

Special Council Meeting Minutes

11 June 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

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VENUE Council Chambers, Norwood Town Hall

HOUR 7.00pm

PRESENT

Council Members Mayor Robert Bria
Cr Kester Moorhouse
Cr Claire Clutterham
Cr Garry Knoblauch
Cr Hugh Holfeld
Cr Josh Robinson
Cr Kevin Duke
Cr Connie Granozio
Cr Victoria McFarlane
Cr Scott Sims
Cr Grant Piggott
Cr Sue Whittington
Cr John Callisto
Cr Christel Mex

Staff Mario Barone (Chief Executive Officer)
Carlos Buzzetti (General Manager, Urban Planning & Environment)
Derek Langman (General Manager, Infrastructure & Major Projects)
Lisa Mara (General Manager, Governance & Civic Affairs)
Andrew Hamilton (General Manager, Community Development)
Natalia Axenova (Chief Financial Officer)
Simonne Whitlock (Manager, Strategic Communications & Advocacy)
Marina Fischetti (Governance Officer)

APOLOGIES Nil

ABSENT Nil

1. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3 JUNE 2024

Cr Sims moved that the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 3 June 2024 be taken as read and confirmed. Seconded by Cr Whittington and carried unanimously.

2. STAFF REPORTS

2.1 DRAFT 2024-2025 ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN – CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

REPORT AUTHOR: Manager, Strategic Communications & Advocacy
GENERAL MANAGER: General Manager, Governance & Civic Affairs
CONTACT NUMBER: 8366 4549
FILE REFERENCE: qA151086
ATTACHMENTS: A - B

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to present for the Council's consideration, the submissions which have been received on the Draft 2024-2025 Annual Business Plan and Budget.

BACKGROUND

Section 123 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act), requires all Councils to have an Annual Business Plan and Budget for each financial year and ensure that citizens are given an opportunity to comment on the Annual Business Plan and Budget.

In accordance with the Act, at the Council Meeting held on 6 May 2024, the Council endorsed the Draft 2024-2025 Annual Business Plan (the Draft Plan), for community consultation.

Consultation has been undertaken in respect to the Draft Plan and a total of twenty-seven (27) submissions have been received as part of the consultation process.

RELEVANT STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS & POLICIES

The Council's long-term strategic directions are outlined in the *City Plan 2030 – Shaping our Future*. The Draft Plan and supporting Draft 2024-2025 Budget (the Draft Budget), set out the proposed services and programs and initiatives for the 2024-2025 Financial Year and explain how the Council intends to finance its continuing services, programs and initiatives which are 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.

The adoption of the Draft Plan will, assist the Council in the achievement of its goals and objectives as set out in the suite of endorsed suite of Strategic Planning documents set out above.

FINANCIAL AND BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

If the Council resolves to amend the Draft Plan as a result of its consideration of the submissions which have been received, it should be noted that there may be financial implications that will impact on the Draft Budget. The financial implications on the Draft Budget will be determined following the Council's consideration of the submissions. As such, if Elected Members are proposing to put forward any amendments, please contact the Chief Financial Officer before the meeting to discuss the possible impacts of any amendments.

EXTERNAL ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable.

SOCIAL ISSUES

Not Applicable.

CULTURAL ISSUES

Not Applicable.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Nil.

RESOURCE ISSUES

Nil.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Nil.

CONSULTATION

- **Elected Members**

Elected Members have been involved throughout the preparation of the Draft Plan and Budget and have considered the various components of the Draft Plan and Budget and have made 'in-principle' decisions as appropriate.

- **Community**

Citizens have been provided with an opportunity to have input into and comment on the Draft Plan and Budget as part of the consultation process which included the publication of a Public Notice in The Advertiser on 10 May 2024, inviting citizens to provide their comments on the Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget and on the projects, programs and services that the Council plans to undertake in 2024-2025.

Promotion of the Community Consultation included:

- a News Item on the Council's website;
- a News Item in the Council's E-newsletters, (ie Your NPSP);
- Social Media posts via Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram; and;
- A4 posters at the Norwood Town Hall and the Council's Libraries.

The Draft Plan was available for viewing at the Norwood Town Hall and at each of the Council's Libraries. Citizens could also download a copy of the Draft Plan from the Council's website.

