



Minutes

Scheduled Council Meeting

Tuesday 21 October 2025 at 6pm

Council Chamber,
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang



**City of
Whittlesea**

Councillors

Cr Martin Taylor, Mayor	South Morang 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 Michael Labrador	Lalor Ward
Cr Jarrod Lappin	Mernda Ward
Cr David Lenberg	Epping Ward
Cr Aidan McLindon	Kirrip Ward
Cr Christine Stow	North 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 Martin Taylor opened the meeting and introduced the Councillors and Chief Executive Officer:

“Welcome to this Scheduled Council Meeting of 21 October 2025 which is being held in person in the Council Chamber at Civic Centre, 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang and also being livestreamed.

I am Cr Martin Taylor, Mayor of the City of Whittlesea and I would like to introduce our Councillors in attendance tonight.

Cr Daniela Zinni, Deputy Mayor, Cr Nic Brooks, Cr Blair Colwell, Cr Lawrie Cox, Cr Deb Gunn, Cr Michael Labrador, Cr Jarrod Lappin, Cr David Lenberg, Cr Aidan McLindon and Cr Christine Stow.

I would also like to introduce our Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd and ask that members of the Executive Leadership Team be introduced”.

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

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

1.2 Apologies

Nil

1.3 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement

The Chair 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 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 following acknowledgements were made:

Community Leadership Program Graduation

Recently our Community Leadership Program participants had their graduation event. The program helps local people gain the skills and confidence to lead community projects and make a positive impact.

I represented Council at the event and had the opportunity to speak with graduates and listen to their inspiring visions and stories. It was evident the passion and purpose each person brings to their community and I wish each of the graduates the very best in their future endeavours.

World Mental Health Day

October 10 was World Mental Health Day which aims to raise awareness of mental health issues and to mobilise efforts in support of mental health.

This year’s theme, “Stronger Together: Preventing Suicide and Celebrating Diversity, Building Resilience”, captures the very essence of community unity, compassion, and collective strength through shared purpose.

As part of the day, I delivered the opening speech at the World Mental Health Day event organised by the Mental Health and Wellbeing Foundation.

Mental health is not an individual challenge; it is a shared responsibility that calls for understanding, empathy, and action. Strengthening and simplifying mental health referral pathways and advocating for improved access to mental health services are key priorities of Council that are outlined in the Community Plan 2025-2029 being presented to Council this evening.

Northern Councils Alliance Transport Campaign

Recently, the City of Whittlesea joined with neighbouring municipalities as part of the Northern Councils Alliance (NCA) in an advocacy campaign calling for improved transport in the fast growing regions.

Last week I joined my fellow Mayors in a series of meetings with Members of Parliament where we advocated on behalf of all NCA councils that the need for major road upgrades across Melbourne's north is critical.

Council will continue to advocate to the Victorian Government for our community's needs.

2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

No declarations.

3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s

Recommendation

THAT Council confirm the minutes of the Scheduled Council Meeting held on 14 October 2025, as circulated.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Cr Stow</i>
Seconded:	<i>Cr Colwell</i>

THAT Council confirm the minutes of the Scheduled Council Meeting held on 14 October 2025, as circulated.

CARRIED

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

VOTING		
FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
<i>Cr Stow</i>		

4 Public Questions, Petitions and Joint Letters

4.1 Public Question Time

Nick Brain on behalf of Better Deal Whittlesea

Can Council explain how its community plan will help give residents a better deal and restore their community's liveability?

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

The Community Plan 2025–29 is designed to support everyone across the City of Whittlesea, regardless of background or stage of life. It focuses on enabling communities to live well, through a four-year strategy structured around 12 key themes. These themes cover a broad spectrum of community life, including safety and connection, transport improvements, enjoyment of the natural environment, and full participation in community culture and activities.

We heard from community what their priorities are and have responded with 55 Strategic Priorities above the ongoing work and services already provided by Council.

To deliver on the Community Plan 2025-29 we have shaped 46 targeted actions, services and projects, as detailed in the Community Action Plan for 2025-26 to help address these priorities in meaningful, practical and sustainable ways.

Should Council adopt the Community Plan tonight, it will be available on Council's website.

