

Audit & Risk Committee Minutes

22 April 2024

Our Vision

*A City which values its heritage, cultural diversity,
sense of place and natural environment.*

*A progressive City which is prosperous, sustainable
and socially cohesive, with a strong community spirit.*

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City of
Norwood
Payneham
& St Peters

1.	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 7 MARCH 2024	1
2.	PRESIDING MEMBER'S COMMUNICATION	1
3.	QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	2
4.	QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE	2
5.	WRITTEN NOTICES OF MOTION.....	2
6.	STAFF REPORTS.....	2
6.1	DRAFT 2024-2025 BUDGET	3
7.	CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS.....	12
8.	OTHER BUSINESS.....	12
9.	NEXT MEETING.....	12
10.	CLOSURE	12

VENUE Mayors Parlour, Norwood Town Hall

HOUR 7.00pm

PRESENT

Committee Members Mayor Robert Bria (Presiding Member)
Cr Grant Piggott
Cr Claire Clutterham
Ms Sandra Di Blasio (Independent Member)
Ms Stefanie Eldridge (Independent Member)

Staff Mario Barone (Chief Executive Officer)
Lisa Mara (General Manager, Governance & Civic Affairs)
Natalia Axenova (Chief Financial Officer)
Marina Fischetti (Executive Assistant, Governance & Civic Affairs)

APOLOGIES Nil

ABSENT Nil

TERMS OF REFERENCE:

The functions of the Audit & Risk Committee include:

- (a) reviewing Annual Financial Statements to ensure that the Statements present fairly the state of affairs of the Council; and*
- (b) proposing, and providing information relevant to, a review of the Council's strategic management plans or annual business plan; and*
- (c) monitoring the responsiveness of the Council to recommendations for improvement based on previous audits and risk assessments, including those raised by the Council's External Auditor; and*
- (d) proposing, and reviewing, the exercise of powers under Section 130A of the Local Government Act 1999; and*
- (e) liaising with the Council's External Auditor in accordance with any requirements prescribed by the regulations; and*
- (f) reviewing the adequacy of the accounting, internal controls, reporting and other financial management systems and practices of the Council on a regular basis; and*
- (g) providing oversight of planning and scoping of the Internal Audit work plan; and*
- (h) reviewing and commenting on reports provided by the person primarily responsible for the Internal Audit function at least on a quarterly basis; and*
- (i) reviewing and evaluating the effectiveness of policies, systems and procedures established and maintained for the identification, assessment, monitoring, management and review of strategic, financial and operational risks on a regular basis; and*
- (j) reviewing any report obtained by the Council pursuant to Section 48(1) of the Local Government Act 1999; and*
- (k) performing any other function determined by the Council or prescribed by the regulations.*

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 7 MARCH 2024

Ms Sandra Di Blasio moved that the Minutes of the Audit & Risk Committee meeting held on 7 March 2024 be taken as read and confirmed. Seconded by Cr Grant Piggott and carried unanimously.

2. PRESIDING MEMBER'S COMMUNICATION

As Presiding Member of the Audit & Risk Committee, whose role tonight is to provide advice to the Council in respect to the draft 2024-2025 Budget, it is my view that the Council should be committed to a maximum Rate Revenue increase of 8%, as set out in the draft 2024-2034 Long Term Financial Plan.

I therefore, strongly recommend that the Committee gives consideration to how this can be achieved as part of the Draft 2024-2025 Budget.

As Committee Members may recall, the draft 2024-2034 Long Term Financial Plan has incorporated the cost of the Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre redevelopment, together with a number of other key projects and has projected the revenue which the Council should seek to achieve to funds these projects.

It is important therefore, that the Committee and indeed the Council, give serious regard to achieving these targets and in doing so, manage its expenditure.

