is no longer reasonably required for general public use for the following reasons. The proposal:

- i. does not restrict any public rights of use or access as the road is unused;
- ii. will not affect neighbouring properties as the road is not used for vehicular access by neighbouring properties;
- iii. will not impact on the movement of pedestrians or vehicles within the vicinity of the road; and



- iv. will not impede access to services, through maintenance or relocation of Council and/or service authority assets.
- 2. Resolve to discontinue and sell the Subject Land and publish a notice in the Victoria Government Gazette confirming the discontinuance and proposed sale, in accordance with section 206 and clause 3(a) of Schedule 10 to the Local Government Act 1989 and section 114 of the Local Government Act 2020.
- 3. Resolve that the north-eastern splay of the Subject Land will be offered for sale by private treaty to the owner of 107 Sarissa Street, Lalor.
- 4. Authorise the negotiation and coordination with service authorities, where relevant, for the relocation of service assets to enable the residential development.
- 5. Direct that any easements, rights, or interests required to be created or saved over the road by any public authority, and which cannot be relocated, be applied.
- 6. Authorise the amendment of Council's Register of Public Roads to reflect the discontinuation of the section of road following publication of the Resolution in the *Victoria Government Gazette*.
- 7. Notify all submitters who have made written submissions of Council's decision and reasons for the decision.
- 8. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer, or any such person whom the Chief Executive Officer delegates, to sign all documents relating to the sale of the discontinued road (Subject Land) including the splays, and any other action required to affect the land sale.

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Kozmevski

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



5.3 Tender Evaluation 2024-114: Regional Sport Precinct Main Works - Stage 2

Director/Executive Manager: Director Infrastructure & Environment

Report Author: Acting Unit Manager Procurement

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

This report summaries the evaluation of the five tender submissions received for the Regional Sport Precinct Main Works - Stage 2.

The tender evaluation panel advises that:

- Five tenders were received.
- Council engaged Anne Dalton and Associates as the independent probity advisors to oversee the integrity of the RFT process.
- The recommended tender was not the highest ranked but is considered best value because it offers a better risk profile for Council compared to the highest-ranked tenderer.
- 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.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

 Resolve to award the following contract to Devco Project & Construction Management Pty Ltd:

Number: 2024-114

Title: Regional Sports Precinct Main Works – Stage 2
Cost: A lump sum of \$42,140,000 (excluding GST)

subject to the following conditions:

- a) Contractor providing contract security and proof of currency for insurance cover as required in the tender documents.
- b) Price variations to be in accordance with the provisions as set out in the conditions of contract.
- 2. Approve the funding arrangements as detailed in the confidential attachment.



- 3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign and execute the contract on behalf of Council.
- 4. Request the Chief Executive Officer to investigate options and related costs for the inclusion of retractable 'Grandstand' style seating to be provided, as part of the construction of the Stadiums Show Court, and report back to Council for consideration as part of the budget process.

Cr Cox moved the following motion:

Motion

THAT Council:

 Resolve to award the following contract to Devco Project & Construction Management Pty Ltd:

Number: 2024-114

Title: Regional Sports Precinct Main Works – Stage 2
Cost: A lump sum of \$42,140,000 (excluding GST)

subject to the following conditions:

- a) Contractor providing contract security and proof of currency for insurance cover as required in the tender documents.
- b) Price variations to be in accordance with the provisions as set out in the conditions of contract.
- 2. Approve the funding arrangements as detailed in the confidential attachment.
- 3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign and execute the contract on behalf of Council.
- 4. Request the Chief Executive Officer to include a provisional sum within the contract for the inclusion of retractable 'Grandstand' style seating (which also triggers additional amenities), as part of the construction of the Stadium's Show Court, at an amount of \$1,820,000.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION		
Moved:	Cr Cox	
Seconded:	Cr Lenberg	

THAT Council:

 Resolve to award the following contract to Devco Project & Construction Management Pty Ltd:

Number: 2024-114

Title: Regional Sports Precinct Main Works – Stage 2
Cost: A lump sum of \$42,140,000 (excluding GST)
subject to the following conditions:

a) Contractor providing contract security and proof of currency for insurance cover as required in the tender documents.