Daniel Meissner of Wollert

Can you tell us what we can look forward to in Wollert?

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

Each year Council delivers a range of projects and programs right across the City of Whittlesea, including in Wollert.

We have recently completed an extension to Baltrum Drive, installed traffic management and lighting along Macedon Parade and Wyperfield Way and completed the Allumba Off-Leash Dog Park.

Construction is in progress of the West Wollert Community Centre, we are designing the Edgars Creek Sports Reserve ready to build and planning for the Central Wollert Sports Reserve. Wollert Central Kinder is being completed as well as Maternal and Child Health consulting rooms at Early Learning Victoria Umarkoo Centre. Duplication of De Rossi Boulevard (between Belknap Street and Epping Road) was also recently completed.

Council will also spend more than \$500,000 next year on renewing several local roads including Bodycoats, Boundary and Summerhill roads.

Next year construction will commence at Cerridwen Park and a roundabout at Crescendo Boulevard/Bellavista Drive/The Parade intersection in Wollert.

For a full list of what is planned you can view Council's budget on the website.

4.2 Petitions

4.2.1 Petition - Brush Road/Findon Road Intersection

A petition has been received from 7 residents and 5 non-residents, as well as the support of 46 signatories on the change.org platform requesting Council:

1. Reconsider its intention to wait until roadworks are completed on Epping Road before reviewing current traffic management arrangements at the Brush Road/Findon Road intersection.
2. Urgently consider implementing an appropriate traffic management solution for cars turning right into this intersection from Brush Road during peak hours, factoring in changed circumstances and traffic volumes due to the surrounding estates becoming connected to Hayston Boulevard.

Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the petition relating to Brush Road/Findon Road intersection.
2. Refer the matter to the relevant directorate for consideration.
3. Note the Chief Executive Officer will provide all Councillors with information on any action taken in relation to the concerns raised in the petition at a future Council Briefing.

Cr Stow moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Cr Stow</i>
Seconded:	<i>Cr Cox</i>

THAT Council:

1. Note the petition relating to Brush Road/Findon Road intersection.
2. Refer the matter to the relevant directorate for consideration.
3. Note the Chief Executive Officer will provide all Councillors with information on any action taken in relation to the concerns raised in the petition at a future Council Briefing.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Cox, Cr Lenberg

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

Cr Gunn declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 4.2.2 as she is a committee member at the Doreen RSL. Cr Gunn left the meeting at 6:16pm.

4.2.2 Petition - Dance Power

A petition has been received from 228 residents and 25 non-residents requesting Council reconsider relocating Doreen RSL to Brookwood Community Centre as it is anticipated that this would displace Dance Power, a local recreational community Dance school. It is noted the petition also received the support of 1142 signatories on the change.org platform.

Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the petition received relating to Dance Power.
2. Refer the matter to the relevant directorate for consideration.
3. Note the Chief Executive Officer will provide all Councillors with information on any action taken in relation to the concerns raised in the petition at a future Council Briefing.

Cr Stow moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Cr Stow</i>
Seconded:	<i>Cr Colwell</i>

THAT Council:

1. **Note the petition received relating to Dance Power.**
2. **Refer the matter to the relevant directorate for consideration.**
3. **Note the Chief Executive Officer will provide all Councillors with information on any action taken in relation to the concerns raised in the petition at a future Council Briefing.**

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Stow, Cr Colwell,

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

Cr Gunn returned to the meeting at 6:20pm.

4.3 Joint Letters

No Joint Letters

5 Officers' Reports

5.1 Annual Report 2024-2025

Director/Executive Manager: Executive Manager Public Affairs

Report Author: Manager Communications & Engagement

Extension of Speaking Time

The Mayor, Cr Taylor exercised his discretion, in accordance with Governance Rule 35.5, to extend the speaking time for up to five minutes to allow the report to be presented.

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to present the City of Whittlesea Annual Report 2023-2024 for endorsement.

The 2024-2025 Annual Report has been developed to provide an overview of Council's performance for the 2024-2025 financial year, including:

- Highlights of the year.
- Our organisational achievements.
- Performance measures for each Council goal.
- Financial report.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Approve the 2024-2025 Annual Report in accordance with section 100 of the Local Government Act 2020.
2. Note the Annual Report will be made publicly available on Council's website.