3. **QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**
Nil
4. **QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**
Nil
5. **WRITTEN NOTICES OF MOTION**
Nil
6. **STAFF REPORTS**

6.1 DRAFT 2024-2025 BUDGET

REPORT AUTHOR: General Manager, Governance & Civic Affairs
GENERAL MANAGER: Chief Executive Officer
CONTACT NUMBER: 8366 4549
FILE REFERENCE:
ATTACHMENTS: A – C

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to present the Draft 2024-2025 Budget to the Audit & Risk Committee to enable the Committee to provide comment and recommendations to the Council, prior to the Council's *"in principle"* endorsement of the Draft 2024-2025 Annual Business Plan, the Draft 2024-2025 Budget and the Draft Rating Policy, prior to placing these documents on public consultation.

BACKGROUND

Section 123(8) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, requires the Council to adopt an Annual Business Plan and a Budget for the ensuing financial year after 31 May and except in a case involving extraordinary administrative difficulty, before 15 August.

The Draft Budget comprises the Recurrent Budget, which incorporates the revenue and expenditure which is required to provide the "Business as Usual" services. The second component incorporates the Capital and Operating Project Budget. The Operating Projects Budget encompasses services, programs and activities that are outside the "Business as Usual" services and are considered discretionary in nature, (the Council is under no obligation to provide the services, activities or programs or if required to undertake the activity – For example a Representation Review is irregular in nature). Operating Projects generally include one off activities or programs, an expansion of an existing service or program or proposals to introduce a new service or program. Operating Projects are funded from Rate Revenue or a fee for service charge.

The Capital Works Budget encompasses projects which renew, upgrade or create new infrastructure assets. Examples of some projects are the Civil Infrastructure Whole-of-Life Program (referred to as renewals), Playground/Reserve Redevelopment (referred to as upgrades). Renewal Capital Projects are funded through Rate Revenue, via the depreciation charge, with new or upgrade works funded through borrowings or cash reserves.

At its meeting held on 8 April 2024, the Council considered the Draft 2024-2025 Budget. Following consideration of the Draft 2024-2025 Budget the Council resolved the following:

1. *That the proposed Operating and Capital Projects as set out in Attachments A and B, and as amended, be endorsed "in principle".*
2. *That the Draft 2024-2025 Budget, set out in the Financial Statements contained in Attachment E, which incorporates the proposed Operating and Capital Projects, as approved by the Council and including those Projects as set out above and contained in Attachments A and B, be endorsed "in principle".*
3. *The Council notes that a report on the adoption of the Draft 2024-2025 Annual Business Plan and Budget, which includes the 2024-2025 Rating Strategy, will be prepared for the Council's consideration.*

The Draft 2024-2025 Annual Business Plan, will be considered at the Council Meeting scheduled for 6 May 2024.

The Draft 2024-2025 Annual Business Plan and Budget will be released for public consultation for a period of twenty-one (21) days as required by the *Local Government Act 1999*.

RELEVANT POLICIES & STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The Council's long term strategic direction is outlined in its Strategic Management Plan *City Plan 2030: Shaping our Future*. The Draft 2024-2025 Annual Business Plan and supporting Draft 2024-2025 Budget, set out the proposed services and programs and explains how the Council intends to finance its continuing and new activities which are proposed to be undertaken during the year.

The Council's Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP), is a key document in the Council's Planning Framework. It is the primary financial management tool which links the Council's Strategic Plan, *City Plan 2030: Shaping our Future*, Whole-of-Life Assets Management Plans and the Annual Business Plan and Budget.

Financial sustainability underpins the Council's Financial Goals and Outcomes, which are set out in the Long-Term Financial Plan. In general terms, financial sustainability is ensuring that the Council has the financial resources to meet the long-term service and infrastructure needs of the community, without any severe increases in rate revenue or cuts in service provision and standards.

From an operational perspective, financial sustainability is being able to manage the balance between keeping rate revenues increases to a reasonable level, maintaining existing service standards and financing new services and major capital investments.