- b) Price variations to be in accordance with the provisions as set out in the conditions of contract.
- 2. Approve the funding arrangements as detailed in the confidential attachment.
- 3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign and execute the contract on behalf of Council.
- 4. Request the Chief Executive Officer to include a provisional sum within the contract for the inclusion of retractable 'Grandstand' style seating (which also triggers additional amenities), as part of the construction of the Stadium's Show Court, at an amount of \$1,820,000.

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Cox, Cr Colwell, Cr Stow, Cr Gunn and Cr Kozmevski

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



5.4 Waste Taskforce - Preventing Illegal Dumping

Director/Executive Manager: Director Infrastructure & Environment

Report Author: Manager Assets & Facilities

Executive Summary

Despite the comprehensive and environmentally sustainable hard waste services provided by Council, there has been an unprecedented increase in illegal dumping. This is often linked to seasonal times and is usually noticeable over the summer and holiday periods and remains an ongoing issue.

Illegally dumped rubbish has severe environmental, health, social, and economic impacts. It pollutes land, waterways, and air, harming ecosystems. Additionally, it negatively affects the community's well-being, creating a sense of neglect and reducing the perception of public safety.

The escalating cost of cleaning up illegal dumping falls on Council, with financial implications that divert resources from essential services and key priorities.

In response to this escalating matter, Council has established a dedicated Waste Taskforce comprising key business units working collaboratively to implement prevention strategies. The Taskforce aims to enhance community safety and well-being, protect public health through swift waste management, and safeguard the environment by preventing long-term damage. It also focuses on reducing clean-up costs through proactive enforcement, holding offenders accountable to deter future dumping, and promoting responsible waste disposal through public education. Additionally, by maintaining clean public spaces, the initiative seeks to boost community pride, improve liveability, and attract investment.

Officers' Recommendation

- 1. Note this report and the additional efforts being taken to address illegal dumping.
- Request the Chief Executive Officer write to the local State Members of Parliament,
 Minister for Environment and Treasurer to request funding from the Landfill Levy be
 provided to Council to offset expenses associated with the increase of illegal
 dumping.
- 3. Request the Chief Executive Officer to, as part of the plans to promote to services available to our community, and the work being undertaken to address illegal dumping, consider:
 - a. publicising when offenders are caught illegally dumping commercial quantities of waste. This may include:
 - publicly disclosing their names, photos, and details of the offending (where legally permissible), through official media and social media channels.



Cr Cox moved the Officer Recommendation as the motion:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION		
Moved:	Cr Cox	
Seconded:	Cr Stow	

THAT Council:

- 1. Note this report and the additional efforts being taken to address illegal dumping.
- 2. Request the Chief Executive Officer write to the local State Members of Parliament, Minister for Environment and Treasurer to request funding from the Landfill Levy be provided to Council to offset expenses associated with the increase of illegal dumping.
- 3. Request the Chief Executive Officer to, as part of the plans to promote to services available to our community, and the work being undertaken to address illegal dumping, consider:
 - a. publicising when offenders are caught illegally dumping commercial quantities of waste. This may include:
 - publicly disclosing their names, photos, and details of the offending (where legally permissible), through official media and social media channels.

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Cox, Cr Stow, Cr Colwell and Cr Lenberg

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



5.5 Internal Resolution Procedure

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

Report Author: Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide Councillors with the Internal Resolution Procedure (**Procedure**) which encourages Councillors to resolve a dispute in a manner that enables the Councillors to move forward and maintain an effective working relationship.

The Procedure has been developed in accordance with the requirements under section 140 of the Local Government Act 2020 (Act), regulation 12A and Schedule 1A of the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020 (Regulations). Further, the Regulations require Council to adopt the prescribed Procedures by 1 July 2025.

It should be noted that the Procedure will not be suitable for all disputes between Councillors, as such a Councillor or group of Councillors may wish to proceed directly to Internal Arbitration (misconduct), Councillor Conduct Panel (serious misconduct) or VCAT (Gross misconduct) depending on the nature of the alleged breach.