Cr Zinni moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Cr Zinni</i>
Seconded:	<i>Cr Lappin</i>

THAT Council:

1. Approve the 2024-2025 Annual Report in accordance with section 100 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
2. Note the Annual Report will be made publicly available on Council's website.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Zinni, Cr Lappin, Cr Colwell, Cr Lenberg, Cr Cox

PROCEDURAL MOTION

Moved:	<i>Cr Colwell</i>
Seconded:	<i>Cr Lappin</i>

THAT the speaking time be extended for an additional two minutes to enable Cr Cox to resume speaking to the motion.

CARRIED

VOTING

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

5.2 Community Plan 2025-29 and Community Action Plan 2025-26

Director/Executive Manager: Director Customer & Corporate Services

Report Author: Unit Manager Corporate Planning

In Attendance: Manager ePMO & Change
Unit Manager Corporate Planning

Extension of Speaking Time

The Mayor, Cr Taylor exercised his discretion to extend the speaking time for officers to present their report for up to five minutes in accordance with Governance Rule 35.5.

Executive Summary

The Community Plan 2025–29 (Attachment 1) is a comprehensive four-year strategy designed to support everyone across the City of Whittlesea—regardless of background or stage of life. Grounded in local feedback and community insights, the Plan is structured around 12 key themes that reflect the broad spectrum of community life, including safety and connection, accessible transport, enjoyment of the natural environment, and full participation in local culture, services and activities.

Over the past six weeks, Council has actively consulted with our community on the draft Community Plan 2025–29 (CP), which also incorporates the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP), Disability Action Plan (DAP), and the Community Action Plan 2025–26 (CAP). This consultation period was a vital opportunity to showcase how early community input, gathered in late 2024, has directly shaped the Draft Community Plan and its accompanying first-year action plan.

A total of 370 community members participated in this final round of consultation, building on the contributions of more than 4,500 voices across all engagement phases. This strong involvement demonstrates a high level of community confidence in the direction and priorities of both plans, with:

- 88% of participants supporting the Community Plan 2025–29.
- 89% supporting the Community Action Plan 2025–26.

These results clearly show alignment between the 55 Strategic Priorities outlined in the Plan and the values and aspirations expressed by the community throughout the consultation process.

Across the full four phases of engagement, we:

- Hosted 35 community pop-up sessions (with thanks to the Mayor and Councillors who joined some of these events);
- Delivered 3 Key stakeholder presentations;
- Facilitated 4 focus group sessions with 66 participants;
- Received 877 digital contributions; and
- Collected 790 in-person contributions.

Council also ran 15 workshops with Community Health Partners, representing 11 local organisations, to help inform the priorities for both the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and the Disability Action Plan.

As detailed in the Engagement Summary, the consultation process achieved broad representation, with participants from across 15 suburbs, a wide range of age groups, a balanced gender mix, and 97% of responses coming from people who live in the City of Whittlesea.

In direct response to community feedback, the Plan addresses critical issues such as violence prevention, physical and mental wellbeing, homelessness, housing affordability, waste management, and employment and participation barriers. The Plan also commits to delivering tangible improvements like safer roads, enhanced transport options, welcoming parks and community spaces, and more accessible community facilities.

In parallel with community engagement, a number of workshops were held with Council throughout the development of the Plan. These sessions provided opportunities for the Council to explore key themes, review emerging priorities, and ensure that the Plan aligns with the City of Whittlesea's long-term vision. The input and guidance from Councillors have been instrumental in shaping a Plan that reflects both community aspirations and strategic leadership.

To translate the vision into action, the Community Action Plan 2025–26 (Attachment 2) sets out 46 targeted initiatives for delivery in the first year. These initiatives have been designed to address the community's top priorities in a meaningful, practical and sustainable way.

Together, the Community Plan and Action Plan create a clear roadmap aligned with Whittlesea 2040, guiding Council's work and our partnerships with the community over the next four years and ensuring we stay transparent and accountable as we deliver on what matters most to our residents.