In addition, in accordance with Section 123 of the *Local Government Act 1999* a Public Meeting was held on 27 May 2024. Thirty-three (33) citizens attended the Public Meeting.

Citizens were invited to provide their comments via an on-line form which was available on the Council's website or in hard copy at the Norwood Town Hall. Citizens were also invited to provide their comments to a dedicated email address.

The consultation period closed on Friday, 31 May 2024. As stated previously, thirty (30) submissions have been received as part of the consultation process.

A summary of the submissions which have been received is set out in the Discussion section of this report.

- **Staff**

The review of the Operating Expenditure and Special Projects and the draft Annual Business Plan process has been completed with the involvement of the Chief Executive Officer, Executive Leadership Team and the various Responsible Officers.

- **Other Agencies**

Not Applicable.

DISCUSSION

At the Council Meeting held on 6 May 2024, the Council endorsed the Draft Plan and Budget “in principle” for release for community consultation. As Elected Members will recall, the Draft Budget that was released for community consultation is based on an 8.5% Rate Revenue increase.

A copy of the draft Plan which was released for community consultation is contained in **Attachment A**.

At the time, the Draft Plan was released for community consultation, the proposed Rate Revenue increase translated to an increase in the average rates payable for the Average Residential Property of 7.44% (or \$152 per annum), which comprises of a property valuation increase 6.84% and a Rate-in-the-dollar increase of 3.24% and an increase in the Rates payable for the Average Commercial property of 7.14% (or \$245 per annum) comprising of a property valuation increase of 5.1% and a Rate-in-the-dollar increase of 3.24%.

Key aspects of the Draft Budget are set out in Table 1 below:

TABLE 1: DRAFT BUDGET AS RELEASED ON COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Rate Revenue Increase	8.5%
Average Residential Rate Increase	7.44%
Average Commercial Rate Increase	7.14%
Operating Surplus	\$229,418
Expenditure on continuing services and programs (excluding Regional Landscapes Levy)	\$55.2 million
Expenditure on new initiatives and strategic operating projects (excluding 2023-2024 Carry-forward projects)	\$0.9 million
Total Capital Works Program	\$58.8 million
Non- Rate Operating Revenue	\$9.8 million
Net General Rate Revenue (excluding Regional Landscapes Levy)	\$45.5 million
Regional Landscapes Levy **	\$1.6 million
Capital Grant Funding	\$5.9 million

** The Council is acting as a Revenue collector for the Green Adelaide Board in this regard and does not retain this Revenue.

Comments Received on the Draft 2024-2025 Annual Business Plan and Budget

Thirty-three (33) citizens attended the Public Meeting that was held on 27 May 2024 and thirty (30) written submissions have been received in respect to the Draft Plan and Budget.

A copy of the written submissions which have been received is contained in **Attachment B**.

A review of the submissions has been undertaken and a summary is set out below.

Five (5) submissions which have been received raise concerns regarding the Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre Redevelopment and eleven (11) submissions oppose the George Street Upgrade Project and four (4) submissions support the Project. A number of submissions provide comments in respect to specific issues (ie. traffic management proposed Rate Revenue increase, etc.), and the Draft Budget.

To assist the Council, the submissions have been grouped into “topics” and a general staff comment has been prepared to address the submissions which relate to the “topic” as set out below.

Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre Redevelopment

Four (4) submissions have raised concerns regarding the Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre Redevelopment, the cost of the project and the consultation process with the community in respect to the cost of the project.

Staff Response:

The Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre Redevelopment is part of an ongoing program of investment in the City's infrastructure and facilities. It has been shaped by extensive community consultation and reflects what our community has requested and expects, as well as ensuring that the Council maintains and manages its infrastructure appropriately and to acceptable standards and, in doing so, remains financially sustainable.

The Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre (PMSC), was first opened in 1968, by the former City of Payneham and despite several repairs and replacement of plant and equipment over the years, it reached the end of its useful life after more than 50 years of service.

The individual pools at the PMSC, had a number of structural defects due to the degradation of the existing structure and pipe network, resulting in significant water loss. Additionally, major pieces of equipment, such as the pumps, needed to be replaced. Given the age of the facilities at the cafe, this is not unexpected. However, at some point, a decision on the future of the Centre had to be made.

