



Agenda

Scheduled Council Meeting

Monday 5 September 2022 at 4:00 pm

You are advised that a Meeting of Council has been called by the Chief Executive Officer on Monday 5 September 2022 at 4:00 pm for the transaction of the following business.

This meeting will be held online remotely and will be [livestreamed via Council’s website](https://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/about-us/council/council-meetings/).

**C Lloyd**

**Chief Executive Officer**

Administrators

Lydia Wilson Chair of Council

Peita Duncan Administrator

Chris Eddy Administrator

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

Senior Officers

Craig Lloyd Chief Executive Officer

Kate McCaughey Director Community Wellbeing

Justin O’Meara Director Planning & Development

Sarah Renner Director Customer & Corporate Services

Debbie Wood Director Infrastructure & Environment

Frank Joyce Executive Manager Governance & Strategy

Janine Morgan Executive Manager Public Affairs

Order of Business

The Chief Executive Officer submits the following business:

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[1.1 Meeting Opening and Introductions 4](#_Toc112915810)

[1.2 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement 4](#_Toc112915811)

[1.3 Attendance 4](#_Toc112915812)

[2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest 4](#_Toc112915813)

[3 Officers' Reports 5](#_Toc112915814)

[3.1 Connected Communities 5](#_Toc112915815)

[3.2 Liveable Neighborhoods 5](#_Toc112915816)

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[4.3 Confidential Strong Local Economy 21](#_Toc112915826)

[4.4 Confidential Sustainable Environment 21](#_Toc112915827)

[4.5 Confidential High Performing Organisation 21](#_Toc112915828)

[5 Closure 21](#_Toc112915829)

**Note:**

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

**1 Opening**

**1.1 Meeting Opening and Introductions**

The Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson will open the meeting and introduce the Administrators and Chief Executive Officer:

Administrator, Ms Peita Duncan;

Administrator, Mr Chris Eddy; and

Chief Executive Officer, Mr Craig Lloyd.

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

Director Community Wellbeing, Ms Kate McCaughey;

Director Planning and Development, Mr Justin O’Meara;   
Director Corporate & Customer Services, Ms Sarah Renner;   
Director Infrastructure and Environment, Ms Debbie Wood;

Executive Manager Governance and Strategy, Mr Frank Joyce; and

Executive Manager Public Affairs, Ms Janine Morgan.

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

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

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

*Amen”*

**1.2 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement**

The Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson will read the following statement:

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

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

**1.3 Attendance**

**2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

**3 Officers' Reports**

**3.1 Connected Communities**

Nil reports

**3.2 Liveable Neighborhoods**

Nil reports

**3.3 Strong Local Economy**

Nil reports

**3.4 Sustainable Environment**

3.4.1 Draft Sustainable Environment Strategy suite

**3.4.1 Draft Sustainable Environment Strategy suite**

**Responsible Officer** Director Infrastructure & Environment

**Author** Danelle Ayres, Acting Unit Manager Sustainable Organisation

**In Attendance** Amanda Dodd, Manager Sustainable Environment  
Danelle Ayres, Acting Unit Manager Sustainable Organisation

**Attachments**

1. Sustainable Environment Strategy v 7 [**3.4.1.1** - 19 pages]
2. Climate Change Plan AS V 5 [**3.4.1.2** - 25 pages]
3. COW Sustainable Environment Action Plan 2022-24 V 8 [**3.4.1.3** - 11 pages]
4. 20220830 C& E Plan Climate Change SES [**3.4.1.4** - 13 pages]

**Purpose**

This report’s purpose is to:

1. Endorse the draft Sustainable Environment Strategy (2022-2032) and associated two-year Sustainable Environment Action Plan (2022-2024), and the Climate Change Plan (2022-2032) for the purposes of commencing community consultation
2. Acknowledge and endorse the consultation and engagement plan for the final stage of community consultation prior to adoption