The Draft 2024-2025 Budget has been developed on the basis of ensuring that it will assist in delivering on the Council's Long Term Strategic direction and financial objectives set out in the LTFP.

FINANCIAL AND BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

For the 2024-2025 Financial Year, the LTFP estimates an Operating Surplus of \$170,953, based on a Rate Revenue increase of 8%.

To ensure that the Council can deliver on its financial objectives, as set out in the Council's Long Term Financial Plan, the Draft Recurrent Budget has been prepared with reference to the Budget Parameters which were adopted by the Council at its meeting held on 22 January 2024.

The Draft 2024-2025 Budget, as presented to the Council at its meeting held on 8 April 2024, was based on the 8% Rate Revenue increase as set out in the Long-Term Financial Plan, which in turn will deliver an estimated Operating surplus of \$170,953.

At its meeting held on 8 April 2024, the Council resolved "*in principle*" to incorporate a number of projects within the Draft 2024-2025 Budget. Details of these projects and the impact on the Draft 2024-2025 Budget are set out in the Discussion section of this report.

At the time of writing this report, the rate increase for the average residential ratepayer is not available (noting that the Rate Revenue increase does not necessarily translate to the same percentage increase in the average rate).

EXTERNAL ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

The South Australian economy has continued to perform solidly across a number of economic indicators, as the State ranked highest in four of the key economic indicators compared to other Australian States and Territories (i.e. in relative Economic Growth, Unemployment, Construction work (the total real value of residential, commercial and engineering work completed) and Dwellings (housing statistics driven in part by population growth). However, the pace of growth appears to be moderating.

Following growth of 5.1% in 2021-2022, Gross State Product (GSP) declined in 2022-2023, growing only by 3.8%. This data is not available on a quarterly basis. Therefore, the State Final Demand (SFD) is another key component of economic growth the Council can consider, which reflects the consumption on goods and services (including imports) and capital investment. The nominal SFD seasonally adjusted for the December 2023 quarter only increased by 1.6% year-on-year. Growth in both GSP and SFD is expected to remain low in 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 as inflation comes down and real incomes start to rise. Consumption growth is expected to come back to pre-pandemic levels over the next couple of years.

The outlook for inflation has been revised downwards, as it is expected to eventually decline to the 2%–3% target range in 2025 and to reach the midpoint in 2026. Goods price inflation has declined but services price inflation remains high, supported by continued excess demand in the economy and strong domestic cost pressures, both for labour and non-labour inputs. The Adelaide Consumer Price Index (CPI) is forecast to grow by 0.7% towards the later stages of 2023-2024 quarters, reflecting the rising prices for automotive fuel, rents, new dwelling purchases by owner-occupiers, electricity, restaurant meals and property rates and charges. However, this is forecasted to fall back within the Reserve Bank of Australia's target range from 2024-2025.

SOCIAL ISSUES

No Applicable.

CULTURAL ISSUES

Not Applicable.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Not Applicable.

RESOURCE ISSUES

Not Applicable.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Draft 2024-2025 Budget will also be impacted upon by the decisions made by the Federal Government and State Government in their respective budgets. No information regarding these budgets is available at the time of preparation of this report.

As a result, the Draft 2024-2025 Budget presented in this report, has been developed on the following assumptions:

- that the Financial Assistance Grants, comprising of the General Assistance Grant and the Road Funding Grant, will be provided based on the current funding arrangements of four (4) quarterly instalments. The value of these payments has not been indexed;
- State Government Charges, which are set by Legislation, are yet to be indexed; and
- no new fees and charges will be introduced with the exception of the fees associated with the Visitor Parking Permit Booklets and copies of the Council Assessment Record.

Any adjustments to the Draft Budget arising from the State and Federal Budgets will be incorporated into the Council's 2024-2025 Budget when this information becomes available.

Notwithstanding this, the preparation of the Draft 2024-2025 Annual Business Plan and Budget has been prepared to ensure the Council meets its legislative responsibility in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011*.

