



Minutes

Council Meeting

Monday 12 February 2024, 7:00 pm

Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street,
Dandenong, Victoria 3175

greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



Council Meeting Details

At the time of printing this Agenda, the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 12 February 2024 will be a hybrid meeting consisting of Councillors attending in person and remotely (under section 4.20 of Council's Governance Rules).

Members of the public will be able to watch the webcast live on the Urban Screen in Harmony Square or alternatively watch it live or at a later time on Council's website. To stay updated about the status of Council Meetings at any time, please visit Council's website at [Council Meetings | Greater Dandenong Council](#)

Your Councillors

[Mayor Lana Formoso](#)

[Cr Sean O'Reilly](#)

[Deputy Mayor Richard Lim OAM](#)

[Cr Sophaneth \(Sophie\) Tan](#)

[Cr Tim Dark](#)

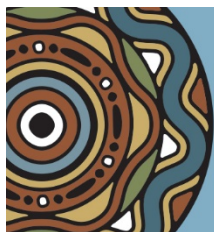
[Cr Loi Truong](#)

[Cr Rhonda Garad](#)

[Cr Angela Long](#)

[Cr Jim Memeti](#)

[Cr Bob Milkovic](#)



We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land, the Bunurong People, and pay respect to their Elders past and present.

We recognise and respect their continuing connections to climate, Culture, Country and waters.



(03) 8571 1000



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COUNCIL OBLIGATIONS AND AGENDA REPORTS

Council has several obligations in relation to its Community Vision, Council Plan, Instruments of Legislation and Council policy. These are summarily considered in each Agenda report and further details are added as required. The obligations are as follows:

Community Vision 2040 (Community Vision | Greater Dandenong Council)

After consultation with the Greater Dandenong community on what kind of future they wanted for themselves and our city, the Greater Dandenong People's Panel developed a new Community Vision for 2040:

*The City of Greater Dandenong is a home to all.
It's a city where you can enjoy and embrace life through celebration and equal opportunity.
We harmonise the community by valuing multiculturalism and the individual.
Our community is healthy, vibrant, innovative and creative.
Our growing city is committed to environmental sustainability.
Welcome to our exciting and peaceful community.*

Reports in this Agenda will identify when any of the above principles are relevant.

The Council Plan 2021-25 (Council Plan 2021-25 | Greater Dandenong Council)

The Council Plan describes the kind of future the Council is working for, and how Council will do this over four years. The Council Plan has the following key strategic objectives:

- *A socially connected, safe and healthy city*
- *A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts*
- *A city of accessible, vibrant centres and neighbourhoods*
- *A green city committed to a sustainable future*
- *A city that supports entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcomes*
- *A Council that demonstrates leadership and a commitment to investing in the community.*

Reports in this Agenda will identify when any of the above principles are relevant.

The Overarching Governance Principles of the Local Government Act 2020

Section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that a Council must in the performance of its role give effect to the overarching governance principles. These are:

- a) Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law;
- b) priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;
- c) the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted;
- d) the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making;
- e) innovation and continuous improvement are to be pursued;
- f) collaboration with other Councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought;
- g) the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured;
- h) regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision making;
- i) the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

Also, in giving effect to the overarching governance principles above, a Council must take into account the following supporting principles:

- a) the community engagement principles (section 56);
- b) the public transparency principles (section 58);
- c) the strategic planning principles (section 89);
- d) the financial management principles (section 101);
- e) the service performance principles (section 106).

Reports in this Agenda will identify when any of the above principles are relevant.



The Gender Equality Act 2020

The *Gender Equality Act 2020* came into operation on 31 March 2021 and requires councils to take positive action towards achieving workplace gender equality and to promote gender equality in their policies, programs and services. The objects of the Act are as follows:

- a) to promote, encourage and facilitate the achievement of gender equality and improvement in the status of women; and
- b) to support the identification and elimination of systemic causes of gender inequality in policy, programs and delivery of services in workplaces and communities; and
- c) to recognise that gender inequality may be compounded by other forms of disadvantage or discrimination that a person may experience on the basis of Aboriginality, age, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, race, religion, sexual orientation and other attributes; and
- d) to redress disadvantage, address stigma, stereotyping, prejudice and violence, and accommodate persons of different genders by way of structural change; and
- e) to enhance economic and social participation by persons of different genders; and
- f) to further promote the right to equality set out in the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Council is obligated to think about how its programs and services affect different people and different communities and how we can avoid reinforcing unintentional inequalities. Reports authors must consider the requirements of the *Gender Equality Act 2020* and Council's Diversity, Access and Equity Policy when asking Council to consider or review any issues which have a direct or significant impact on members of the Greater Dandenong community.

Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities

Council, Councillors and members of Council staff are a public authority under the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* and, as such, are all responsible to act in accordance with the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities 2006* (the Charter). The Charter is founded on the following principles:

- human rights are essential in a democratic and inclusive society that respects the rule of law, human dignity, equality and freedom;
- human rights belong to all people without discrimination, and the diversity of the people of Victoria enhances our community;
- human rights come with responsibilities and must be exercised in a way that respects the human rights of others;
- human rights have a special importance for the Aboriginal people of Victoria, as descendants of Australia's first people, with their diverse spiritual, social, cultural and economic relationship with their traditional lands and waters.

Given this municipality's diversity and inclusiveness, when developing or preparing a report for Council consideration, report authors are required to ensure their report is consistent with the standards set by the Charter.



Consideration of Climate Change and Sustainability

One of the overarching governance principles of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.

In January 2020, this Council joined a growing number of cities around Australia and declared a “Climate and Ecological Emergency” and committed this Council to emergency action on climate change. Council has developed a Climate Change Emergency Strategy and Action Plan 2020-30 to help the City of Greater Dandenong become a resilient, net zero carbon emission city with an active community prepared for the challenges of changing climate.

When developing or preparing a report for Council consideration, report authors are required to consider what impacts their issue has on Council's Declaration on a Climate and Ecological Emergency, Council's Climate Change Emergency Strategy and the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* in relation to the overarching principle on climate change and sustainability.

Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks

Report authors will consider how their report aligns with existing Council policies, strategies, frameworks or other documents, how they may affect the decision of this report or are relevant to this process.



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1 MEETING OPENING

1.1 OPENING OF MEETING BY MAYOR

Cr Lana Formoso opened the meeting at 7.00 pm.

1.2 ATTENDANCE

Apologies

Cr Rhonda Garad, Cr Angela Long, Cr Bob Milkovic.