As the PMSC contained ageing assets, it exposed the Council to financial risk in terms of the net cost to undertake maintenance and remedial works, ongoing water loss and reputational risk due to the inability to deliver the service at a standard that is expected by the community and potential public safety risks as the facility was not in line with current day standards, associated with contemporary aquatic facilities.

The cost of the new Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre has been factored into the draft *Long-Term Financial Plan* and has taken into account the impact on the Council's financial situation over the next ten (10) years.

The consultants that have prepared the *Prudential Management Report*, have advised that the various indicators such as Net Financial Liabilities Ratio, are acceptable, provided that the Council adheres to its *Long-Term Financial Plan* and ultimately that, in doing so, the Council is financially sustainable in the long term.

In respect to the comments regarding community consultation, the Council undertook consultation with the community on three (3) separate occasions regarding the *Swimming Centres Strategy*. In response, the community feedback was that it wanted the Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre to be a '*regional destination*' incorporating a 50-metre swimming pool, learners pool and water play park.

The Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre Redevelopment was also included in the Council's Draft Annual Business Plans for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024, which was released for community consultation.

In addition, the Council has undertaken consultation with key stakeholders including the Payneham and Norwood Swimming Clubs, the Department for Education and Royal Life Saving South Australia.

It is not the practise of the Council to undertake community consultation in respect to the final cost of a particular project when those final costs are known following a tender process. However, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1999*, consultation is undertaken by the Council as part of the concept design stage of a project and through the Annual Business Plan and Budget.

Notwithstanding this, the Council has undertaken all of the steps required by the *Local Government Act 1999*, including commissioning and considering a Prudential Report.

On the basis of this process, which includes an assessment of the financial impacts of the Project, the Council determined to proceed with the Project.

George Street Upgrade Project

A total of eleven (11) submissions have been received opposing the George Street Upgrade Project. Four (4) submissions have been received in support of the project.

In summary, those citizens who oppose the project have raised concerns regarding the cost of the project and the removal of on-street car parking associated with the project.

Staff Response:

The Parade Masterplan was endorsed by the Council in May 2019. The Masterplan focuses on protecting and enhancing the identity, appeal and “*sense of place*” of Adelaide’s premier mainstreet and the significant economic, social and cultural elements that enhance the experience of people who choose to live, work and visit The Parade.

The prioritisation on pedestrian safety, movement and amenity. is one of the primary objectives which the Council is seeking to achieve through the implementation of The Parade Masterplan.

In 2021, the Council resolved to commence the implementation of The Parade Masterplan with the George Street Upgrade Project being Stage 1 of the implementation schedule. To progress this stage, the Council allocated \$800,000 for the George Street Upgrade Project. This estimate was based on construction costs at that time (ie. 2021). The Project was delayed due to the litigation associated with the Scramble Crossing (at the intersection of George Street and The Parade) and has been further delayed due to ongoing discussions and negotiations with the Chapley Group.

Since the initial budget allocation for the George Street Upgrade, the costs to undertake the works have increased by \$1,560,000. This is partly due to the scheduling of construction to ensure that The Parade Central (Hoyts) and Parade Place (Foodland), are not unnecessarily inconvenienced by the construction works.

The additional funding (ie \$1,560,000), for the George Street Upgrade Project has been included as part of the Draft 2024-2025 Budget.

Consultation was undertaken with the community and stakeholders to develop The Parade Masterplan which included the concept plan for George Street. In addition, the Council undertook specific consultation regarding the proposed upgrade for George Street, which has informed the final design of the George Street Upgrade.

The redevelopment of George Street will build upon the current character and “*sense of place*” established throughout The Parade. The Upgrade includes the following:

- removal of a number of car parks to provide substantial spaces for urban greening;
- widening and re-paving of the footpaths for improved accessibility and amenity for pedestrians;
- improved public lighting;
- new street furniture; and
- new landscaping.

In addition to the George Street Upgrade, the Council has allocated funding for the George Street Stormwater works to improve the capacity of the stormwater network from The Parade to address to address flooding issues in and around George Street and Harris Street.

Considerable work has been undertaken to date and the George Street Stormwater works were released to Public Tender in February 2024.

Both the George Street Upgrade Project and the George Street Stormwater Project are projects that are identified in strategic plans (ie The Parade Masterplan and the Stormwater Management Infrastructure Asset Management Plan).