Information on the prescribed Procedures are outlined in the background/key information section of this report.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

- 1. Adopt the Internal Resolution Procedure at Attachment 1 to this report.
- 2. Note the Internal Resolution Procedure only covers the first stage Discussion; and second stage Conciliation in attempt to resolve disputes for alleged breaches of the Model Councillor Code of Conduct.
- 3. Note the processes for making application for alleged breaches of the Model Councillor Code of Conduct through Internal Arbitration, Councillor Conduct Panel or VCAT must be done in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Cr Stow moved the Officer Recommendation as the motion:

COUNCIL	RESOLUTION
Moved:	Cr Stow
Seconded:	Cr Brooks



THAT Council:

- 1. Adopt the Internal Resolution Procedure at Attachment 1 to this report.
- 2. Note the Internal Resolution Procedure only covers the first stage Discussion; and second stage Conciliation in attempt to resolve disputes for alleged breaches of the Model Councillor Code of Conduct.
- 3. Note the processes for making application for alleged breaches of the Model Councillor Code of Conduct through Internal Arbitration, Councillor Conduct Panel or VCAT must be done in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Stow and Cr Brooks

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



5.6 Election Period Policy

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

Report Author: Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's consideration and approval of the Election Period Policy (**Policy**) following community consultation between the period 26 February 2025 and 12 March 2025.

Three community members advised they understood the amendments made comment to the draft Policy with no feedback provided. Further information on the community engagement is contained within the Community Consultation and Engagement section of this report.

The amendments made to the Policy, as outlined in the Background/Key Information section of this report, are primarily enhancements to strengthen the obligations of Council officers should they nominate as a candidate in any local, state or federal election.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council resolve to adopt the Election Period Policy (Policy) at Attachment 1.

Cr Stow moved the Officer Recommendation as the motion:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	Cr Stow
Seconded:	Cr Cox

THAT Council resolve to adopt the Election Period Policy (Policy) at Attachment 1.

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Stow and Cr Cox



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



5.7 Governance Report

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

Report Author: Unit Manager Council Governance

Executive Summary

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

The purpose of this report is to provide information and endorsement or noting for the following related matters:

- Whittlesea Reconciliation Group Membership Endorsement;
- Summary of Informal Meetings of Council;
- Council Meetings Schedule for July 2025 to December 2025;
- Unconfirmed Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee held on 25 February 2025;
- Rescinding the Event Approvals Policy.

Further information on the above listed matters are located within the body of this report.

Officers' Recommendation

- 1. Note the Governance Report for March 2025.
- 2. Approve the Whittlesea Reconciliation Group (WRG) membership contained within the confidential Attachment 1, Table 1, for an initial period of 12 months and acknowledge and thank community members for their interest in WRG expression of interest.
- 3. Note the summary of Informal Meetings of Council for the period 11 November 2024 to 11 March 2025 at Attachment 2.
- 4. Adopt the Council meeting schedule for the remainder of 2025, noting all meetings will commence at 6pm and public notice will be given for the below Council meetings:

COUNCIL MEETING DATE	LOCATION
Tuesday 6 May 2025 – Hearing of	Council Chamber
Submissions Committee Meeting (if	Civic Centre
required)	25 Ferres Boulevard South Morang



COUNCIL MEETING DATE	LOCATION
Tuesday 22 July 2025 – Scheduled Council	Council Chamber
Meeting	Civic Centre
	25 Ferres Boulevard South Morang
Tuesday 19 August 2025 – Scheduled	Council Chamber
Council Meeting	Civic Centre
	25 Ferres Boulevard South Morang
Tuesday 2 September 2025 – Hearing of	Council Chamber
Submissions Committee Meeting (if	Civic Centre
required)	25 Ferres Boulevard South Morang
Tuesday 23 September 2025 – Scheduled	Council Chamber
Council Meeting	Civic Centre
	25 Ferres Boulevard South Morang
Tuesday 21 October 2025 – Scheduled	Council Chamber
Council Meeting	Civic Centre
	25 Ferres Boulevard South Morang
Tuesday 18 November 2025 – Scheduled	Council Chamber
Council Meeting	Civic Centre
	25 Ferres Boulevard South Morang
Tuesday 16 December 2025 – Scheduled	Council Chamber
Council Meeting	Civic Centre
	25 Ferres Boulevard South Morang

- 5. Note the 25 February 2025 Unconfirmed summary minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee at Attachment 3 to this report.
- 6. Resolve to rescind the Event Approvals Policy.