Councillors Present

Cr Lana Formoso, Mayor (Chair), Cr Richard Lim OAM, Deputy Mayor,
Cr Tim Dark, Cr Jim Memeti, Cr Sean O'Reilly, Cr Sophie Tan, Cr Loi Truong.

Officers Present

Peta Gillies, Acting Chief Executive Officer; Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures; Marcus Forster, Acting Executive Director Community Strengthening; Daniel Przychodzki, Interim Deputy Executive Chief Engineer & Major Projects; Andrew Foley, Executive Director Corporate Development; Lisa Roberts, Manager Governance, Legal & Risk.



1.3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF LAND

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this land, the Bunurong People, and pay respect to their Elders past and present.

We recognise and respect their continuing connections to climate, Culture, Country and waters and we also pay our respect and acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their Elders present here today, in acknowledging their journey.

1.4 OFFERING OF PRAYER, REFLECTION OR AFFIRMATION

All remained standing as Cr Sean O'Reilly read the following on behalf of Roz Blades AM from the Greater Dandenong Interfaith Network:

"We pray for all of those who are here this evening.

Although there are differences in thought and belief divides us let us pursue the love of truth.

Strengthen the spirit of friendship amongst people of all faiths and increase mutual understanding between us all.

We look to a time when greater knowledge shall bind all who serve and your word shall bind us all into the one holy fellowship.

Let us work together to be gentle and the strength to be forgiving, the patience to be understanding and the endurance to accept the consequences of holding to what we believe to be right.

May we put our trust in the power of good and the power of love to overcome hatred.

Let us all believe in a world emancipated from violence where fear shall no longer lead to injustice.

Let us look to a time when greater knowledge shall bind us all into one fellowship."



1.5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Meeting of Council held 22 January 2024.

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held 22 January 2024 be confirmed.

MINUTE No.981

Moved by: Cr Richard Lim OAM

Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held 22 January 2024 be confirmed.

CARRIED 7 / 0

1.6 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil.



2 OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 1

2.1 DOCUMENTS FOR SEALING

2.1.1 Documents for Sealing

Responsible Officer: Manager Governance, Legal & Risk

Attachments: Nil

Executive Summary

1. Under the *Local Government Act 2020*, each Council is a body corporate and a legal entity in its own right. Each Council must therefore have a common seal (like any corporate entity) that is an official sanction of that Council. Sealing a document makes it an official document of Council as a corporate body. Documents that require sealing include agreements, contracts, leases or any other contractual or legally binding document that binds Council to another party.
2. This report recommends that the listed documents be signed and sealed.



Item Summary

3. There is one (1) item being presented to Council's meeting of 12 February 2024 for signing and sealing as follows:
- a) A letter of recognition to Ha Pham, Corporate Development for 30 years of service to the Greater Dandenong City Council.

Recommendation

That the listed documents be signed and sealed.

MINUTE No.982

Moved by: Cr Loi Truong

Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That the listed documents be signed and sealed.

CARRIED 7 / 0



2.2 DOCUMENTS FOR TABLING

2.2.1 Documents for Tabling

Responsible Officer: Manager Governance, Legal & Risk

Attachments: Nil

Executive Summary

1. Council receives various documents such as annual reports and minutes of committee meetings that deal with a variety of issues that are relevant to the City.
2. This report recommends that the listed items be received.



List of Reports

Author	Title
Emergency Management Victoria	Australian Warning System community education initiative

3. A copy of each report is made available at the Council meeting or by contacting the Governance Unit on telephone 8571 5235.

Recommendation

That the listed items be received.

MINUTE No.983

Moved by: Cr Jim Memeti

Seconded by: Cr Richard Lim OAM

That the listed items be received.

CARRIED 7 / 0



2.3 PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

2.3.1 Petitions and Joint Letters

Responsible Officer: Manager Governance, Legal & Risk
Attachments: 1. Petitions and Joint Letters [2.3.1.1 - 2 pages]

Executive Summary

1. Council receives a number of petitions and joint letters on a regular basis that deal with a variety of issues which have an impact upon the City.
2. Issues raised by petitions and joint letters will be investigated and reported back to Council if required.
3. A table containing all details relevant to current petitions and joint letters is provided in Attachment 1. It includes:
 - a) the full text of any petitions or joint letters received;
 - b) petitions or joint letters still being considered for Council response as pending a final response along with the date they were received; and
 - c) the final complete response to any outstanding petition or joint letter previously tabled along with the full text of the original petition or joint letter and the date it was responded to.
4. This report recommends that the listed items in Attachment 1, and the current status of each, be received and noted.



Petitions and Joint Letters Tabled

5. Council received one (1) new petition and no joint letters prior to the Council Meeting of 12 February 2024.
- A petition has been received signed by 36 residents regarding a request for the upgrade and replacement of the current trees in Keysborough South due to safety and litter issues. This petition has been referred to the appropriate Council Business unit for further action.

Note: Where relevant, a summary of the progress of ongoing change.org petitions and any other relevant petitions/joint letters/submissions will be provided in the attachment to this report.

Recommendation

That this report and its attachment be received and noted.

MINUTE No.984

Moved by: Cr Jim Memeti

Seconded by: Cr Loi Truong

That this report and its attachment be received and noted.

CARRIED 7 / 0

Date Received	Petition Text (Prayer)	No. of Petitioners	Status	Responsible Officer Response
22/01/2024	<p>I wish to raise a formal petition to upgrade and replace the current trees in Keysborough South under the Governance Rules item 4.5.10. Some are dead, dying (with disease) and this type of tree that has been planted require extensive maintenance. We all collectively strongly dislike these trees due to the large amount of tree litter they release with excessive leaves, nuts, bark they drop every year and they are causing damage to our homes.</p> <p>Some of us that are a Single Storey dwelling regularly need to climb up onto the roof to clear the gutters and valley channels which is a dangerous and hazardous. This activity needs to be minimised and reduced for the safety of ourselves. One resident needs to wear a harness on their double storey to clean his gutters/channel valleys. This is very dangerous.</p> <p>Furthermore, excessive build up of these leaves/litter has contributed to flooding claims to property in which I have personally been involved with (twice in 5 years).</p> <p>Since speaking to the street residence about the Petition, I've found out that other Residents have had damage and issues with their homes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • properties have also had flood / ceiling damage into their homes due to excessive leaf/litter build up. • A branch fell onto the home causing damage and subsequent insurance claim. • Large branches also fell which blocked the road which was could of potentially damaged vehicles and/or injured a person – happened twice in the last 3 years. • There has been footpath repairs due to the existing roots from the trees on the western side of the street. • Trees heights affect solar panel effectiveness and one house cannot have Solar system installed due to the trees along Keylana Ave blocking their northern sun –they are asking to have their trees removed as well on that side. Please apply same plan to remove. 	36	In Progress	<p>Responsible Officer: Chief Engineer & Major Projects.</p> <p>Acknowledgment letter sent 23/01/2024 to the head petitioner.</p>