General Comments regarding the 2024-2025 Annual Business Plan and Budget (in alphabetical order)

1. Comments submitted by Mr Mario Boscaini

Mr Boscaini's submission raises concerns with the proposed Average Residential Rate increase and suggests that the Council should consider an average residential Rate increase no higher than 5%.

2. Comments submitted by Mr Liam Connolly

Mr Connolly's submission raises concerns regarding the road network bound by Payneham Road, Glynburn Road, Magill Road & Portrush Road, in terms of a lack of investment in previous Council budgets.

Mr Connolly is concerned that this network of roads requires measures to address and deter "rat running", high speeds and volumes.

Staff response:

As Elected Members are aware, funding was allocated in the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 Budgets for detailed traffic studies and preparation of **concept** designs associated with traffic management in this precinct. Additional funding has been allocated as part of the Draft 2024-2025 Budget for **detail design** of traffic management infrastructure in the precinct and it is anticipated that construction will commence the following year (2025-2026), subject to the outcomes of community consultation.

3. Comments submitted by Mr James Davidson

Mr Davidson's submission suggests that the Council should focus on a review of current expenditure to reduce the level of debt and that a 7.44% Average Residential Rate increase is unacceptable given the cost-of-living situation.

4. Comments submitted by Mr David Denman

Mr Denman's submission supports the Draft 2024-2025 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget.

5. Comments submitted by Ms Kate Eatts

Ms Eatts supports the Council's draft 2024-2025 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget.

6. Comments submitted by Mr Ethan Kelly

Mr Kelly supports the Draft 2024-2025 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget.

7. Comments submitted by Mr Peter Fairlie-Jones

Mr Fairlie-Jones' submission raises a number of questions regarding the following:

- the proposed future Rate Revenue increases and level of debt;
- the community consultation process in respect to the costs associated with the Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre; and
- the Council's current financial position.

Mr Peter Fairlie-Jones has also made comments in respect to the structure of the Council's Audit & Risk Committee.

Staff Response:

The comments which have been made by Mr Peter Fairlie-Jones regarding the Council's Audit & Risk Committee are not relevant as part of the consultation process associated with the Draft 2024-2025 Annual Business Plan and Budget.

Notwithstanding this, a response to the comments which have been made by Mr Peter-Fairlie Jones is set out below.

The Council's Audit & Risk Committee was established in December 2022, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act).

At that time, in respect to the Membership of an Audit & Risk Committee, Regulation 17 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999* (the Regulations), set out the following:

- (1) *The audit committee of a council—*
 - (a) *must have between 3 and 5 members (inclusive); and*
 - (b) *must include at least 1 person who is not a member of the council and who is determined by the council to have financial experience relevant to the functions of an audit committee; and*
 - (c) *must not include, as a member, the council's auditor under section 128 of the Act.*

In accordance with the Regulations, the Council's Audit & Risk Committee was established to include three (3) Elected Members and two (2) independent Members.

On 30 November 2023, new provisions of Section 126 of the Act regarding the composition of Audit & Risk Committees came into effect, as follows:

- (2) *The following provisions apply to the membership of a council audit and risk committee:*
 - (a) *the majority of the members of the committee must be persons who are not members of any council;*
 - (b) *the members of the committee (when considered as a whole) must have skills, knowledge and experience relevant to the functions of the committee, including in financial management, risk management, governance and any other prescribed matter;*
 - (c) *the membership of the committee—*
 - (i) *may not include an employee of the council (although an employee may attend a meeting of the committee if appropriate); and*
 - (ii) *may include, or be comprised of, members of another council audit and risk committee or a regional audit and risk committee; and*
 - (iii) *must otherwise be determined in accordance with the requirements of the regulations.*

However, Regulation 14 of the [Local Government \(Transitional Provisions\) Regulations 2021](#), allows for the continuation of the existing membership arrangements of the Audit & Risk Committee despite the commencement of the new section.

Regulation 14 of the Regulations sets out the following:

- (b) *paragraphs (a) and (b) of section 126(2) of the Act do not apply to the membership of the committee for any period during which the continuation in office of a member of the council audit and risk committee under paragraph (a) results in the membership of the committee not being in accordance with those paragraphs.*

This means that under the transition provisions as set out above, the Council's current Audit & Risk Committee can continue to operate with the current membership arrangements until the term of the members expires, in accordance with the Act.