**Brief Overview**

Following extensive research and engagement since 2020, the City of Whittlesea’s Sustainable Environment Strategy Suite is now ready for Council’s review and feedback prior to the final stage of community consultation. The Sustainable Environment Strategy Suite includes three documents:

* The draft Sustainable Environment Strategy (2022-2032)
* The draft Sustainable Environment Action Plan (2022-2024)
* The draft Climate Change Plan (2022-2032)

The draft Sustainable Environment Strategy (2022-2032) and Sustainable Environment Action Plan (2022-2024) have been developed under Council’s new Integrated Planning Framework as Level 2 documents.

The Sustainable Environment Strategy (SES) has synthesised Council’s endorsed positions from the Rethinking Waste Plan (2021-2030), Greening Whittlesea - City Forest Strategy (2020-2040), Whittlesea Water For All – Our Water Strategy (2020-2030), and the Biodiversity Strategy (2019-2029), and incorporates the emerging work on the draft Climate Change Plan (2022-2032) and the draft Green Wedge Management Plan (2022-2032). Likewise, previously committed actions and emerging actions from these Plans have been synthesised into the Sustainable Environment Action Plan (SEAP).

The Climate Change Plan (CCP) (2022-2032) is a subordinate plan (Level 3 document) to the SES and SEAP. The CCP will guide Council’s work and partnerships with community to transition our city to a net zero emissions and climate resilient future.

The SES, SEAP, and CCP will be released for community consultation during the period between 6th September and 4th October. Once endorsed alongside the draft Green Wedge Management Plan, the Sustainable Environment Strategy Suite of strategic documents will be complete.

**Recommendation**

**That Council:**

1. **Review and provide feedback on the draft Sustainable Environment Strategy (2022-2032), the associated Sustainable Environment Action Plan (2022-2024), and the Climate Change Plan (2022-2032)**
2. **Acknowledge and endorse the consultation and engagement plan for the final stage of community consultation on the draft Sustainable Environment Strategy (2022-2032), the Sustainable Environment Action Plan (2022-2024), and the Climate Change Plan (2022-2032)**
3. **Endorse the draft Sustainable Environment Strategy (2022-2032), the Sustainable Environment Action Plan (2022-2024), and the Climate Change Plan (2022-2032) for the purpose of community consultation**

**Key Information**

The SES outlines the City of Whittlesea’s contribution toward securing a sustainable, net zero emissions, and climate resilient future for all. It aligns to key directions for enabling Whittlesea’s Sustainable Environment as envisioned by *Whittlesea 2040: A place for all*. Nine outcomes are arranged under the key directions on page 8 of the Strategy. These include:

1. Valued natural landscapes and biodiversity
   * Our landscapes, waters, and species are protected, improved, and valued
   * Our land management and land use are sustainable
   * Our natural environment and biodiversity are resilient to climate change
2. Climate ready
   * Our city’s green cover is enhanced to reduce the risk of extreme heat
   * Our communities and businesses are supported to become climate ready
   * Our built environment and infrastructure are built to support safe and healthy communities in a changing climate
3. Leaders in clean, sustainable living
   * Our city becomes a net zero emissions municipality
   * Our water resources are managed in an integrated way
   * Our city is low waste and transitions to a circular economy

The key focus areas (pp 14-27) represent the endorsed positions and actions of the six subordinate Plans (Level 3 documents) i.e. biodiversity, city forest, climate change, green wedge, waste and recycling, and water. Community empowerment is embedded across each of the key focus areas and actions.

The draft SEAP details short term actions which will be delivered between 2022 and 2024. These have been prioritised and arranged under three key directions and nine outcomes, providing a clear pathway which steps us toward achieving “The sustainable environment we want” (page 8, SES). The draft SEAP considered staff feedback from the internal consultation phase in June 2022 and sought ways to achieve significant consolidation by applying an integrated lens to each action and indicating a sponsor rather than a lead for each action. Therefore, the number of actions in the draft SEAP has reduced from 268 in the previous version, to 94 in the current version. Each action works toward at least one but often multiple key focus areas, illustrating the need for a truly integrated approach to be successful.