Date Received	Petition Text (Prayer)	No. of Petitioners	Status	Responsible Officer Response
	<p>I am petitioning on behalf of the residents in our street and request the current trees to be replaced with smaller trees that require less maintenance (similar to others). I have been informed that over the last 10 years that over 100 streets in this Municipality have had their trees upgraded and seeking this also performed to our street. We are collectively keen to have the trees replaced.</p> <p>Our Local Councillor Rhonda Garad and Lead Arborist Gareth Pickard have both been to our property and are aware of my situation which has now led to this Petition.</p> <p>Please see following pages with the names the residents/home owners with trees that agree with the replacement of the existing trees along the nature strip.</p>			



2.4 STATUTORY PLANNING APPLICATIONS

2.4.1 Town Planning Application - No. 4/2-6 Yiannis Court Springvale VIC 3171 (Planning Application No. PLN23/0495)

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures
Attachments: 1. Assessed Plan [2.4.1.1 - 1 page]

Application Summary

Applicant: Jen T Huang
Proposal: Use of the land for the sale of packaged liquor (remote sellers)
Zone: Industrial 1 Zone
Overlay: No Overlays apply to the site
Ward: Springvale North

1. This application has been brought before the Council as the proposal seeks to use the land to sell liquor (remote sellers packaged liquor license) that is not associated with a food or drink premises.
2. A remote sellers packaged liquor license is defined by the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR), as a licence which allows:
 - *People or businesses to sell alcohol to people not currently on the licenced premise. This includes sales over the phone, via the internet or through an app, and delivered to customers to consume off-premises.*
 - *The remote seller's licenced premise is where the liquor is supplied from, such as the warehouse where alcohol products are shipped from.*
3. A planning permit is required under the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme, pursuant to:
 - Clause 52.27 (Licensed premises) to use the land to sell or consume liquor, if a license is required under *the Liquor Control Reform Act 1998*. A remote sellers packaged liquor license is a license required under *the Liquor Control Reform Act 1998*.

Objectors Summary

4. In accordance with the requirements of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, notification of the application was undertaken by way of mailing letters to adjoining and surrounding owners and occupiers.
5. No objections to the proposal were received by Council to date.



Recommendation Summary

6. As assessed, the proposal is consistent with, and appropriately responds to the provisions of the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme. The proposal is a suitable outcome noting the strategic policy for Clause 52.27 Licensed Premises, by responding to the purposes of the particular provision, as well as the policy objectives within the Municipal Strategic Statement and Planning Policy Framework. Therefore, this report is recommending that the application be supported, and that a Permit be granted subject to conditions as set out in the recommendation.
7. If the application was to be appealed to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) is it the officer's view that it is highly likely that VCAT would also issue a planning permit for this proposal.



Subject Site and Surrounds

Subject Site

8. The subject site is legally known as Lot 4 on Plan of Subdivision 536747D, located along the eastern side of Westall Road in Springvale. The site is currently occupied by a warehouse, utilised for an e-commerce business selling groceries to customers online.
9. The subject site is rectangular in shape and located within a group of four (4) small-medium sized warehouses provided with a shared accessway within the front setback.
10. The subject site is provided with four (4) car spaces on title for Lot 4, which are not located within common property.
11. The overall site area is 287 sqm.
12. Access to the subject site is provided via common property, which connects to a double width crossover, providing access to the service lane of Westall Road to the west. Westall Road is an arterial road in a Transport Road Zone 2.

Surrounding Area

13. The surrounding sites are also zoned Industrial 1 Zone.
14. Directly opposite the site, across Westall Road to the west is land also zoned Industrial 1 Zone.
15. The closest residential zone (General Residential Zone, Schedule 1) is approximately 365 metres to the south-east of the subject site.
16. The existing development within the immediate area consists of similar industrial/warehouse style buildings, used for a variety of commercial and industrial uses.
17. The Springvale Activity Centre is located approximately 1km south-east of the subject site.

Locality Plan

18. A zoning map of the subject site and the surrounding area is provided below.



19. An aerial photograph of the subject site and the surrounding area, highlighted in red below (Nearmaps, October 2023).



Background

Previous Applications

20. A search of Council records revealed that Council has not previously considered any relevant planning applications for the site.

Proposal

21. The application proposes to use the land for a licensed premises (remote sellers packaged liquor license).
22. The use of the land for a licensed premises will be utilised in conjunction with the existing use of the land for a warehouse. Currently, the operator of the subject site uses the warehouse to store and sell groceries as part of an e-commerce business.
23. No buildings and works are proposed within the application, with the use of the land for a licensed premise utilising the existing warehouse on the subject site. Any internal rearrangement of the warehouse for the use of the land for a licensed premises will be an internal fit out and not increase the floor area.
24. The operation of the site for a licensed premises will consist of the selling of packaged liquor to individuals and/or businesses, via the e-commerce website currently utilised by the business. The product will be delivered to customers off-premises. The packaged liquor will be stored within the existing warehouse and distributed to customers via third-party couriers as well as a privately owned delivery vehicle. Collection will not be available on-site, nor will there be any same day delivery options.



25. The proposed trading hours for orders to be packed for delivery and collected are the following:
- Monday to Friday: 10 am – 5 pm.
26. No signage is proposed within this application and no additional car parking is required.
27. A copy of the submitted plans is provided in Attachment 1 to this report.

Planning Scheme and Policy Frameworks

28. A planning permit is required, under the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme, pursuant to:
- Clause 52.27 Licensed Premises, *to use the land sell or consume liquor if a license is required under the Liquor Control Reform Act 1998.*
29. Pursuant to the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998*, a remote sellers packaged liquor licence is a licence included under *the Act 1998*.

Zoning Controls

30. The subject site is located in an Industrial 1 Zone (Industrial 1 Zone), as is the surrounding area.
31. The purpose of the Industrial 1 Zone, outlined at Clause 34.02, is:
- *To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.*
 - *To provide for manufacturing industry, the storage and distribution of goods and associated uses in a manner which does not affect the safety and amenity of local communities.*
32. It is noted that a planning permit is not required for the use of the land for a licensed premises under the Industrial 1 Zone. Furthermore, the existing use of the land for a Warehouse is not proposed to be changed.