There is no provision within the Act that requires an Independent Chairperson. This means that Mayor Bria can continue as Presiding Member (ie Chairperson), of the Committee.

8. Comments submitted by Mr Frank Falleti

Mr Falleti's submission opposes the proposed increase in Rate Revenue.

Mr Falleti supports some of the new projects and service initiatives as part of the Draft 2024-2005 Plan and Budget.

9. Comments submitted by Ms Elizabeth Gard

Ms Gard supports some of the new projects and service initiatives as part of the Draft 2024-2005 Plan and Budget.

Ms Gard's submission's suggests that completing projects is fine (ie the Swimming Centre), however no new projects should commence during this period and that the Council needs to consider the impact of the cost of living on citizens.

10. Comments submitted by Mr Michael Gard

Mr Gard's submission raises concerns with the level of debt and suggests that some projects should not be undertaken in order to reduce debt.

11. Comments submitted by Mr Trevor Harden

Mr Harden's submission raises concerns that the proposed Average Residential Rate is above the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and that the Council should "pause" expenditure.

12. Comments submitted by Mr Colin Heavyside

Mr Heavyside's submission raises concerns with the proposed Rate Revenue increase and suggest that the Rate increases should be capped at CPI.

13. Comments submitted by Mr Peter Holmes

Mr Holmes' submission expresses concerns with the costs of the Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre Redevelopment and the impact on the Council's *Long-Term Financial Plan*.

Mr Holmes does not support the proposed Rate Revenue increase.

14. Comments submitted by Mr Derek Hunter

Mr Hunter's submission opposes the proposed Rate Revenue increase.

Mr Hunter supports some of the new projects and service initiatives as part of the Draft Plan and Budget.

15. Comments submitted by Mr Muhammad Jawad

Mr Jawad's submission suggest that the Council should be aiming for balanced budget and that the Council should reduce the proposed 8.5% Rate Revenue increase by rationalising asset renewal capital expenditure.

Mr Jawad also asks why employee costs are increasing.

Staff Response:

Expenditure on asset renewal is a core expenditure for the Council and it is scheduled to address the long-term sustainability of assets. If assets are nearing the end of their useful life or showing signs of deterioration, investing in the renewal of those is required in order to extend the life of the assets. Delaying or neglecting this expenditure could lead to higher costs in the future due to unexpected maintenance or replacement needs. The current budget is set to align to the current condition assessment of the assets to minimise potential risk to the Council.

The increase in staff costs in the Draft 2024-2025 Annual Business Plan and Budget is due to the following:

- Employee costs reflected in the 2023-2024 Budget were lower due to vacant positions;
- increase to staff wages and salaries by CPI in accordance with the Municipal Officers Association and Local Government Enterprise Agreements;
- increase in statutory Superannuation by 0.5%; and
- employee related expenses that were allocated as part of the 2023-2024 Budget were incorrectly entered under the "*Material, Expenses & Other Costs*" expenses budget line and have been reallocated to employee costs as part of the Draft 2024-2025 Budget.

There is no increase in the number of positions as part of the Draft 2024-2025 Annual Business Plan and Budget.

16. Comments submitted by Mr Lorne Klassen

Mr Klassen's submission supports some of the new projects and service initiatives as part of the Draft Plan and Budget.

Mr Klassen does not support the proposed increase in Rate Revenue.

17. Comments submitted by Ms Joan Koch

Ms Koch's submission opposes the narrowing of roads for landscaping on the basis of increased traffic congestion and would like the Council to increase parking facilities.

18. Comments submitted by Mr Max Ormsby

Mr Ormsby's submission supports some of the new projects and service initiatives as part of the Draft Plan and Budget however, Mr Ormsby suggests that the Council should consider its proposed Capital Projects such as the George Street Upgrade with a view to reducing borrowings.

Mr Ormsby does not support the proposed increase in Rate Revenue.

19. Comments submitted by Mr Rowan Ousley

Mr Ousley's submission supports some of the new projects and service initiatives as part of the Draft Plan and Budget, however suggests that more funding is required to be spent on infrastructure (ie footpaths), in Evandale, Maylands and Stepney.