We extend thanks to everyone who participated in the yearlong engagement journey. Your feedback and ideas have helped shape a Community Plan that is inclusive, practical and future-focused.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Resolve to adopt the Community Plan 2025-29 at Attachment 1.
2. Resolve to adopt the Community Action Plan 2025-26 at Attachment 2.
3. Note that officers will provide quarterly progress reports on the implementation of the Community Action Plan 2025–26.
4. Formally acknowledge and thank the community for their valuable contributions throughout the development of both plans.

Cr Lappin moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Cr Lappin</i>
Seconded:	<i>Cr Stow</i>

THAT Council:

1. Adopt the Community Plan 2025-29 at Attachment 1.
2. Adopt the Community Action Plan 2025-26 at Attachment 2.
3. Note that officers will provide quarterly progress reports on the implementation of the Community Action Plan 2025–26.
4. Formally acknowledge and thank the community for their valuable contributions throughout the development of both plans.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Lappin, Cr Stow, Cr Colwell, Cr Zinni, Cr Taylor

VOTING		
FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
<i>Cr Taylor</i> <i>Cr Zinni</i> <i>Cr Brooks</i> <i>Cr Colwell</i> <i>Cr Cox</i> <i>Cr Gunn</i> <i>Cr Labrador</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

VOTING		
FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
<i>Cr Lappin</i> <i>Cr Lenberg</i> <i>Cr McLindon</i> <i>Cr Stow</i>		

5.3 Planning Scheme Amendment C280 - Update to Existing Heritage Overlay - Request for Authorisation

Director/Executive Manager: Director Planning & Development

Report Author: Strategic Planner

In Attendance: Manager Strategic Futures

Executive Summary

This report presents proposed Planning Scheme Amendment C280wsea – Heritage Overlay (Amendment C280wsea), which seeks to update the Whittlesea Planning Scheme (Planning Scheme) in relation to 73 heritage places that are already listed in the Heritage Overlay.

Heritage places play a vital role in the City of Whittlesea. They strengthen community identity and foster a strong sense of place by providing meaningful, tangible links to the past and people.

Places of local heritage significance are protected by the Heritage Overlay (Clause 43.01) in the Planning Scheme. The Schedule to the Heritage Overlay in the Planning Scheme lists all the places of local heritage significance in Whittlesea. Currently there are 173 heritage places protected under the Heritage Overlay in the Whittlesea Planning Scheme including farm complexes, churches and cemeteries, schools, bridges, commercial buildings, houses and homesteads.

The Heritage Overlay protects local heritage places by preserving their cultural and historical value, enriching the community's identity, and ensuring that future generations can enjoy and learn from these important sites. The planning controls require a planning permit to carry out works on a listed heritage place.

In 2021, a gap analysis of heritage places on the Heritage Overlay was undertaken and listed places that required additional or updated heritage citations and Statement of Significance were identified. An external grant was obtained, and heritage consultant David Helms Heritage Planning was engaged to prepare the *Whittlesea HO Places Review, Volume 1 and Volume 2 (Helms Heritage Places Review, see Attachment 1)*. The *Helms Heritage Places Review* provides more accurate and rich information in relation to significance of 66 heritage places already listed in the Heritage Overlay.

Having more comprehensive and accurate information and data provides for a clearer framework to make well-informed decisions about development proposals and permit applications. This will streamline the assessment of permit applications, provide more clarity for developers and property owners, improve the quality of information Council receives from heritage advisers and support design responses that respond effectively to heritage values, as part of future development proposals.

Amendment C280wsea proposes to implement recommendations of the Helms *Heritage Places Review* and update the information contained in the Whittlesea Planning Scheme in relation to the 66 existing heritage places. Administrative updates to the Heritage Overlay Schedule have also been made to a further seven existing heritage places. In total, 73 existing heritage places are affected by the Amendment which will provide enhanced protection to the significance of these places. No new places are proposed to be added to the Heritage Overlay as part of this Amendment process.