Overlay Controls

33. No overlays affect the subject site or surrounding area.

State Planning Policy Framework

34. The Operation of the State Planning Policy Framework outlined at Clause 10 seeks to ensure that the objectives of planning in Victoria are fostered through appropriate land use and development planning policies and practices which integrate relevant environmental, social and economic factors in the interests of net community benefit and sustainable development. The objectives of Planning in Victoria are noted as:
- a) *To provide for the fair, orderly, economic and sustainable use, and development of land.*
 - b) *To provide for the protection of natural and man-made resources and the maintenance of ecological processes and genetic diversity.*
 - c) *To secure a pleasant, efficient and safe working, living and recreational environment for all Victorians and visitors to Victoria.*
 - d) *To conserve and enhance those buildings, areas or other places which are of scientific, aesthetic, architectural or historical interest, or otherwise of special cultural value.*
 - e) *To protect public utilities and other facilities for the benefit of the community.*



- f) *To facilitate development in accordance with the objectives set out in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e).*
- g) *To balance the present and future interests of all Victorians.*

35. In order to achieve those objectives, there are a number of more specific objectives contained within the State Planning Policy Framework that need to be considered under this application.
36. **Clause 17 (Economic Development)** contains two (2) key objectives and can be summarised in emphasising the need for planning to provide for a strong and innovative economy, and to contribute to the economic wellbeing of the state to allow for municipalities to build upon regional strengths and economic potential.
37. These objectives are further explored within the following subclauses under Clause 17 Economic Development. **Clause 17.01-1S Diversified economy** seeks to strengthen and diversity the economy, by facilitating growth in a range of employment sectors and to improve access to jobs closer to where people live.

Local Planning Policy Framework

38. The Local Planning Policy Framework (LPPF) includes the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) and Local Policies.
39. The MSS is contained within Clause 21 of the Scheme. The MSS at **Clause 21.02** focuses on the Municipal Profile, within which the following is noted:
- *Greater Dandenong is a net provider of jobs, with a resident workforce of 53,000, and local businesses providing approximately 74,000 jobs. Greater Dandenong businesses provide the third highest number of jobs in metropolitan Melbourne, with the employment sector largely orientated towards manufacturing occupations. Within the metropolitan Melbourne area, Greater Dandenong is ranked – in terms of job stock – first in manufacturing, second in storage, third in road transport and fourth in wholesale trade. The extension of the Urban Growth Boundary by the State Government will facilitate further industrial development in Dandenong and some 25,000 new jobs, to maintain Greater Dandenong’s pivotal role in the State economy.*
40. A Vision for Greater Dandenong is outlined at **Clause 21.03**, within which the following is noted:
- *A nationally and internationally competitive city; a pre-eminent industrial centre for Melbourne’s south-east with a significant high-tech/knowledge industrial component; a centre for government, multi-national investment and employment; vibrant commercial and retail sector and a state of the art inter-modal transport interchange for south eastern Victoria.*

Particular Provisions

41. The purpose of **Clause 52.27 Licensed Premises** needs to be considered to determine the appropriateness of the proposal to use the land for a licensed premises.
42. The purpose of Clause 52.27 Licensed Premises is as follows:
- *To ensure that licensed premises are situated in appropriate locations.*
 - *To ensure that the impact of the licensed premises on the amenity of the surrounding area is considered.*



43. Pursuant to Clause 52.27 Licensed Premises, the responsible authority must consider before deciding on an application (in addition to the decision guidelines in Clause 65), the following decision guidelines:
- *The Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.*
 - *The impact of the sale or consumption of liquor permitted by the liquor licence on the amenity of the surrounding area.*
 - *The impact of the hours of operation on the amenity of the surrounding area.*
 - *The impact of the number of patrons on the amenity of the surrounding area.*
 - *The cumulative impact of any existing licensed premises and the proposed licensed premises on the amenity of the surrounding area.*

General Provisions

44. Clause 65 – Decision Guidelines need to be considered, as is the case with all applications. For this application the requirements of Clause 65.01 for the approval of an application or plan are of relevance. This Clause outlines the requirements that the responsible authority must consider when determining the application.

Restrictive Covenants

45. No covenants or any restrictive measures are registered on the Certificate of Title for the subject site.

Diversity, Access and Equity

46. It is not considered that the planning assessment of this application raises any diversity issues. The application itself does not have a direct and significant impact on the wider Greater Dandenong community.

Community Safety

47. It is considered that there would be no adverse community safety implications in permitting the proposal subject to strict conditions on any planning permit issued.

Safe Design Guidelines

48. Consideration of the relevant requirements of these Guidelines has been undertaken within the Assessment of this application.

Referrals

49. The application was not required to be referred to any external referral authorities pursuant to Section 55 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, however Council referred the application for comment only (under Section 52 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*) to both Victoria Police and the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR).
50. The application was externally referred to the following for their consideration (summarised):

External Authority	Response
Victoria Police	No objection.
VCGLR	No comment.



51. The application was internally referred the following Council departments:

Internal departments	Response
Transport Planning	No objection, no conditions
Community Strengthening	No objection, subject to conditions

Advertising

52. The application has been advertised pursuant to section 52 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, by:
- sending notices to the owners and occupiers of adjoining land.
53. The notification has been carried out correctly. Council has received zero (0) objections to date.

Assessment

Use

54. The proposal has been assessed against the relevant provisions of the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme, including the Planning Policy Framework, Local Planning Policy Framework, the Particular Provision for Liquor Licencing at Clause 52.27 and Clause 65 – Decision Guidelines.
55. The subject site is located within an established Industrial 1 Zone with the immediately adjoining lots used for a variety of industrial and warehouse uses, with no adverse impacts to the surrounding area anticipated as a result of the proposal.
56. The subject site is considered an appropriate location for the use of the land for a licensed premises given the subject site contains an existing warehouse currently used to store groceries from the e-commerce business operating from this location. The sale of groceries is ancillary to the use of the land for a warehouse, given the use for a warehouse also includes the distribution of goods for wholesale. In addition, no changes to the existing use of the land for a warehouse are proposed, nor any changes to the existing structure of the built form.
57. The nearest General Residential Zone (General Residential Zone, Schedule 1) is located to the south-east of the subject site, at a distance of 365 metres. Therefore, it is considered that the use of the land for a licensed premises will not adversely impact the existing amenity of the closest established residential area.
58. The current proposal to use the land for a licensed premises will have little impact on the existing traffic of the surrounding area and Westall Road (a road in a Transport Zone 2), which is connected to the site via a service lane.
59. The packaged liquor for sale will be stored internally within the existing warehouse in an orderly manner (on pallets within the warehouse). The liquor will be loaded onto the third-party courier or the private delivery vehicle collecting the orders on-site, with little impact to the functionality of the existing car parking area or the common property. Conditions can be imposed on any permit issued to ensure vehicles related to this use do not impede the accessway.
60. The warehouse will maintain the following hours for the packing and delivering of liquor:
- Monday – Friday: 10 am – 5 pm.