20. Comments submitted by Mr Alexander Paschero

Mr Paschero advises that the Council must follow sound financial practices and live within its means to ensure that any Rate increases align with CPI increases, which in this economic environment is still too high.

Mr Pashero's submission supports some of the new projects and service initiatives as part of the Draft Plan and Budget.

Mr Pashero does not support the proposed increase in Rate Revenue.

21. Comments submitted by Mr Mathew Pole

Mr Pole's submission supports some of the new projects and service initiatives as part of the Draft Plan and Budget, Mr Pole expresses concerns with the level of debt as a result of Capital Projects.

22. Comments submitted by Mr Ian and Mrs Ann Short

Mr and Mrs Short's submission expresses concerns with the costs of the Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre Redevelopment and that this means that some essential works may be postponed or not be undertaken.

Mr and Mrs Short have requested that the Council review all proposed projects with a view to deferring or cancelling any projects that do not provide benefits to Ratepayers and/or businesses.

Essential maintenance works will not be postponed as a result of the proposed Capital Projects continued in the draft Plan

23. Comments submitted by Mr Ben Smith

Mr Smith's submission is in support of the new projects and service initiatives as part of the Draft Plan and Budget and supports the proposed Rate Revenue increase.

24. Comments submitted by Mr Brendan Warn

In addition to Mr Warn's concerns regarding the Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre Redevelopment, Mr Warn has raised the following concerns in respect to the level of funding the Council has allocated to traffic management:

- management of rat running traffic is being ignored by the Council;
- First Avenue, St Peters requires re-sealing and traffic calming devices to reduce the rat running and speed.

Staff response:

Traffic calming measures are being implemented in the Marden to Hackney precinct on a staged basis which have been determined in terms of priorities based on data (ie. traffic speed and volumes).

Funding has been allocated as part of the Draft Budget to implement a 40km/h speed limit in the residential streets of the precinct, that includes First Avenue, St Peters.

25. Submission received from the Kensington Residents Association (KRA)

The Kensington Residents Association has provided comments on the following topics:

- Investment in the Arts and Culture Plan 2024-2027

The KRA supports the Council's *Arts and Culture Plan 2024-2027* and would welcome opportunities to integrate public art in streetscapes, including Asphalt Art installed in dangerous intersections in Kensington.

The submission indicates the KRA's continued support of the Norwood Library and the Raising the Bar event.

The KRA have requested that t Kensington be considered for the Council's next Quadrennial Public Artwork.

Staff response - Manager, Arts, Culture & Community Connections

The development of a Public Art Masterplan is a key project of the *Arts & Culture Plan 2024-2027*, which will commence in 2024-2025. The Masterplan will identify potential locations within the City for public art of various scales and typology, including, artwork integrated into streetscape and urban design, digital art, sculptures, murals, temporary art, community art and potential locations for the Council's Quadrennial Public Artwork.

In respect to live music, the Council is currently reviewing the busking process and developing guidelines to support busking activation across the City. The Council is exploring a partnership with Three D Radio on various initiatives to further support local live music. A registration subsidy for the Good Music Month event will be provided to artists to encourage and support live music in venues across our City. The Council is also collaborating with Thebarton Theatre to move live music shows to the Norwood Concert Hall during their renovations.

In 2025, the Council is proposing to partner with the Helpmann Academy to support two (2) Artist in Residence initiatives within the City, including two (2) exhibitions at The Gallery, which is located at the St Peters Town Hall Complex.

The actions in the *Arts and Culture Plan 2024-2027* actions will be undertaken over the life of the plan (ie over 3 years).

In relation to Raising the Bar, all hotels located within the City are invited to participate in this event.

- Environmental Sustainability

The KRA supports the Urban Greening program and the Verge Upgrade grants and has suggested that there is an ongoing need for more biodiversity expertise within Council and that weed control and native plant management could be greatly improved.

- Capital Works Program

The KRA have expressed concerns regarding the lack of Capital Projects to be undertaken in Kensington and that there are a number of works required including repairs and maintenance to roundabouts and road surfaces.

In addition, the changerooms at the Norwood Swimming Centre are very dated and desperately need some attention.