The SEAP primarily references previously committed actions from the Community Plan and Level 3 documents. The majority of new actions (31 of 34 new actions) relates to climate change and are reflective of the need for urgent action to achieve the net zero emissions targets for Council and the entire municipality. Three categories of actions are indicated with three colour shades: internal focused business-as-usual programs and improvements are shaded light green, internal actions that are more aligned to the High Performing Organisation Goal actions are shaded grey and will be transferred to the High Performing Action Plan once developed, and the rest are strategic or new actions, which are shaded in white. Actions which are internally focused, may be subject to internal reporting processes rather than public reporting processes.

The draft Climate Change Plan (CCP) 2022-2032 provides a roadmap that guides the Whittlesea community and Council to take integrated climate change action to achieve its overarching vision:

*By 2036, the City of Whittlesea is a net zero emissions municipality, and our communities, businesses, and environments are resilient to the changing climate. Our transition to net zero and climate resilience is collaborative, inclusive, and equitable.*

To realise this vision, seven priority areas for action have been developed. These include:

* Renewable energy and energy efficiency
* Sustainable and active transport
* Sustainable farming practice and carbon sequestration
* Low waste and circular economy
* Climate resilient communities and businesses
* Climate resilient built environment and infrastructure
* Climate resilient natural environment and biodiversity

There are three guiding principles which will shape the way Council will act and implement the CCP. These principles overlay each priority area for action and are crucial to its success. They include:

* All level leadership
* Fairness and equity
* Aboriginal empowerment

Building upon the substantial body of work on Council’s corporate emissions reduction and

climate resilience initiatives to date, the new draft CCP strives to further improve Council’s performance and advance the goal for community climate change action. By bringing together the existing suite of climate change related strategic planning documents, the new CCP aligned to the SES and SEAP, will form a comprehensive plan for Council’s approach to climate change action and provide it the same status as the existing Level 3 plans.

Our built and natural environments and climate are changing rapidly. The tools to address these challenges such as new innovations in technologies, methods and materials are also changing. Therefore, while remaining true to the course of our vision toward a Sustainable Environment for all, the SEAP is just two years, and committed actions through Council’s Level 3 Plans will be reviewed and revised as we create the new action plan every two-years. The Climate Change Plan will also undergo a mid-term review at the five-year mark, to ensure our long-term plan for action is responsive to the needs of the changing climate and community.

The intended target date for Council adoption of the Sustainable Environment Strategy (2022-2032), Sustainable Environment Action Plan (2022-2024) and the Climate Change Plan (2022-2032) is 21 November 2022.

**Community Consultation and Engagement**

The SES and SEAP are a synthesis of the past four years of Council’s environmental work. Each key focus area represents extensive research and community consultation and engagement which has been undertaken to develop the emerging and endorsed suite of environment Plans (Level 3 documents). Each Plan’s development has included numerous pop-up events; focus groups for community, institutional stakeholders, business, and youth; a community reference panel for water; online surveys; online engagement e.g. social pinpoint activities; as well as consultation activities embedded into key community events such as Super Kids Sunday and the Bugged Out Festival in 2019.

Consultation and engagement for the CCP development occurred between March and September 2021. As per the 7 December 2020 Council briefing outcome, the CCP’s consultation and engagement was aligned to the Community Plan consultation and engagement process. Overall, more than 800 people contributed to the development of the CCP.

During the 2021 Community Plan consultation efforts, the broad community was consulted on the Sustainable Environment goal and climate change, directly informing the development of the SES, while reflecting and reaffirming current community sentiments.

Community quotes have been included throughout the SES document which illustrate the genuine community sentiment to create a sustainable environment for all. These have been collected from variety of community consultation processes which have informed Council’s environmental work.