CONSULTATION

- **Elected Members**
Elected Members have considered the Draft 2024-2025 Recurrent Budget, Capital Works Program and Operating Projects at an Information Briefing held on 12 March 2024 and at the Special Council Meeting held on 8 April 2024.
- **Community**
Citizens will be provided the opportunity to have input into the Draft 2024-2025 Budget through public consultation on the Draft Annual Business Plan, which is scheduled to be undertaken from 27 May 2024.
- **Staff**
The preparation of the Draft 2024-2025 Budget has been completed with the involvement of the Chief Executive Officer, General Managers and staff responsible for management of the Budget.

- **Other Agencies**
Not Applicable.

DISCUSSION

The Draft 2024-2025 Budget is based on the continuation of existing services and priorities, as determined by the Council, being appropriately resourced and that the Council can maintain the service standards for its existing services to support the delivery of the Strategic Objectives outlined in *CityPlan 2030: Shaping our Future* and that those services receive appropriate funding.

The key objective therefore, is to develop a Budget that not only contributes to the Council's broader strategic objectives of achieving *Community Well-being*, but also ensures that the Council is managing its financial resources in a sustainable, prudent and equitable manner and to ensure that future financial impacts can either be avoided or managed in a measured way, so that the funding requirements are balanced with ensuring that the community does not face unreasonable increases in their annual rates contribution.

Budget Parameters/Assumptions

In developing the Draft 2024-2025 Budget, the following principles and assumptions have been applied:

- the Recurrent Budget be prepared based on the provision of existing services, programs and activities;
- the cost escalation for Material, Contracts and Other Expenses has been set at a 3.5% Inflation; and
- Wages and Salaries increases are based on the Council's Enterprise Agreements.

Budget Overview

As stated previously, the Draft 2024-2025 Budget presented to the Council at its meeting held on 8 April 2024, was based on the draft LTFP with a recommended Rate Revenue increase of 8% delivering an Operating Surplus of \$170,953.

A copy of the report which was presented to the Council at its meeting held on 8 April 2024, is contained within **Attachment A** (noting that only the report is provided).

The draft 2024-2025 Budget as presented to the Council at its meeting held on 8 April 2024, included the Recurrent Budget and Programs, which incorporates the revenues and expenditure required to provide the "*Business as Usual*" services and delivered a surplus of \$3.003 million, which will be used to fund the delivery of the proposed Operating Projects and fund additional interest costs to cover the additional finance costs associated with borrowings required to fund the delivery of the proposed Capital Works Program.

The total Operating Expenditure is \$53.86 million, with \$41.22 million (73%) being influenced by the decisions that have been made as part of the budget process while the remaining \$15.47 million (27%) of expenditure relates to the depreciation of existing and new assets, as well as finance costs.

It should be noted that while the cost to finalise any carry forward Operating Projects from 2023-2024 financial year are not included in the Draft 2024-2025 Operating Surplus, the funding to undertake these projects will be sourced from cash reserves.

At this stage, only the Draft Budgets of the Regional Subsidiaries (with the exception of the Eastern Health Authority Draft 2024-2025 Budget), have been incorporated into the Council's Draft Operating result for 2024-2025 as the Council is yet to receive the finalised budgets of the Regional Subsidiaries. The Council is required to report the Council's share of the Regional Subsidiaries operating results and while this will have an impact on the Council's reported Operating Result, this is a non-cash transaction that does not have an impact on the Council's cash position.

Following consideration of the Draft 2024-2025 Budget, the Council resolved to amend the Draft 2024-2025 Budget as presented and as recommended at the 8 April 2024 Council Meeting.

The implications of the Council's decision are set out below.

Draft 2024-2025 Budget as at 8 April 2024

At its meeting held on 8 April 2024, the Council endorsed “*in principle*” the inclusion of an additional \$340,000 for Operating Projects. In addition, the Council did not support the inclusion of one (1) project and reduced the funding for one (1) project as part of the Draft 2024-2025 Budget.