Staff response - General Manager, Infrastructure & Major Projects

High Street is a component of the bikeway City's network which traverses Kensington and William Street, Norwood. The upgrade of this bikeway network is ongoing, with the concept design and community consultation works associated with the Kensington section proposed to be undertaken during the 2024-2025 financial year. Detailed design works are scheduled for 2025-2026, and construction works are to commence in 2026-2027. It is anticipated that the renewal of the surface of High Street and traffic control devices will be undertaken as part of these works.

The Council has identified and acknowledges the necessity of the refurbishment of the Norwood Swimming Centre change rooms, and therefore a budget for upgrade works has been included as part of the Draft 2024-2025 Capital Works Program.

- The Parade Masterplan

The KRA is supportive of the George Street Upgrade and have urged the Council to progress this Project and The Parade Masterplan. The KRA supports widening footpaths and increasing tree canopy in this area as, in their view, it is declining in terms of amenity.

- Traffic Management

The KRA are concerned about traffic management issues within Kensington.

The KRA have requested as part of their submission that the Council implements a 40km per hour speed limit on all streets in Kensington as a matter of urgency regardless of what happens in Marrayville or Heathpool.

Staff response - prepared by Manager, Traffic & Integrated Transport

A 40km per hour speed limit is being implemented across the City on a precinct-by-precinct basis, subject to consultation. The order of the precincts was determined by a combination of priorities and locations.

The prioritisation is based on areas with the highest speeds and the location criteria is to start from the west and work eastwards.

The investigation of a 40km per hour speed limit in Kensington is programmed for the 2025-2026 financial year.

26. Submission received from the Norwood Residents Association (NRA)

The NRA's submission is primarily based upon concerns regarding the Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre Redevelopment.

In addition, the NRA has also raised concerns regarding the proposed 8.5% Rate Revenue increase and has requested that the Council revisit the budget in terms of the impact on those Ratepayers who are struggling as a result of the cost-of-living pressures.

27. Submission received from the St Peters Residents Association (SPRA)

In addition to its concerns regarding the Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre Redevelopment, the SPRA has provided comments on the following topics:

- **Traffic Management**

The SPRA have acknowledged the Council's action to address safety concerns in Richmond St, Hackney and supports the funding which has been allocated for the detailed design of a traffic management solution.

The SPRA have asked if a first order estimate has been made for the cost of the changes and has this been included in the Long-Term Financial Plan?

Staff response - prepared by Manager, Traffic & Integrated Transport

A first order cost estimate for the Richmond Street Project has not been obtained at this stage. At this stage a concept design is currently being prepared as the first stage of the design process.

- **Long Term Financial Plan**

The SPRA has advised that they are concerned that the draft *Long-Term Financial Plan 2024-2034* is not being finalised as part of the 2024-2025 Annual Business Plan & Budget process, in accordance with the Council's resolution which was made at the Special Council Meeting held on 11 December 2023.

Staff response - prepared by General Manager, Governance & Civic Affairs

The resolution referred to by the SPRA is as follows:

1. *That the draft 2024-2034 Long-Term Financial Plan as contained in Attachment A be endorsed.*
2. *That the Council, having considered the draft 2024-2034 Long-Term Financial Plan, notes that the draft Plan indicates that the Council:*
 - a. *is sustainable in the long term; and*
 - b. *will move outside of the Key Financial Indicators targets for a limited period of time but will return to the targets within the 10 year timeline of the draft Plan.*
3. *That the Council notes that the draft 2024-2034 Long-Term Financial Plan will be finalised as part of the 2024-2025 Annual Business Plan and Budget process.*

The financial projections contained within the Long-Term Financial Plan are meant to provide an indication of the Council's direction and financial capacity, rather than predicting the future financial performance and position of the Council.

In other words, the LTFP is not set in stone – it is a document that changes as fluctuations to budgets and costs occur each year.

As Members are aware, the *Local Government Act 1999*, requires Councils to undertake a review of their Long-Term Financial Plans on an annual basis.

However, the Council's draft *2024-2034 Long-Term Financial Plan* has been reviewed on a number of occasions by both the Council's Audit & Risk Committee and the Council over the last 12 months, as a result of the various Capital Projects that the Council has planned to undertake over the next few years, including the Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre Redevelopment.