It is noted that the hours proposed are within the hours that VCGLR detail that they allow under any remote sellers packaged liquor licences issued by them.



61. No sale of the packaged liquor will occur on-site, with all sales to be conducted and received online via the e-commerce website. No collection of the packaged liquor by the customer will occur, with all sales of the packaged liquor to be delivered via a third-party courier service or private delivery vehicle to other locations.
62. The proposal complies with the relevant objectives within the Municipal Planning Strategy and Planning Policy Framework within the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme. It is considered that the proposal would improve services on the site and provide a benefit to the community by way of employment, without compromising the local amenity of the surrounding land uses. The proposal meets the objectives of Clause 17 (Economic Development) and Clause 17.01-1S (Diversified Economy) of the Planning Policy Framework in that it is considered to meet the community's needs for accessible facilities located within the municipality.
63. The cumulative impact of the proposal was assessed, to demonstrate both positive and negative impacts that can result from any cluster of existing licensed premises within the surrounding area. A search of existing licensed premises within a 100 metre and 500 metre radius of the subject site was conducted.

- Within a 100 metre radius is the following existing licensed premises:

No existing licensed premises are located within a 100 metre radius of the subject site.

- Within a 500 metre radius is the following existed licensed premises:

License no.	Category	Premises	Property Address
36134792	Limited License	Going gourmet	No. 1/2A Westall Road SPRINGVALE
36304850	Remote seller's license	Fu Ja	No. D11, 2A Westall Road SPRINGVALE
36307044	Remote seller's license	Meat & Me	No. D3 2A Westall Road SPRINGVALE

64. As demonstrated above, zero (0) existing licensed premises are located within a 100 metre radius of the subject site. A total of three (3) existing licensed premises are located within a 500 metre radius of the subject site. Therefore, this does not result in a cluster of licensed premises within close proximity to the site, as defined in Clause 52.27 - Licenced Premises.
65. It is worth noting that the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR) requires an alcohol management strategy to be provided if the following applies to the remote sellers packaged liquor licence sought:
- (if the operator of the license) offers delivery within 2 hours of an order being placed; or
 - conducts liquor sale promotions for purchases (including discounts for multiple purchases, gift with purchases etc.)
66. The applicant has provided written confirmation to Council that the remote sellers packaged liquor license sought within this application will not partake in the abovementioned activities. Therefore, no alcohol management strategy is required as part of an application for a planning permit. A condition is to be placed on any permit granted to prevent the abovementioned activities from being undertaken without the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority and VCGLR.



67. As per the Victorian Liquor Commission (supported by Liquor Control Victoria), licensees who sell and deliver packaged liquor bought off-premises via phone or online sales (operating under a remote sellers packaged liquor licence) must keep and supply records regarding their failed deliveries of purchased packaged liquor. This is in the instance that the following scenarios occur which are relevant to this application:
- The recipient was a minor and/or could not produce photo identification; or
 - The recipient was intoxicated or there was a substantial risk they were intoxicated.
68. The record must be maintained to detail the date and time of each failed delivery, the postcode of the location where the refusal occurred and/or the total number of successful deliveries made during the relevant period.
69. It is worth noting that the remote sellers packaged liquor license sought within this application will be subject to standard practices by the relevant bodies to ensure the ongoing safety and wellbeing of the community.
70. Based on the above, it is considered that the proposal is appropriately located and would be managed to avoid any impact on the amenity of the surrounding area and community.

Conclusion

71. The application has been assessed against the relevant sections of the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme, including the Planning Policy Framework, Local Planning Policy Framework, Municipal Strategic Statement, Clause 52.27 and Clause 65.
72. Overall, it is considered that the proposal is appropriate having regard to the site's location within an Industrial 1 Zone.

Recommendation

That Council resolves to grant a planning permit in respect of the land known and described as No. 4/2-6 Yiannis Court SPRINGVALE VIC 3171 (Lot 4 PS 536747 Vol 10905 Fol 089) for the purpose of the use of the land to sell liquor (remote sellers packaged liquor license), in accordance with the plans submitted with the application subject to the following conditions:

- 1. Before the development starts, an amended Alcohol Management Plan (AMP) to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. The amended AMP must be generally in accordance with the AMP submitted and assessed with the application but modified to show:**
 - 1.1. Highlight a commitment to online and social media advertising standards for two-for-one promotions, discount bulk buying, and the offer of bonuses or gifts as incentives; and**
 - 1.2. Include protocols to ensure IDs are verified as the online purchaser upon delivery, and deliveries are not left unattended.**
- 2. The licensed area shown on the endorsed Redline plan must not be altered without the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority and Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR).**
- 3. The licensee must ensure that no delivery of packaged liquor within two (2) hours of the sale will occur without the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority and VCGLR.**



4. Customers must not directly collect purchased liquor from the site at any time.
5. The licensee must ensure that no liquor promotions will be carried out as part of the remote sellers packaged liquor license, without the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority and VCGLR.
6. Rubbish, including bottles and packaging material, must at all times be stored within the building and screened from external view (except when collection is to occur the following morning).
7. The applicant must maintain and supply a delivery record, as per the requirements of the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998*, for each instance of refusal to deliver packaged liquor.
8. The amenity of the area must not be detrimentally affected by the use of land, including through the:
 - 8.1. transportation of materials, goods or commodities to or from the land;
 - 8.2. appearance of any building, works or materials;
 - 8.3. emission of noise, artificial light, vibration, smell, fumes, smoke, vapour, steam, soot, ash, dust, waste water, waste products, girt or oil;
 - 8.4. presence of vermin; or
 - 8.5. in any other way.to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
9. Liquor is to be picked and packed during the following hours only:
 - 9.1. 10 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday
10. Orders for packaged liquor is to be delivered during the following hours only:
 - 10.1. 10 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday
11. The trading hours within Conditions 9 and 10 of the planning permit must not be altered without the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority and VCGLR.
12. Delivery vehicles must not obstruct the common accessway during deliveries and/or collections, or any other time, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
13. This permit will expire if one (1) of the following circumstances applies:
 - 13.1. the use does not start within two (2) years of the date of this permit; or
 - 13.2. the use is discontinued for a period of two (2) years.