Cr Gunn moved the following motion:

Motion

- 1. Note the Governance Report for March 2025.
- 2. Approve the Whittlesea Reconciliation Group (WRG) membership contained within the confidential Attachment 1, Table 1, for an initial period of 12 months and acknowledge and thank community members for their interest in WRG expression of interest.
- 3. Note the summary of Informal Meetings of Council for the period 11 November 2024 to 11 March 2025 at Attachment 2.
- 4. Adopt the Council meeting schedule for the remainder of 2025, noting all meetings will commence at 6pm and public notice will be given for the below Council meetings:



LOCATION
Council Chamber
Civic Centre
25 Ferres Boulevard South Morang
Council Chamber
Civic Centre
25 Ferres Boulevard South Morang
Council Chamber
Civic Centre
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Civic Centre
25 Ferres Boulevard South Morang
Council Chamber
Civic Centre
25 Ferres Boulevard South Morang

- 5. Note the 25 February 2025 Unconfirmed summary minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee at Attachment 3 to this report.
- 6. Resolve to rescind the Event Approvals Policy.
- 7. Add Cr Taylor to the record of the minutes for the 21 January Council Briefing.

COUNCIL	RESOLUTION
Moved:	Cr Gunn
Seconded:	Cr Stow

- 1. Note the Governance Report for March 2025.
- 2. Approve the Whittlesea Reconciliation Group (WRG) membership contained within the confidential Attachment 1, Table 1, for an initial period of 12 months and acknowledge and thank community members for their interest in WRG expression of interest.
- 3. Note the summary of Informal Meetings of Council for the period 11 November 2024 to 11 March 2025 at Attachment 2.



4. Adopt the Council meeting schedule for the remainder of 2025, noting all meetings will commence at 6pm and public notice will be given for the below Council meetings:

COUNCIL MEETING DATE	LOCATION
Tuesday 6 May 2025 – Hearing of	Council Chamber
Submissions Committee Meeting (if	Civic Centre
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Council Meeting	Civic Centre
	25 Ferres Boulevard South Morang
Tuesday 2 September 2025 – Hearing of	Council Chamber
Submissions Committee Meeting (if	Civic Centre
required)	25 Ferres Boulevard South Morang
Tuesday 23 September 2025 – Scheduled	Council Chamber
Council Meeting	Civic Centre
	25 Ferres Boulevard South Morang
Tuesday 21 October 2025 – Scheduled	Council Chamber
Council Meeting	Civic Centre
	25 Ferres Boulevard South Morang
Tuesday 18 November 2025 – Scheduled	Council Chamber
Council Meeting	Civic Centre
	25 Ferres Boulevard South Morang
Tuesday 16 December 2025 – Scheduled	Council Chamber
Council Meeting	Civic Centre
	25 Ferres Boulevard South Morang

- 5. Note the 25 February 2025 Unconfirmed summary minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee at Attachment 3 to this report.
- 6. Resolve to rescind the Event Approvals Policy.
- 7. Add Cr Taylor to the record of the minutes for the 21 January Council Briefing.

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Cox



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



6 Notices of Motion

No Notices of Motion

7 Urgent Business

Cr Taylor proposed the following Urgent Business motion be admitted onto the agenda in accordance with Governance Rule 19.1.

MOTION	
Moved:	Cr Taylor
Seconded:	Cr Lenberg

THAT the following Urgent Business motion be admitted onto the agenda in accordance with Governance Rule 19.1.