As recently as March 2024, the Key Performance Indicators, as set out in the draft *2024-2034 Long Term Financial Plan*, were reviewed to incorporate updated costs and other assumptions, which were identified through the 2023-2024 First Quarter and Second Quarter Budget reviews. The updated Key Performance Indicators

As Members are aware, the draft LTFP will be reviewed again following the adoption of the Council's 2024 Annual Business Plan and Budget. The final 2024-2025 Budget may impact on the draft LTFP and therefore, the draft LTFP will be updated to reflect any changes as result of the 2024-2025 Budget and presented to the Council for consideration at its meeting to held in August 2024.

- Employee Costs

The SPRA have requested an explanation regarding the changes to the costs associated with staff wages compared to previous Budgets.

Staff response - prepared by General Manager, Governance & Civic Affairs

As set out previously, the increase in staff costs in the Draft 2024-2025 Annual Business Plan and Budget is due to the following:

- employee costs reflected in the 2023-2024 Budget were lower due to vacant positions;
- increase to staff wages and salaries by CPI in accordance with the Municipal Officers Association and Local Government Enterprise Agreements;
- increase in statutory Superannuation by 0.5%; and
- employee related expenses that were allocated as part of the 2023-2024 Budget were incorrectly entered under the "*Material, Expenses & Other Costs*" expenses budget line have been reallocated to employee costs as part of the Draft 2024-2025 Budget.

The "error" referred to by the SPRA relates to the last point above whereby a number of employee related expenses and wages were allocated to an incorrect budget line. There is no other explanation for this, other than the fact that it was an error.

The SPRA have stated that they expect a response to the questions which were asked by the SPRA at the Public Meeting held on 27 May 2024, regarding the draft 2024-2025 Annual Business Plan.

A response to the questions raised by all citizens who attended the Public Meeting was provided at the meeting, with the exception of one (1) question which related to a private insurance matter between the Council and a resident.

Notwithstanding this, a response to the questions asked by the SPRA will be provided in due course.

It is important to note that the Council has also received submissions from the following citizens and that these submissions have not been summarised as set out above as these submissions related entirely to the George Street Upgrade Project which has been discussed previously within this report:

1. Mr Paul Hayes and Mr Jonathon Nicholls

Mr Hayes and Mr Nicholls' submission opposes the George Street Upgrade Project.

2. Mr Spiero Tsapaliaris and Mr Pep Rocca

Mr Tsapaliaris and Mr Rocca's submission opposes the George Street Upgrade Project and the Council's financial position in respect to the level of debt.

3. J and T White

J and T White's submission opposes the George Street Upgrade Project.

OPTIONS

On the basis of the submissions which have been received, there is no recommended action in respect to the submissions in terms of the Draft 2024-2025 Annual Business Plan and Budget.

Notwithstanding this, the Council may determine to amend its position as it sees fit.

CONCLUSION

Pursuant to the Section 123 (6a) of the Act, should the Council propose to make amendments to the Draft 2024-2025 Annual Business Plan and Budget, the adopted Annual Business Plan must include a statement which sets out the significant amendments from the Draft Plan and provide the reason for those amendments.

COMMENTS

If Elected Members have any questions or require clarification in relation to specific budget items, and/or any issues raised in this report, do not hesitate to contact the Chief Financial Officer on 8366 4548, prior to the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the submissions which have been received in respect to the Draft 2024-2025 Annual Business Plan, be received and noted.
2. That the citizens and organisations who have made written submissions in respect to the Draft 2024-2025 Annual Business Plan, be thanked and advised of the Council's decision in respect to their submissions.
3. The Council notes that a further report in respect to the adoption of the Draft 2024-2025 Budget will be prepared for the Council's consideration at its meeting to be held on 1 July 2024.

Cr Sims moved:

1. *That the submissions which have been received in respect to the Draft 2024-2025 Annual Business Plan, be received and noted.*
2. *That the citizens and organisations who have made written submissions in respect to the Draft 2024-2025 Annual Business Plan, be thanked and advised of the Council's decision in respect to their submissions.*
3. *The Council notes that a further report in respect to the adoption of the Draft 2024-2025 Budget will be prepared for the Council's consideration at its meeting to be held on 1 July 2024.*

Seconded by Cr Whittington and carried unanimously.

3. CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7.34pm.

Mayor Robert Bria

Minutes Confirmed on _____
(date)