The Responsible Authority may extend the periods referred to if a request is made in writing before the permit expires or within six (6) months afterwards.



MINUTE No.985

Moved by: Cr Tim Dark

Seconded by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

That Council resolves to grant a planning permit in respect of the land known and described as No. 4/2-6 Yiannis Court SPRINGVALE VIC 3171 (Lot 4 PS 536747 Vol 10905 Fol 089) for the purpose of the use of the land to sell liquor (remote sellers packaged liquor license), in accordance with the plans submitted with the application subject to the following conditions:

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 - 1.1. Highlight a commitment to online and social media advertising standards for two-for-one promotions, discount bulk buying, and the offer of bonuses or gifts as incentives; and**
 - 1.2. Include protocols to ensure IDs are verified as the online purchaser upon delivery, and deliveries are not left unattended.**
- 2. The licensed area shown on the endorsed Redline plan must not be altered without the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority and Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR).**
- 3. The licensee must ensure that no delivery of packaged liquor within two (2) hours of the sale will occur without the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority and VCGLR.**
- 4. Customers must not directly collect purchased liquor from the site at any time.**
- 5. The licensee must ensure that no liquor promotions will be carried out as part of the remote sellers packaged liquor license, without the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority and VCGLR.**
- 6. Rubbish, including bottles and packaging material, must at all times be stored within the building and screened from external view (except when collection is to occur the following morning).**
- 7. The applicant must maintain and supply a delivery record, as per the requirements of the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998*, for each instance of refusal to deliver packaged liquor.**
- 8. The amenity of the area must not be detrimentally affected by the use of land, including through the:**
 - 8.1. transportation of materials, goods or commodities to or from the land;**
 - 8.2. appearance of any building, works or materials;**
 - 8.3. emission of noise, artificial light, vibration, smell, fumes, smoke, vapour, steam, soot, ash, dust, waste water, waste products, girt or oil;**



8.4. presence of vermin; or

8.5. in any other way.

to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

9. Liquor is to be picked and packed during the following hours only:

9.1. 10 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday

10. Orders for packaged liquor is to be delivered during the following hours only:

10.1. 10 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday

11. The trading hours within Conditions 9 and 10 of the planning permit must not be altered without the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority and VCGLR.

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13. This permit will expire if one (1) of the following circumstances applies:

13.1. the use does not start within two (2) years of the date of this permit; or

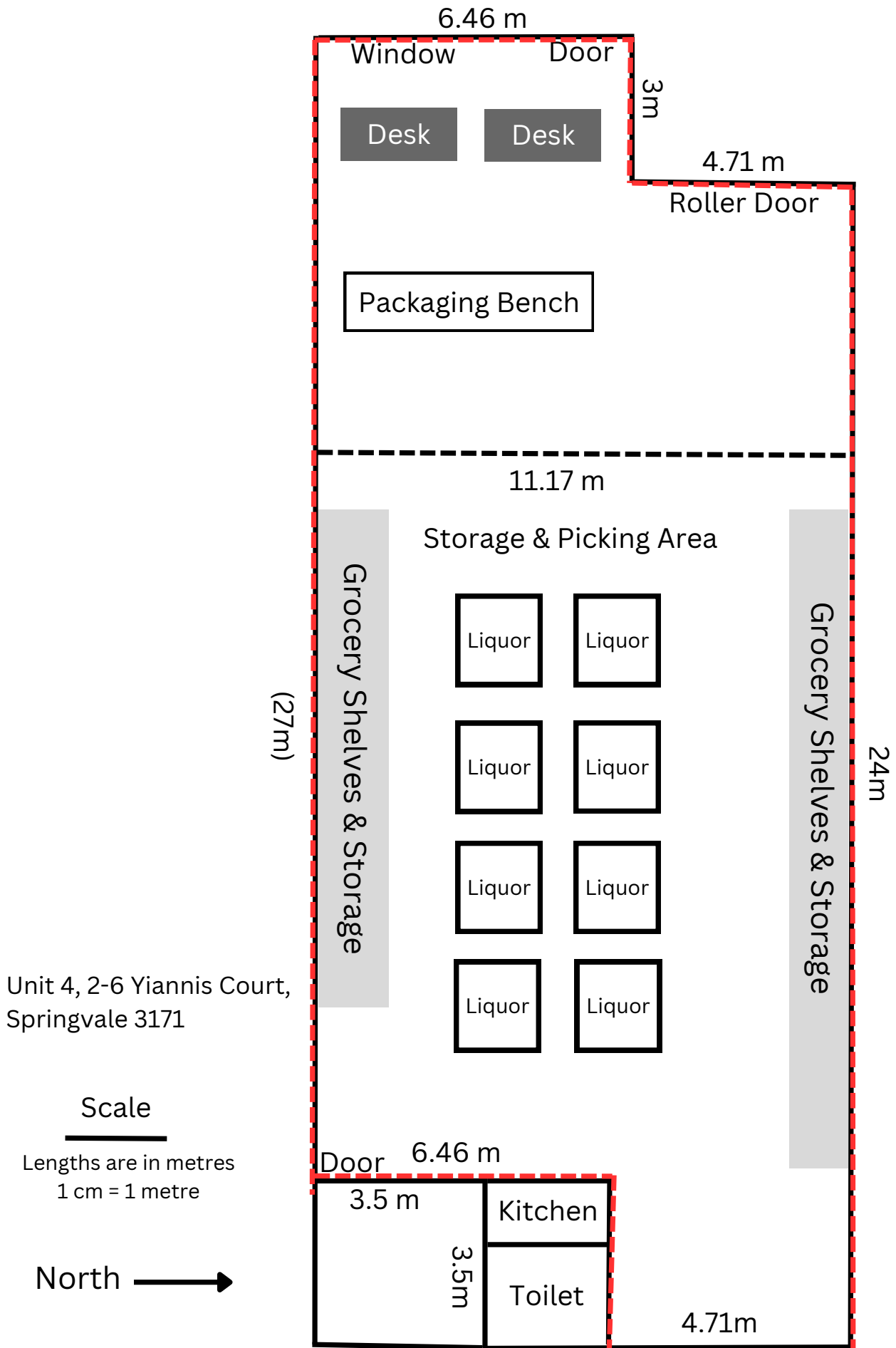
13.2. the use is discontinued for a period of two (2) years.