This report recommends that Council resolve to commence Amendment C280wsea and seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit the Amendment. Following authorisation from the Minister for Planning, the Amendment will be publicly exhibited to the community. Individual affected property owners and occupiers will be contacted through a consultation process. The outcomes of the public exhibition and consultation process will be subsequently reported back to Council as part of a future report.

The Amendment will ensure that more comprehensive information about the significance of existing heritage places is included in the Whittlesea Planning Scheme to enhance the protection and conservation of these significant places for the Whittlesea community into the future.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the recommendations of *Whittlesea HO Places Review, Volume 1 and Volume 2 (April 2025)* at *Attachment 1* including the updated heritage citations and Statement of Significances to existing heritage places included in this review.
2. Resolve to commence Planning Scheme Amendment C280wsea to the Whittlesea Planning Scheme, which seeks to implement the recommendations of the *Whittlesea HO Places Review, Volume 1 and Volume 2 (April 2025)*.
3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer, or their delegate, to:
 - a. Seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning, for Council to prepare and exhibit the proposed Planning Scheme Amendment C280wsea, as outlined in *Attachment 3*, in accordance with section 8A of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

- b. Make any further changes to the Amendment to comply with the Minister for Planning's conditions of authorisation and to make administrative changes to correct errors and grammatical changes.

Cr Stow moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Cr Stow</i>
Seconded:	<i>Cr Gunn</i>

THAT Council:

1. Note the recommendations of *Whittlesea HO Places Review, Volume 1 and Volume 2 (April 2025)* at *Attachment 1* including the updated heritage citations and Statement of Significances to existing heritage places included in this review.
2. Resolve to commence Planning Scheme Amendment C280wsea to the Whittlesea Planning Scheme, which seeks to implement the recommendations of the *Whittlesea HO Places Review, Volume 1 and Volume 2 (April 2025)*.
3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer, or their delegate, to:
 - a. Seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning, for Council to prepare and exhibit the proposed Planning Scheme Amendment C280wsea, as outlined in *Attachment 3*, in accordance with section 8A of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.
 - b. Make any further changes to the Amendment to comply with the Minister for Planning's conditions of authorisation and to make administrative changes to correct errors and grammatical changes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Stow, Cr Gunn

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

VOTING		
FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
<i>Cr Lenberg</i> <i>Cr McLindon</i> <i>Cr Stow</i>		

5.4 Audit and Risk Committee Charter and Appointment of Chair

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

Report Author: Unit Manager Compliance & Governance

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to present Audit and Risk Committee matters requiring Council approval, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the Audit and Risk Committee's Charter. Specifically, Council is asked to consider:

- Approval of the revised Audit and Risk Committee Charter (Attachment 1); and
- Appointment of Bruce Potgieter as Independent Chair for a term commencing 22 October 2025 and concluding 30 September 2027.

These actions will ensure compliance with legislative requirements, provide continuity of leadership, and support the effective governance and oversight of Council's audit and risk functions.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Approve the Audit and Risk Committee Charter (Charter) at Attachment 1.
2. Note the adopted Charter will be made available on Council's website.
3. Resolve to appoint Mr Bruce Potgieter as the Audit and Risk Committee Independent Chair for a term commencing 22 October 2025 and concluding 30 September 2027.

Cr Cox moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Cr Cox</i>
Seconded:	<i>Cr Lenberg</i>

THAT Council:

1. **Approve the Audit and Risk Committee Charter (Charter) at Attachment 1.**
2. **Note the adopted Charter will be made available on Council's website.**
3. **Resolve to appoint Mr Bruce Potgieter as the Audit and Risk Committee Independent Chair for a term commencing 22 October 2025 and concluding 30 September 2027.**

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Cox, Cr Lenberg, Cr Taylor

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

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

Cr Zinni

- Attended Waste & Illegal Dumping Forum in collaboration with Hume City Council & City of Whittlesea Councillors.
- Attended opening of Northern Study Hub where Latrobe University and Melbourne Polytechnic have gained Federal funding.

Cr Lenberg

- Attended Waste & Illegal Dumping Forum in collaboration with Hume City Council & City of Whittlesea Councillors.
- Attended Whittlesea Multicultural Communities Connection meeting.

Cr Gunn

- Back from leave and catching up on 200+ emails.
- Coffee with Council on Saturday in the Painted Hills Ward.