Staff consultation was also undertaken on the Sustainable Environment Discussion Paper, and the draft SES, SEAP, and CCP, respectively in February and June 2022.

In this final phase of community consultation, community will be asked to reconfirm the synthesised approach, and provide feedback on the three documents in full. The consultation phase will occur across four weeks, from 6th September to 4th October.

A detailed draft communications and engagement plan for this final stage of consultation has been attached to this report. Council will be invited to suitable community consultation opportunities. Key activities will include opportunities for engagement via:

* A Hive page dedicated to the SES, SEAP and CCP
* Pop-up events across the municipality, aligned with other Council-wide engagement such as the Glass Recycling engagement efforts
* Invitations to participants of focus groups (community, business, and youth) and institutional stakeholder workshops, closing the feedback loop
* Invitations to interested audiences, such as environmental and Landcare groups, community gardening groups, Nature Stewards and Gardening Together Again program participants, and local schools
* Attendance at appropriate youth and Wurundjeri meetings
* Community and business networks and newsletters e.g., Living Green, Local Scoop, Hume-Whittlesea Teachers Environment Network, Whittlesea Business Network, and Local Area Network correspondence etc.

**Alignment to Community Plan, Policies or Strategies**

Alignment to Whittlesea 2040 and Community Plan 2021-2025:

**Sustainable environment**

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

The draft SES and SEAP are being developed within the Integrated Planning Framework (Level 2 documents) which consolidate Council’s strategic directions in alignment with Whittlesea 2040 goals. The draft CCP completes the suite of the Level 3 documents sitting under the SES and SEAP.

The Sustainable Environment Strategy Suite is linked to the following Council policies, plans and strategies, and State and Federal Legislation.

**City of Whittlesea:**

* Whittlesea 2040: A Place for All
* Community Plan 2021-2025
* Strong Local Economy Strategy 2022-2026
* Rethinking Waste Plan 2021-2030
* Greening Whittlesea City Forest Strategy 2020-2040
* Whittlesea Water for All – Our Water Strategy 2020-2030
* Biodiversity Strategy 2019-2029
* Zero Net Emissions Plan 2022
* Light Vehicle Policy 2022
* Climate Ready Whittlesea 2017
* Open Space Strategy 2016
* Corporate Strategic Risk Register
* Walking and Cycling Plan 2022-2027 (under development)
* Climate Change Risk Assessment (under development)
* Climate Change Plan 2022-2032 (under development)
* Green Wedge Management Plan 2022-2032 (under development)
* Environment Sustainability Strategy 2012-2022 (closing out)

**Regional:**

* Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA). Most relevant policies include NAGA’s Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and Towards Zero Net Emissions for the NAGA Region 2009
* Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE). Current collaborative projects include the Elevating Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Planning Policy Amendment project and the Sustainable Subdivisions Framework trail (2020-2022)
* Greater Melbourne Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2021

**State:**

Biodiversity

* Victoria’s Environment – Biodiversity 2037 (2017)
* The Melbourne Strategic Assessment and the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Melbourne’s Growth Corridors 2013
* Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994
* Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988

City forest

* Living Melbourne: Our Metropolitan Urban Forest 2019
* Trees for Cooler and Greener Streetscapes – Guidelines for Streetscape Planning and Design 2019

Green Wedge

* Planning and Environment Act 1987 (legislative requirements on the Urban Growth Boundary)

Water

* The Healthy Waterways Strategy 2018
* The Integrated Water Management Framework for Victoria 2017
* Water for Victoria 2016
* Water Act 1989

Climate Change

* Victoria’s Gas Substitution Roadmap 2022
* Victoria’s Climate Change Adaptation Action Plans 2022 for seven systems (the natural environment, the built environment, the water cycle, primary production, transport, health and human services, education, and training)
* Victoria’s Climate Change Strategy 2021
* Victoria’s Renewable Energy Action Plan 2017
* Victoria’s Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2017-2020
* Climate Change Act 2017
* Renewable Energy (Jobs and Investment) Act 2017
* Victoria’s Climate Change Framework 2016