The total net cost as a result of the Council’s decision is \$315,000.

Details of the additional projects which the Council supported as part of the Draft 2024-2025 Budget are set out in Table 1.

TABLE 1: ADDITIONAL OPERATING PROJECTS TO BE INCLUDED AS PART OF THE DRAFT 2024-2025 BUDGET

Project	Description	Funding Allocation
2025 AFL Gather Round	To host events and activities associated with the 2025 Gather Round, should Norwood Oval be selected as a venue to host matches as part of the 2025 Gather Round.	\$200,000
Building Assets Review/Strategy	The purpose of this project is to develop a strategy for the Council’s buildings and facilities. Strategy will include an analysis of current facility utilisation and predictions of future needs, together with a condition audit data of the Council’s buildings assets, the Whole of Life program and the Council’s Asset Management Plans.	\$ 20,000
Implementation of the IT Strategy	This funding is to commence the implementation of the IT Strategy following the completion of the review.	\$100,000
Verge Upgrade Program	To financially assist residents wanting to upgrade the verge with the cost of removing dolomite or quartz gravel and growing greenery in its place.	\$ 20,000
TOTAL		\$340,000

The Council did however, resolve **not to** allocate funds for the Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre Communications project of \$10,000 and reduced the funding for the *Raising the Bar* program from \$40,000 to \$25,000.

As stated above, the decisions made by the Council at its meeting held on 8 April 2024 represents an increase of **\$315,000** compared to the Draft Budget presented and recommended to the Council.

A total of Funding Submissions received for Operating Projects totalled \$1,480,652.

The Council’s Executive Leadership Team recommended for approval proposed Operating Projects of \$616,172, which were included into the Draft 2024-2025 Budget. The remaining projects to the value of \$864,480 were not recommended for approval due to various reasons which includes, alignment to the Council’s current priorities and strategies of the Council and the impact of these proposed projects on the Recurrent Budget beyond 2024-2025, LTFP and Cashflow forecast. The intention being to potentially delay and re-submit some of the proposed projects at a later year to align with LTFP timeline, if required.

The Operating Projects for 2024-2025 which were presented to the Council for approval at its meeting held on 8 April 2024 and subsequently endorsed “*in principle*” by the Council are detailed in Table 2.

TABLE 2: OPERATING PROJECTS 2024-2025

Operating Projects	\$
St Peters Billabong Engineering Review	100,000
Development of an IT Strategy	80,000
Implementation of Year 1 of the Art & Culture Plan	68,874
Participation in 2025 Tour Down Under	60,000
Additional Administrative staff for Regulatory Services	47,336
Purchase and installation of CIVICA Authority ACTUS Mobile App	43,862
Information Systems Project Support Staff (fixed-term contract)	40,000
Eastside Business Awards	40,000
Raising the Bar Adelaide	40,000
Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre Communications	10,000
Glynde Heavy Vehicle Traffic Study	25,000
Implementation of Electronic Permits	20,000
Development of Tree Strategy Contractor	20,000
Urban Greening Program (Tree vouchers)	10,000
Firstval Festival (Library Services)	4,000
Music Month in the Libraries (Library Services)	3,800
Culturally Diverse Early Literacy Project (Library Services)	3,300
Total Operating Projects Expenditure	616,172

The Operating Projects that were recommended for approval are contained in **Attachment B**, Table 1 and the proposed Operating Projects not recommended for approval are contained in **Attachment B**, Table 2.

The Draft 2024-2025 Budget presented to the Council at its meeting held on 8 April 2024, which included the Operating Projects set out in Table 2 above, was based on an 8% Rate Revenue increase, in accordance with the draft LTFP, with an Operating Surplus of \$170,953.