CARRIED UNAMIOUSLY

Councillor Motion

THAT Council:

- Note we welcome appropriate scrutiny and support transparency and good
 governance in this sector but recently we have seen personal attacks and the spread
 of false information, and untruths about those working in this organisation. The
 impact of this on people's wellbeing cannot be underestimated. We call for it to stop
 immediately.
- 2. Note we will be lodging a formal complaint to the Office of the eSafety Commissioner in relation to the misinformation being published on social media pages targeting individuals and the City of Whittlesea.
- 3. Will be writing on behalf of Council to relevant peak bodies; Local Government Victoria, the Municipal Association of Victoria, the Victorian Local Governance Association seeking their support in combating misinformation and personal attacks of this nature.

Cr Gunn proposed the following amendment to the motion. The amendment was accepted by Cr Taylor.

Motion

THAT Council:

Note we welcome appropriate scrutiny and support transparency and good
governance in this sector but recently we have seen personal attacks and the spread
of false information, and untruths about those working in this organisation. The
impact of this on people's wellbeing cannot be underestimated. We call for it to stop
immediately.



- 2. Note we will be lodging a formal complaint to the Office of the eSafety Commissioner in relation to the misinformation being published on social media pages targeting individuals and the City of Whittlesea.
- 3. **Resolve for Cr Zinni to write** on behalf of Council to relevant peak bodies; Local Government Victoria, the Municipal Association of Victoria, the Victorian Local Governance Association seeking their support in combating misinformation and personal attacks of this nature.

Cr Taylor made the following amendment to the motion:

Motion

THAT Council:

- Note we welcome appropriate scrutiny and support transparency and good
 governance in this sector but recently we have seen personal attacks and the spread
 of false information, and untruths about those working in this organisation. The
 impact of this on people's wellbeing cannot be underestimated. We call for it to stop
 immediately.
- 2. Note we will be lodging a formal complaint to the Office of the eSafety Commissioner in relation to the misinformation being published on social media pages targeting individuals and the City of Whittlesea.
- 3. **Resolve for Cr Zinni (Deputy Mayor) to write** on behalf of Council to relevant peak bodies; Local Government Victoria, the Municipal Association of Victoria, the Victorian Local Governance Association seeking their support in combating misinformation and personal attacks of this nature.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION		
Moved:	Cr Taylor	
Seconded:	Cr Lenberg	

THAT Council:

- Note we welcome appropriate scrutiny and support transparency and good
 governance in this sector but recently we have seen personal attacks and the
 spread of false information, and untruths about those working in this organisation.
 The impact of this on people's wellbeing cannot be underestimated. We call for it
 to stop immediately.
- 2. Note we will be lodging a formal complaint to the Office of the eSafety Commissioner in relation to the misinformation being published on social media pages targeting individuals and the City of Whittlesea.
- 3. Resolve for Cr Zinni (Deputy Mayor) to write on behalf of Council to relevant peak bodies; Local Government Victoria, the Municipal Association of Victoria, the Victorian Local Governance Association seeking their support in combating misinformation and personal attacks of this nature.

CARRIED



COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Taylor, Cr Lenberg, Cr Stow, Cr Cox and Cr Zinni

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



8 Reports from Councillors and CEO Update

8.1 Reports from Councillors

Cr Stow

- "I am the proud elected Councillor for North Ward. I have been busy working with my community and I support all the Councillors around the table who have been working with the CEO and the broader Council staff. We continue to get on with the business of council."
- The Local Government Anti- Gambling working group run by VLGA.
- Unwrapped Workshop presentation at Whittlesea Technical School.
- Attended a meeting with MP Wendy Lovell from Upper house, Member of Northern Region.
- Yarra Plenty Regional Library Board meeting.
- Westgarthtown Family meeting in Thomastown.
- International Women's Day event in Brunswick with Federal Member Maria Vamvakinou MP.
- Women's Networking Event in Hawkstowe.
- Asked to be a mentor by the Australian Local Government Women's Association Women's Network.
- Attended Donnybrook Primary School.