Waste and recycling

* Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Bill 2021
* The Victorian Plastic Bag Ban 2019
* The Recycling Victoria Policy 2020
* The Victorian Container Deposit Scheme 2023
* The Single-use Plastics Ban 2023

General and other

* Open Space Strategy for Metropolitan Melbourne – Open Space for Everyone 2021
* Victorian Traditional Owner Cultural Landscapes Strategy 2021
* Local Government Act 2020
* Pupangarli Marnmarnepu ‘Owning Our Future’ Aboriginal Self-Determination reform Strategy 2020-2025
* Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-2023
* Victoria Aboriginal Affairs Framework 2018-2023
* Environment Protection Act 2017
* Plan Melbourne 2017-2050
* Planning and Environment Act 1987

**Federal:**

* Climate Change Bill 2022
* The National Soil Strategy 2021
* Powering Australia 2021
* National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy 2021-2025
* Australia’s Long-term Emissions Reduction Plan 2021 (published under the previous Australian Government)
* Future Fuels and Vehicles Strategy 2021 (published under the previous Australian Government)
* The Recycling and Waste Reduction Bill 2020
* Technology Investment Roadmap: First Low Emissions Technology Statement 2020
* Australia’s Strategy for Nature 2019-2030
* National Hydrogen Strategy 2019
* National Energy Productivity Plan 2015-2030
* National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007 and the Safeguard Mechanism
* The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
* The National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development 1992
* The National Water Initiative

**Considerations**

**Environmental**

The draft SES synthesises and streamlines Council’s endorsed positions from the Rethinking Waste Plan, Greening Whittlesea - City Forest Strategy, Whittlesea Water for All – Our Water Strategy, Biodiversity Strategy, and emerging work of the draft Green Wedge Management and Climate Change Plans. It aligns and contributes to the Sustainable Environment key directions as outlined in Council’s vision *Whittlesea 2040: A Place for All*, including: Valued natural landscapes and biodiversity; Climate ready; and Leaders in clean, sustainable living. The draft SEAP sets out Council’s commitments to deliver on the SES for the next two years. The draft CCP maps out Council’s plan to transition our city to a net zero emissions and climate resilient place for all, which also contributes to the global climate active to avoid catastrophic climate change. The Sustainable Environment Strategy Suite will provide an integrated effective approach to drive council wide sustainability and climate action outcomes across all services and operations.

**Social, Cultural and Health**

The draft SES recognises the importance of our environment for community, and the impacts of climate change on human health and wellbeing. It aims to deliver not only environmental outcomes, but also social, cultural and health benefits for our community by protecting our environment and the ecosystem services it provides. Particular attention has been taken to improving access to canopy cover for vulnerable communities and supporting them to mitigate heat risk. It also features a focus area for community empowerment, which is committed to supporting residents, businesses, and communities to take sustainable action, building environmental skills for people of all ages and stages in life, and improving Traditional Owner engagement. The draft CCP acknowledges the significant health impacts of climate change, and emphasises our responses to climate risk, which will enhance community resilience and promote human health and wellbeing.

**Economic**

The draft Sustainable Environment Strategy Suite and associated actions are envisioned to protect and enhance our environment and respond to the climate change challenge. Its implementation will contribute to:

1) managing and enhancing Council’s tree assets with an amenity value in excess of $600 million;

2) reducing potential climate change risks such as loss and damage of properties and infrastructure, increased maintenance and repair costs, and loss of human life;

3) supporting local economy and providing local employment opportunities such as promotion of circular economy and creation of local green jobs.