Cr McLindon

- Nil report.

Cr Colwell

- Acknowledged the work of Mission Smile who hosted the Northern Diwali Festival over the weekend.
- Acknowledged Whittlesea Bug who held a barbecue at Mill Park Leisure Centre.
- Meeting with Whittlesea Multicultural Communities.
- Delivered a Eulogy for the late Rev. Jim Cunningham, a reverend for the Uniting Church in Epping, who held ministry in Mill Park and Epping, before moving to Ivanhoe and eventual retirement.

- Cr Colwell read the following passage: *“He listened to what our people needed. When kids weren’t going to school, he helped. He created a space for actual people to feel seen, heard and respected. From the start I always felt safe around Jim. Jim became like a father I never had. The strongest man I knew, full of love, compassion and quiet strength. Jim’s heart was always for justice, fairness and understanding. Because of Jim, I’m a better person, not a bitter one. On reflecting on that over the weekend, of a life of service, one that puts others needs above ones own. It has inspired me to consider what that looks like in our everyday life, in our jobs, in our roles, in the community and of course in our work at Council. Sometimes it helps to have a little bit of a reminder about what drives us. I’m honoured to have known Jim for 20 years and witness firsthand his strength and humility”.*

Cr Brooks

- Attended Waste & Illegal Dumping Forum in collaboration with Hume City Council & City of Whittlesea Councillors.
- Attended Whittlesea Multicultural Communities Connections meeting alongside Cr Lenberg, Cr Colwell and Cr Taylor.

Cr Cox

- Attended Whittlesea Reconciliation Group meeting. Reported the name of the group is under discussion and a recommendation will come back in the future.
- Acknowledgement of Michelle Hooke, Unit Manager Aboriginal Communities, and thanked her for her service and excellent work.
- Attended MAV State Conference, where presentations on treaty were held. Noted Youth Mayor was in attendance.
- Received Councillor Service Award for 10 years’ service whilst at the MAV State Conference.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

Moved:	Cr Colwell
Seconded:	Cr Lappin

THAT the speaking time be extended for an additional two minutes to enable Cr Cox to continue speaking to his Councillor report.

CARRIED

- Noted State Council discussion on social media.
- Cr Cox to provide a report on resolutions where available to his fellow Councillors.

Cr Labrador

- Attended Lalor Neighbourhood House AGM, attended alongside Hon. Andrew Giles.
- Spoke to several residents in Lalor, relating to concerns on Local and State Government level. Noting a need for infrastructure, and community demand for safety.

Cr Lappin

- Starting a new course to inform Councillors on the challenges of Climate Change in Local Government.
- Planning day coming up with the Northern Council's Alliance on Green House Action.

Cr Stow

- Met with over 55 residents in the North Ward.
- Attended Waste & Illegal Dumping Forum in collaboration with Hume City Council & City of Whittlesea Councillors.
- Attended Diwali Festival at Council alongside Cr Colwell.
- Will be attending Whittlesea Community House for Fix it Friday.
- Thanked Cr Taylor and the Northern Council's Alliance for elevating roads and infrastructure.
- Welcomed back Cr McLindon.
- Met with over 20 NDIS providers, carers and people with disabilities in the Northern Region, giving feedback on providing better services for people with disabilities and carers.

Cr Taylor

- 293 Hours (average of 73.25 hours per week).
- 431 emails received and responded to.
- 30 Customer Requests lodged and recorded.
- 7 Customer Requests investigated and closed.
- 31 Council meetings, Briefings and Community Engagement Meetings.
- 1 formal Council meeting, for which committees I have been placed on By Council, see below:
 - Outer Melbourne Councils Committee.
 - Northern Councils Alliance Committee.
 - Yarra Plenty Regional Library Board (YPRL).
 - Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee.
 - City of Whittlesea Business Advisory Panel.
 - Audit and Risk Committee (ARC).
 - CEO Employment Matters Advisory Committee (CEMAC).
 - Hearing of Submissions Committee (HoS).
- 171 telephone calls made and received.