Cr Lenberg

- "I, David Lenberg as the elected Councillor for the Epping Ward support the other Councillors at this meeting, who have been working with the CEO and the broader Council staff to support our communities. We continue to get on with the business of Council."
- Continued training with the CEO and Executive Manager of Officer of Council & CEO.
- Community Festival on Sunday, 16 March 2025.

Cr Gunn

- "I am Deb Gunn, elected Councillor for Painted Hills Ward, and I support the other Councillors on this Zoom meeting today who have been working with the CEO and the broader Council to support our communities. We continue to get on with the business of Council."
- Attended Community Awards Committee meetings.
- Community Awards Ceremony and Festival Sunday, 16 March 2025.
- Epping Cemetery Trust attended the briefing and overview of the Trust.
- Successfully completed all the mandatory units of Councillor training.



Cr Colwell

- "I, the elected Councillor for Mill Park Ward support the other Councillors who have been working with the CEO and the broader Council staff to support our communities. We continue to get on with the business of Council."
- Council Briefings and Induction program on 26 February, 4 March, 6 March and 11 March.
- Whittlesea Colour Carnival Northern Holi with Mission Smile Inc on 23 February 2025.
- Whittlesea Youth Commitment Strategic Advisory Group on 26 February 2025.
- City of Whittlesea Festival on 16 March 2025.

Cr Kozmevski

- "I, Stevan Kozmevski the elected Councillor for the Lalor Ward support the other Councillors who have been working with the CEO and the broader Council staff to support our communities. We continue to work together to get on with the business of Council."
- Council Briefings and Councillor Workshops on 26 February, 4 March, 6 March and 11 March.
- City of Whittlesea Festival on 16 March 2025.
- Yarra Plenty Regional Library Briefing on 19 February 2025.
- Yarra Plenty Regional Library Audit Committee meeting on 19 February 2025.
- Yarra Board meeting on 19 February 2025.

Cr Brooks

- "I, Nic Brooks as the elected Councillor for the Thomastown Ward support the other Councillors around this virtual table who have been working with the CEO and the broader Council staff to support our communities. We continue to get on with the business of Council."
- Completion of mandatory training and induction program.
- Engaging with members of the Rivergum Cricket Club.
- Westgarthtown 175 year anniversary at Ziebell's Farmhouse.
- Clean-up Australia event organised by Lea Thornton.
- City of Whittlesea Festival on 16 March 2025.

Cr Cox

- "I'm the elected Councillor for the Ganbu Gulinj Ward, in line with the other Councillors around this virtual table, I have been working with the CEO and the broader Council staff to support our community and we will continue to get on with the business of Council as it has been shown tonight."
- Completion of mandatory training and induction program.
- Citizenship Ceremonies.
- Attending meeting with residents at Galada Community centre.



- City of Whittlesea Festival on 16 March 2025.
- Dealing with the rubbish issues in Wollert area.
- Acknowledgment of the passing of Mrs Gwen Hamilton, one of the founders of the Lalor suburb, worked with the Lalor Youth group, Youth Club, Lalor Primary School, Lalor Primary School Mother's Club, Lalor High School Netball Clubs and a great friend of Barbara Breaks who passed last year.

Cr Lappin

- "As a Councillor of the Mernda Ward, I support the other Councillors around this table who have been working with the CEO and the broader Council staff to support our communities. We continue to get on with the business of Council."
- Completion of mandatory training and induction program.
- Met with Glenn from Whittlesea BUG group.
- Met with Kristin Hankins from Mernda Hills Christian College.
- Met with Ethan and Kelly from Mernda Community Garden.
- City of Whittlesea Festival on 16 March 2025.

Cr Taylor

- "I, Martin Taylor the elected Councillor for South Morang Ward support the other 10 Councillors in this meeting who have been working with the CEO and the broader Council staff to support our communities. We continue to effectively progress on with the business of good Council."
- Whittlesea Colour Carnival Northern Holi with Mission Smile Inc on 23 February 2025.
- Coffee with Council commenced.
- Whittlesea Northern Health Sector conference.
- Attended two Citizenship Ceremonies.
- Attended four Council Briefings and completed the Governance Induction course.