**Financial Implications**

The draft SEAP includes actions that Council has already committed to for the delivery of Council’s endorsed long-term plans. These include:

* Biodiversity Strategy 2019-2029
* Greening Whittlesea - City Forest Strategy 2020-2040
* Whittlesea Water For All – Our Water Strategy 2021-2030
* Rethinking Waste Plan 2021-2030

Most of the new actions to support the emerging draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2022-2032 and draft Climate Change Plan 2022-2032, can be managed within existing staff salary budgets by realigning priorities. However, some actions will require new funding.

The financial implications of the action items for the next two fiscal years are indicated in the draft SEAP (as a column only for internal reference).

A summary of the fiscal impact of new actions is below. Endorsement of financial request for 2023/24 will be subject to its associated new initiative request or capital works line item. Where an action is proposed to be delivered alongside a larger capital works project – the environmental contribution to this will be calculated as part of that project brief. A separate briefing on the outcome of the Water Service Review is scheduled for ELT in the coming months. This review was authorised as part of the Sustainable Environment Department Phase 3 process, which identified cross-department and systematic issues with Water Service Delivery at City of Whittlesea.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Ongoing OPEX | One-off Project Funding | Capital Works | New or re-deployed positions |
| Funding request from 2023-24 (subject to opex, new initiative and capital works approval) | $300,000 | $380,000 | $1,950,000 | $350,000 |
| Total Impact | **$2,980,000** |  |  |  |

*Please note this table does not include already committed actions relating to the waste service that have been included in the Long-Term Financial Plan*

To align with our previous Net Zero Organisational Commitment, there may be a need to increase our carbon offset budget to align with the industry standard of Climate Active Certification. This will be subject to a separate briefing once the roadmap to Certification is complete.

As the threats from extreme weather events increase in the changing climate, not addressing climate mitigation and adaptation as an organisation and community is likely to increase financial risks for our assets and community.

**Link to Strategic Risk**

**Strategic Risk** *Financial Sustainability - Inability to meet current and future expenditure*Increased climate risk facing Council and our community have significant financial implications. A net-zero pathway that the draft Sustainable Environment Strategy Suite takes can reduce multiple climate change risks and bring down long term mitigation costs and economic losses.

**Strategic Risk** *Climate Change - Failure to mitigate or adapt to the risks of climate change*Council has important climate change adaptation responsibilities through its duty of care under Victoria legislation, including the Climate Change Act 2017, Local Government Act 2020, and Planning and Environment Act 1987. Our actions in the next decade will shape what a 2040 future will look like for our community.

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

The development of the draft Sustainable Environment Strategy Suite is a committed activity within the Integrated Planning Framework, which actions Whittlesea 2040 goals and guides the delivery of a wide range of Council assets, services, and operations essential for community wellbeing.

**Implementation Strategy**

**Communication**

Ongoing communication with both internal and external stakeholders have continued to inform the development of the draft Sustainable Environment Strategy Suite.

A community communications and engagement plan has been developed in collaboration with the Engagement Team which details the approach to the four-week community consultation process intended to commence on the 6 September, and close on the 4 October.

As part of Council’s requirements under State Government legislation, a Gender Impact Assessment has also been undertaken with the assistance of the Equity and Inclusion team. This Assessment has aimed to ensure the SES, SEAP and CCP consider the varied impacts these commitments will have on different genders, and other groups, including under-represented target groups, and consider these impacts in the implementation phase.

Following adoption of the plans a formal launch event will occur with the community.

**Critical Dates**

* Community consultation period: 6 September to 4 October 2022
* Council Meeting for adoption: 21 November 2022

**Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

Under Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Rule 47 of the Governance Rules 2021, officers providing advice to Council are required to disclose any conflict of interest they have in a matter and explain the nature of the conflict.  
  
The Responsible Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

**Conclusion**

The draft Sustainable Environment Strategy 2022-2032, Sustainable Environment Action Plan 2022-2024, and Climate Change Plan 2022-2032 have been informed by extensive research and consultation with community, business, internal and external institutional partners.