The Responsible Authority may extend the periods referred to if a request is made in writing before the permit expires or within six (6) months afterwards.

CARRIED 7 / 0

Westall Road

Yiannis Court





3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Question

Phillip Lamaro, Dandenong

On the 5 and 6 of February 2024, Dandenong Council and the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) received multiple complaints from residents concerned and upset about odours coming from the South Dandenong industrial area. I was one of those that wrote an email to the Mayor about this issue.

In response, Dandenong Council advised that the complaints of multiple concerned residents had not triggered a response from the EPA or Council.

If multiple residents are lodging complaints on a specific day and the EPA or Council have not investigated the issue, can I ask then what would trigger the EPA or Council to investigate?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Council is aware of complaints received by residents with regards to odour emissions from the Dandenong industrial precinct.

When complaints are received regarding odour or dust emissions Council compliance officers are regularly deployed to identify the source.

Council works closely with the EPA to detect and identify industry with higher odour emissions. In October 2023 EPA's Applied Sciences Division completed a series of particle monitoring tests in the Dandenong South precinct using specialised vehicles.

Whilst there is no specific trigger, Council and EPA regularly monitor sites to ensure compliance with Planning Permits or EPA Licences.

Clarification question

Phillip Lamaro, Dandenong

You received multiple complaints from residents and that did not trigger a response from Council?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

That is correct.

Question

Phillip Lamaro, Dandenong

Greater Dandenong Council participated for the third time in the LGBTIQA+ pride march the other week. This is the third time that the Mayor or any Councillor did not attend the march to show support to the LGBTIQA+ community of Greater Dandenong. These repeated declined attendances are showing that the Greater Dandenong Council is not supporting the LGBTIQA+ community like Council supports other persecuted minorities.

So as a result, I would like to know what is the current status of the LGBTIQA+ advisory board and will residents be able to see the proposal before being voted on by Councillors?



Response

Marcus Forster, Acting Executive Director Community Strengthening

The march fell on the same day as the Greater Dandenong Luna New Year Festival this year, which would have impacted attendance.

In a previous update in December 2023, Council officers were liaising with other councils and stakeholders to establish a LGBTIQA+ Network for the southeast region.

These discussions have now progressed to the first Pride in the Southeast Alliance meeting to take place on Monday 18 March 2024.

Council is looking forward to the important conversations that will come out of these meetings in terms of how best Council can support LGBTIQA+ communities and continue to raise awareness, whilst collaborating with other councils within the region.

Discussions regarding the formation of a participatory LGBTIQA+ body will be a priority for Greater Dandenong City Council in the Pride in the Southeast Alliance meetings.

Once clear options have been identified Council will look at a variety of ways to engage with the community.

Question

Phillip Lamaro, Dandenong

Dandenong Council has been informed for months that the Dandenong Oasis pool has refused service to multiple residents due to them being non binary and transgender. This goes against Greater Dandenong's inclusivity policy and its discrimination policy.

Can Dandenong Council please advise what it has done to ensure this discrimination does not happen again and will the Mayor and Council make a public apology to the LGBTIQA+ community of Greater Dandenong on its unfair treatment towards them?

Response

Marcus Forster, Acting Executive Director Community Strengthening

Council takes all allegations of unlawful discrimination seriously. We have had the opportunity to consider the issues you have raised, including discussions with South-East Leisure, who operate Oasis on behalf of Council.

Council understands that Dandenong Oasis runs Female Only swim sessions on Sunday evenings outside of regular operation hours. These sessions are open to all people who identify as women, regardless of gender identity, sexuality, race or religion.

South-East Leisure and Council have also reinforced this important message to all staff.

Council strives to ensure that every LGBTIQA+ resident and visitor to the City of Greater Dandenong feels safe, respected and welcomed when accessing Council-run facilities like our swimming pools, libraries or services centres.



Clarification question

Phillip Lamaro, Dandenong

As a non-gender person, will I be refused service?

Response

Peta Gillies Acting Chief Executive Officer

Any community members identifying as female can access that after hours program.

Question

Harpreet Kaur, Dandenong

When is the consultation for the design of the playground for the Dandenong Community Hub going to start? In the case of the Keysborough South Community Hub there were separate consultation processes for the design of the building and the design of the hub.

Response

Marcus Forster, Acting Executive Director Community Strengthening

Council is currently undertaking a series of workshops to further refine the concept design for the Dandenong Community Hub, through a co-design process. Should people wish to register, our next workshops are scheduled on Tuesday 20 February 2024 11.00am-1.00pm and Thursday 22 February 2024 6.00pm-8.00pm.

This work includes a focus on maximising the available land for the playground. Further engagement with the community, including the playground and the various components it may include, are expected to be included through the next stage of detailed design.

Question

Nacera Kefil Burekovic, Dandenong

In the proposed design for the Dandenong Hub, it seems is only a micro-playground, a tenth of the size of those for Springvale & Keysborough. The playground at the Springvale Hub has shown that large playgrounds make a big difference to the success of a community hub. Why are Dandenong residents being treated differently?

Response

Marcus Forster, Acting Executive Director Community Strengthening

The concept design stage for the Dandenong Community Hub, including its playground, is still being finalised through a co-design process as advised in the previous question. Council's appointed architects are endeavouring to maximise the land available for the playground, as requested by the co-design workshop attendees.



Question

Kiet Van Pohl, Noble Park

I wish to express my concern over parking of 5 cars near the intersection of Springvale Road and Queens Avenue, Springvale.

There are only 5 shops along there and they do not have mains water or sewerage connected. So, the parking of 5 cars consistently blocking traffic either moving forward straight along Lightwood Road or even Left onto Springvale Road.

The constant blockage for traffic coming off Buckingham Avenue, whether left or right is so dangerous as heavy traffic comes from Lightwood and Springvale Road.

I do believe that there is 'clearway' there, however only for a couple of hours a day, it should be clearway all day to provide free traffic flow.

Response

Daniel Przychodzki, Interim Chief Engineer & Major Projects

Currently this section of road is signed 'No Stopping' during the morning and evening peak periods to assist with traffic flow at the intersection during these times.