Cr Zinni

- "I, the elected Councillor for Bundoora Ward support other Councillors here today
 who have been working with the CEO and the broader Council staff to support our
 communities. We continue to effectively progress on with the business of Council
 and we're doing a cracker of a good job."
- Visited the team at Norris Bank Tennis Club.
- Attended the Tennis Together day.
- City of Whittlesea Festival on 16 March 2025.
- Visited Whittlesea Technical School and met with Sandra McKechnie.



8.2 Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd Update

Synthetic Pitch Upgrade

I am pleased to report that the conversion of a grass pitch into a FIFA-accredited synthetic surface at Partridge Street Recreation Reserve in Lalor is complete.

The move to a synthetic pitch will allow usage to increase from about 20 hours a week to more than 40 hours a week.

This is a great result not only for Mill Park Soccer Club, which has more than 300 active members, but also for nearby residents, schools and community groups.

The City of Whittlesea already has one of the highest rates of soccer participation in the state and this will only encourage more people, especially women and girls, to take part. This \$2.7 million project was fully funded by Council.

Tennis Courts Upgrade

The Barry Road Tennis Club in Thomastown is expecting an increase in participation after the City of Whittlesea finished a major court and lighting upgrade recently.

The \$900,000 redevelopment, again fully funded by Council, saw the reconstruction of two courts, installation of an energy efficient LED lighting system and new fencing.

I also want to acknowledge the Barry Road Tennis Club for their \$20,000 contribution to the project which allowed all six courts to be painted the famous blue as seen at Melbourne Park for the Australian Open.

Playground Upgrades

As part of the 2024-25 Playground Renewal Program, we're delivering improvements to local playgrounds to create fun, inclusive outdoor spaces for people of all ages and abilities.

Recent upgrades at Towerhill Park in Doreen and Wombat Corner Park in Mernda include brand-new play equipment, seating, nature play elements, improved shelters, and fresh landscaping.

Other parks receiving upgrades under this year's program include Foothills Park in South Morang, Hibiscus Park in Mill Park, Bushmans Way in South Morang and Jorgensen Park in Doreen.



Road Resurfacing

We are pleased to report that more than 71,000 square kilometres of road resurfacing has been completed so far this financial year on roads including Graduate Road and Scholar Drive in Bundoora, Victoria Drive in Thomastown and Oakbank Boulevard in Whittlesea.

The annual resurfacing program aims to enhance road safety, durability and quality, ensuring better driving conditions for motorists.

A further 36,000 square kilometres of road across the City of Whittlesea will be completed by the end of June this year.

David Turnbull OAM

A bike ride in memory of former City of Whittlesea CEO David Turnbull OAM will be held at 10am on Sunday, 30 March in Whittlesea township.

David, who passed away from cancer in 2020 aged 61, is fondly remembered for his 40 years of service to the community through local government.

David served as the City of Whittlesea's Director Planning and Development from 1994 to 2007 and then Chief Executive Officer from 2007 to 2016.

His leadership during and after the 2009 bushfires was an inspiration to all and it is appropriate that all proceeds from the ride will go to the Country Fire Authority.

More information about the ride is available on Council's Events webpage.

Vale Allan Henderson

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Allan Henderson, a former Council Officer, who passed away over the weekend. Allan dedicated 38 years to the City of Whittlesea, working from 1971 to 2009 as the Purchasing Officer. Our deepest condolences go out to Allan's family and friends during this sad time.



9 Confidential Business

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

Recommendation

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

9.1 Variation to Parks Maintenance Contrast CT 2023-118

COUNCIL RESOLUTION		
Moved:	Cr Kozmevski	
Seconded:	Cr Stow	

THAT Council adopt the recommendation to close the meeting to the public.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Chair closed the open meeting to the public at 7:51pm.

10 Closure

There being no further business the Chair formally closed the meeting at 7:56pm.

Confirmed this 15th day of April 2025.

Cr Daniela Zinni	
Deputy Mayor	