The inclusion of the additional \$315,000 in Operating Projects, based on a Rate Revenue Increase of 8%, in accordance with the draft LTFP, results in an **Operating Deficit of \$144,047**.

Based on the decision made by the Council at its meeting held on 8 April 2024, the Financial Statements have been updated to include the additional \$315,000. A copy of the updated Financial Statements is contained within **Attachment C**.

As set out in the updated Financial Statements, in order to achieve a modest Operating Surplus (ie \$70,000), the Council would now be required to increase Rate Revenue by 8.5%.

It is important to note that a 0.25% increase in Rate Revenue will result in approximately an additional \$105,000 in revenue and the average rates year-on-year will increase by approximately 0.20%.

Budgeted Capital Projects

The Draft 2024-2025 Budget, as presented, incorporates Capital Projects to the value of \$52.868 million (which is the net of Grant funding and total expenditure required). It also includes staff costs of \$1.101 million which are to be capitalised (i.e. staff involved in the delivery of the projects involving physical assets).

The proposed Capital Projects for 2024-2025, have been broken down into a number of categories as set out Table 3 below.

TABLE 3: CAPITAL PROJECT CATEGORIES

Capital Expenditure Project	\$
Whole-of-Life Capital Works Program	
* Road Resealing	4,176,766
* Footpath Reconstruction	951,400
* Kerb Reconstruction	1,551,917
* Stormwater Drainage Program (including Trinity Valley Stormwater Upgrade Project)	11,771,866
* Other Infrastructure Asset Renewal	1,972,313
Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre – Year 2	35,000,000
George Street Upgrade (including additional funding)	1,560,000
Quadrennial Art Project	9,000
Traffic Management (various)	620,000
Minor projects (IT Equipment upgrade and Bike Parking at Webbe Street facility)	77,500
Capitalisation of Salaries (existing staff)	1,101,342
Total Capital Projects Expenditure	58,792,104
Grant Funding	5,924,000
Net Cost	52,868,104

Borrowings

Capital expenditure of \$58.792 million is proposed to be funded as shown in Table 4.

TABLE 4: CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDING

Use of depreciation recovered through Rate Revenue	\$11,342,926
Grant Funding	\$5,924,000
Borrowings	\$41,525,178
TOTAL	\$58,792,104

In determining the timing and the level of borrowings that are required to fund the proposed Capital Program, consideration has been given to the cash flow requirements and to intergenerational equity between current and future users (that is, an asset is funded from loan borrowings which is paid off over the life of the asset rather than raising rate revenue from current rate payers to pay for the asset).

The Council has an option in respect to its borrowing arrangements using financial instruments such as Cash Advance Debenture (CAD) or Traditional Loan (Loan) provided by the Local Government Financing Authority (LGFA). It is important that borrowing decisions are made strategically, considering factors such as cost, risk, and suitability to the Council's financial objectives and for its ongoing financial sustainability.

OPTIONS

The purpose of this report is to provide the opportunity for the Committee to provide comment on the Draft 2024-2025 Budget, prior to the Council endorsing the Draft 2024-2025 Annual Business Plan, the Draft 2024-2025 Budget and the Draft Rating Policy for the purpose of undertaking public consultation.

In this regard, the Committee has the following options in respect to the consideration of this matter;

- advise the Council that the Draft 2024-2025 Budget, set out in the Financial Statements contained in **Attachment C**, which incorporates the proposed Operating and Capital Projects contained in **Attachment B** and as endorsed “*in principle*” by the Council at its meeting held on 8 April 2024 is recommended for endorsement “*in principle*” by the Council; or
- recommend to the Council, amendments to the Draft 2024-2025 Budget as endorsed “*in principle*” by the Council at its meeting held on 8 April 2024, as set out in the Financial Statements contained in **Attachment C**, by:
 - reducing Operating and Capital Projects; and/or
 - increasing or decreasing non-rate revenue; or
 - increasing or decreasing the proposed Rate Revenue increase; or
 - increasing or decreasing recurrent expenditure.