- 182 kilometres travelled in performance of mayoral duties and events.
- Attended the following meetings:
 - Whittlesea Multicultural Communities Council Subcommittee meeting on 20 October
 - Northern Councils Alliance meeting with Minister Staikos.
 - All Ability Dental site visit, Wollert.
 - Salvation Army Store, South Morang.
 - Doreen RSL meeting.
 - Melbourne Basant Festival 2025, Mernda.
 - Community Wellbeing Tour at the Epping Community Services Hub and Market Place Event.
 - Citizenship Ceremonies.
 - Community meeting at Rivergum.
 - Interroll Australia visit.
 - Connect with Council – Seniors Festival Launch.
 - Plenty Valley FM interviews.
 - Salvation Army Charity – Meet with the Mayor event.
 - 29th Annual Blessing of the Fleet.
 - Bollydance Dipti Grand Annual Show 2025, PRACC.
 - Whittlesea Chinese Association 2025 Mid-Autumn Moon Cake Festival, Epping.
 - Community meeting about the Basant Festival.
 - Local Business Legends Interview and Photo, Mernda.
 - Kool Kids Childcare meeting.
 - Community Leadership Program Celebration.
 - Domestic Animal Management Plan Phase 2 Community Pop Up, South Morang.
 - Bread Hub Victoria Youth Basketball Program, Epping.
 - Against the Grain Awards – Timbecon, Epping.
 - Opening Ceremony 2025-2026 Season - Whittlesea City Little Athletics Centre, Epping.
 - Timbecon Public Expo and Tour of the facility by CEO, Epping.
 - World Mental Health Day 2025 Celebration - Stronger Together, Kalkallo.
 - Kalkallo CFA open day.
 - Wat djerring Animal Facility tour, Epping.
 - Seniors Festival - LGBTI+ fun day out, Preston.
 - NCA Delegation at Victorian Parliament.
 - Lalor and District Men's Shed AGM.
 - NCA Meeting with Hon Ged Kearney - Assistant Minister for Prevention of Family Violence.
 - Illegal Dumping in Hume and Whittlesea Communities - presented by Behaviour Works.
 - Launch of the Northern Study Hub at Melbourne Polytechnic Library.
 - 2025 Banyule Community Ball.
 - 8th Northern Diwali Festival.

- Whittlesea BUG Biketober Ride and BBQ at Mill Park Leisure.
- Real Industry Job Interviews at PRACC.

8.2 Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd Update

McDonalds Road Bicycle Paths

Construction is well underway on the new bicycle path along McDonalds Road. The 900-metre path runs from Scarborough Road through to the E6 Reserve, connecting Epping to Westfield Plenty Valley. We're also improving safety for cyclists and pedestrians with the addition of three new raised crossings at Scarborough, Derby and Cabot Drives in Epping.

Stables Kindergarten Redevelopment

The redevelopment of the Stables Kindergarten in Mill Park is progressing well with demolition of the old building complete and concrete foundations now going in. The kinder is temporarily operating from the Mill Park Drive Children's Centre while works are underway.

Public Lighting in Local Streets

We're continuing to invest in improving public lighting across local streets, so residents feel safer after dark. Recent upgrades have been completed in Thomastown, Lalor and Doreen, with more to come in Lalor, Epping, Doreen and Whittlesea. Depending on the location, works include everything from new bulbs and poles to completely new installations. It's a practical way we're improving everyday safety in our neighbourhoods.

Wi-Fi Access at Community Facilities

We've also rolled out free public Wi-Fi at a number of community facilities to make it easier for people to stay connected when they visit. The upgrade means faster, more reliable internet in offices, meeting rooms and shared spaces. Sites now online include Miller, Janefield and Spring Street community centres, as well as Nick Ascenzo, May Road, RGC Cook, Wollert, Painted Hills, Epping and Olivine.

9 Tabled Reports

No reports

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

10.1 Kindergarten Position Paper

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Cr Gunn</i>
Seconded:	<i>Cr Stow</i>

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Chair closed the open meeting to the public at 7:26pm.

11 Closure

There being no further business the Mayor formally closed the meeting at 7:47pm.

Confirmed this 18th day of November 2025.

Cr Martin Taylor
Mayor