A full Sustainable Environment Strategy suite has been prepared for Council feedback in preparation for the final phase of community consultation prior to adoption.

**3.5 High Performing Organisation**

3.5.1 Council Meeting Schedule Update

**3.5.1 Council Meeting Schedule Update**

**Responsible Officer** Executive Manager Governance & Strategy

**Author** Bineet Gujral, Governance Officer

**In Attendance** Frank Joyce, Executive Manager Governance & Strategy

**Attachments**  No Attachments

**Purpose**

For Council to confirm a change of location for the upcoming Scheduled Council Meeting on 19 September 2022.

**Brief Overview**

The upcoming Council meeting is scheduled for 19 September 2022 at 6.30pm to be held remotely online.

As the number of COVID cases has reduced, it is proposed that the meeting location be changed to be held in person in the Council Chamber. This will enable increased community participation. Hand sanitiser and masks will be made available for any attendees to reduce risk in accordance with Council’s Covidsafe plan.

**Recommendation**

**That Council confirms the next Scheduled Council Meeting be held in-person in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang on 19 September 2022 at 6.30pm.**

**Key Information**

Current State Government advice is for employers to consider working from home if they can. However, as a result of reduced numbers of COVID cases within our municipality it is recommended that the next Scheduled Council meeting on 19 September 2022 be conducted in-person. This will enable local residents to attend and participate in the Council meeting as part of public question time. Hand sanitiser and masks will be made available for any attendees to reduce risk in accordance with Council’s Covidsafe plan.

**Alignment to Community Plan, Policies or Strategies**

Alignment to Whittlesea 2040 and Community Plan 2021-2025:

**High performing organisation**

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

The Council Meeting being held in-person provides the community with more opportunity to participate in the Council Meeting by attending in person to observe the proceedings of the Council Meeting and the opportunity to ask questions at the meeting during public question time.

**Considerations**

**Environmental**

No implications

**Social, Cultural and Health**

No implications

**Economic**

No implications

**Financial Implications**

The cost is included in the current operating budget.

**Link to Strategic Risk**

**Strategic Risk** Not linked to strategic risks in the risk register.

**Implementation Strategy**

**Communication**

Notices will be placed on Council’s website to inform the community that the Council Meeting will now be held in-person in the Council Chamber and that community members are welcomed to attend in person.

**Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

Under Section 130 of the Local Government Act 2020 and Rule 47 of the Governance Rules 2021, officers providing advice to Council are required to disclose any conflict of interest they have in a matter and explain the nature of the conflict.

The Responsible Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

**Conclusion**

Enabling the Scheduled Council Meeting on 19 September 2022 to be held in-person will increase community participation and is deemed appropriate with covid cases reducing. Precautions will be provided to ensure masks and hand sanitiser are available for use by all attendees.

**4 Confidential Business**

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

**Recommendation**

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

**4.1 Confidential Connected Communities**

4.1.1 Interim Activation for Mernda Town Centre

**4.1.1 Interim Activation for Mernda Town Centre**

**Responsible Officer** Director Community Wellbeing

**Author** Nicole Wisemen, Coordinator Community Planning

**In Attendance** Agata Chmielewski, Manager Strategic Projects

**Attachments** No Attachments

This report has been designated as confidential by the Director Community Wellbeing, under delegation from the Chief Executive Officer, in accordance with Rule 53 of the Governance Rules 2021 and sections 66(5) and 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 on the grounds that it contains Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released. In particular the report contains information regarding financial data that could impact property lease and Section 173 negotiations.

**4.2 Confidential Liveable Neighbourhoods**

Nil Reports

**4.3 Confidential Strong Local Economy**

Nil Reports

**4.4 Confidential Sustainable Environment**

Nil Reports

**4.5 Confidential High Performing Organisation**

Nil Reports

**5 Closure**