At its meeting held on 7 March 2024, the Committee considered the updated draft 2024-2034 Long-Term Financial Plan which sets out the Rate Revenue increases over the life of the Plan as follows:

Rate Revenue

LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN – RATE REVENUE INCREASES

2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2030-2031	2031-2032	2032-2033	2033-2034
8.0%	8.0%	7.0%	6.5%	6.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%

At its meeting held on 2 April 2024, the Council adopted the draft *2024 to 2034 Long-Term Financial Plan*.

As set out above, in accordance with the draft *2024 to 2034 Long-Term Financial Plan*, it is recommended that the Committee recommends to the Council that the Council adopts a Rate Revenue increase of 8% as part of the 2024-2025 Budget and that the 2024-2025 Budget should achieve a modest Operating Surplus. As set out above, this can be achieved through a range of options.

CONCLUSION

The Draft 2024-2025 Budget is based on the Council continuing to deliver its existing services, programs and activities at the existing endorsed standard.

To ensure that a responsible budget is set by the Council, a series of Budget Parameters have previously been adopted by the Council to guide staff in preparing the respective budget estimates and submissions. As detailed in this report, the Draft 2024-2025 Recurrent Budget has been prepared with reference to these guidelines and where the parameters have not been achieved, the reasons for the departure have been provided.

Financial sustainability underpins the Council’s Financial Goals and Outcomes, which are set out in the Draft Long-Term Financial Plan. In general terms, financial sustainability is about ensuring that the Council has the financial resources to meet the long-term service and infrastructure needs of the community, without any sharp increases in rate revenue or cuts in service provision and standards.

From an operational perspective, financial sustainability is being able to manage the conflict between keeping rate revenues increases to a reasonable level, maintaining existing service standards and spending on new services and major capital investments that are required to ensure that the objective of Community well-being is achieved.

As previously advised, decisions regarding the Draft 2024-2025, need to take into account the impact on the Council's ability to continue to meet its operational and financial outcomes in the future.

COMMENTS

If Elected Members have any questions in relation to specific budget items or proposed allocations, please contact the Chief Financial Officer on 8366 4548, prior to the meeting as these discussions may assist in resolving any enquiry.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received and noted.

Short Term Suspension of Proceedings

At 7.06pm, with the approval of two-thirds of the Committee Members present, the Presiding Member suspended the meeting proceedings pursuant to Regulation 20(1) of the *Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013* for 45 minutes, to enable informal discussion regarding the Draft 2024-2025 Budget.

Further Suspension of Proceedings

At 7.51pm, with the approval of two-thirds of the Committee Members present, the Presiding Member suspended the meeting proceedings pursuant to Regulation 20(1) of the *Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013* for a further 10 minutes, to enable further informal discussion regarding the Draft 2024-2025 Budget.

Resumption of Proceedings

The meeting resumed at 8.05pm.

Cr Clutterham moved:

1. *That the report be received and noted.*
2. *That the Audit & Risk Committee recommends to the Council, that the Council should seek to achieve:*
 - *a Rate Revenue increase of no more than 8.0% as part of the Draft 2024-2025 Budget; and*
 - *an Operating Surplus of at least \$171,000, by re-considering the funding of all Operating Projects, with a particular focus on those projects that will incur recurrent funding.*

Seconded by Ms Sandra Di Blasio and carried.

Division

Cr Piggott called for a division and the decision was set aside.

Those in favour:

Cr Clutterham, Ms Stefanie Eldridge, Ms Sandra Di Blasio and Mayor Bria.

Those against:

Cr Piggott.

The Presiding Member declared the motion carried.

7. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS
Nil

8. OTHER BUSINESS
Nil

9. NEXT MEETING
Monday 20 May 2024

10. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 8.28pm.

Mayor Robert Bria
PRESIDING MEMBER

Minutes Confirmed on _____
(date)