At other times, the parking spaces are well occupied and used by customers visiting nearby businesses. While traffic queues can occur with the peak periods, these are generally caused by pedestrian movements and capacity at the signalised intersection, not by the lack of available queuing space. Further parking restrictions would not significantly increase the number of vehicles able to pass through the intersection during every green light.

Council officers are monitoring the location and do propose to consult with businesses on full time parking restrictions at this location due to several community requests. Changes to parking restrictions which affect businesses are only made following consultation, and given the minimal anticipated benefit, changes to parking restrictions will only occur if the affected businesses have no objection to the proposed change at this location.

Question

Isabella Do, Springvale

I understand it can take some time for plans to roll out and have noted that the Greater Dandenong Climate Emergency Mobilisation and Engagement Plan has a status of 'implementation ongoing' on <https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/climate-consultation>. Can you confirm when this will come out for public exhibition?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Council officers have drafted the Climate Engagement and Mobilisation Plan and are currently seeking internal approvals for the draft plan.

It is anticipated that the community will be informed of the draft plan prior to the end of the financial year.



Question

Isabella Do, Springvale

A revised Climate Adaptation report was agreed to at a Council meeting in December 2023. When will this revision be finalised?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Internal discussions are occurring to establish the form and likely content of the proposed Climate Adaption document. Once this has been established, Council will be able to provide a timeframe for the finalisation of this document.

Question

Isabella Do, Springvale

I have asked these questions because these plans are imperative and require funding. The City of Greater Dandenong (CGD) cannot afford to underfund climate change any longer, especially when its residents are among the most vulnerable communities facing significant disadvantages. It is extremely disheartening to see that we have less than half the staff and much smaller project budgets compared to other comparable councils.

While I do appreciate the increase in staff, it still does not seem sufficient given the importance of these issues and the resources required to effectively manage them. Does the CGD plan to properly and fully fund its current Climate Emergency Action Plan and upcoming related plans or will there be a repeat of last year, where it was publicly admitted that we were languishing behind in achieving the actions the CGD committed to in its plan?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Council is highly committed to meeting its climate change obligations, and to this extent has some of the leading local government strategies in this space, several of which have won industry awards.

Council has also implemented various actions over recent times, including utilising net-zero electricity, purchasing numerous electric vehicles, and developing a draft Climate Engagement & Mobilisation Plan.

A question was received from a candidate in the Yarraman By-Election. The question will not be read out. The question is taken on notice. A response will be provided personally and in the Council Minutes after the By-Election. Under the Local Government Act 2020, no Council resources can be used for election purposes.

Question

Silvia Mastrogiovanni, Dandenong

What is the status of the redevelopment of Little India by developer Capital Alliance?

On such an important project like the redevelopment of Little India impacting Dandenong residents, what consultation opportunities is our Council advocating for the next steps where we actually get into the detail of what is going to be proposed?



Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

The planning scheme amendment for Sites 11-15 of the Capital Alliance Master Plan, which includes the Little India precinct, has been submitted to the Minister for Planning for consideration, who is the Responsible Authority for this project. Council officers understand that the Ministers' delegates are in the process of finalising the Development Plan documents, however we are unable to confirm when the Minister will make a final decision.

Regarding the consultation, the master plan was the subject of community engagement in March and October 2022.

In terms of more detailed plans, these will form part of the future planning applications. However, as per the Planning Scheme, which is set by the State Government, a planning application for a site where a Development Plan has been approved cannot be advertised, which would be the case in this instance.

Council will continue to work with the State Government on this project.

Question

Silvia Mastrogiovanni, Dandenong

When is the long-awaited public consultation on the Greater Dandenong Municipal Strategic Statement going to take place?

Residents were told 10 years ago during the development of the C182 Planning Scheme Amendment that there would be a consultation, but it still has not happened.

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

As advised at the 13 November 2023 Council meeting, Council has been directed by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), not to take any external action on the review of the Municipal Strategic Statement until the Planning Policy Framework has been completed.

The Planning Policy Framework is being developed by the DTP, and Council is still awaiting the completion of this.

The form and content of the Planning Policy Framework will determine what a future Municipal Strategic Statement may look like, and what may or may not be able to be included.

Once the Planning Policy Framework is gazetted, Council will then develop a project plan, including any consultation, based on the knowledge of what parameters it is working within for the Municipal Strategic Statement review.



Question

Matthew Kirwan, Noble Park

What is the current hold-up with the new Dandenong Gallery of Art? There seems to have been no progress for months.

When is the new Dandenong Gallery of Art expected to open?

Response

Daniel Przychodzki, Interim Chief Engineer & Major Projects

Given the history of this project there are many elements which are required to be rectified and finalised.

Whilst the current works may not be visible to the passing public, significant rectification of in-ground services is being undertaken.

Following completion of these works a tender will be issued to complete the remaining elements of the project.

Once the tender has been issued, we'll be in a better position to identify an expected completion date for the construction works.

Question

Matthew Kirwan, Noble Park

What is the status of the Billabong Restoration Project at Fotheringham Reserve and when is it expected to be completed?

Response

Daniel Przychodzki, Interim Chief Engineer & Major Projects

Significant ecological restoration works such as redefining levels and hydrological function, along with revegetation and erosion control have been completed. The area is now under monitoring and maintenance of our conservation team.

The boardwalk has been designed and is currently under construction. Works are scheduled to be completed within the next 4-6 weeks, weather permitting.



Question

Gaye Guest, Noble Park

Illegal fireworks were out of control on New Year's Eve, going solidly for 1 hour around midnight to 1.00am. They lit up our skies and could be seen through treetops. Were their permits granted for any of these unannounced explosions, or the 2 events this weekend around 9pm in what looked like Wachter Reserve, Keysborough location? If not, why do we allow this to occur, if yes where was the letterbox notification?

Fireworks on days of intense heat can cause fires as have been experienced in other municipalities. Why does CGD allow them to continue on hot days? Whilst CGD condones firework displays at an expensive cost to ratepayers, consequentially they will never be outlawed. Without formal notification, pet owners cannot prepare for an unexpected event and animals have escaped their "pounds" as reported through social media on both occasions.

What will change the tide of how we think when someone says "Look Mum no hands" because they handled illegal fireworks and what is the budget CGD spends on fireworks for Council run events and how better can we spend this money?

Response

Marcus Forster, Acting Executive Director Community Strengthening

There were no permits issued last weekend for anywhere in the municipality, nor on New Years Eve outside of our own event in Dandenong Park.

Council's Festivals and Events team are attempting to increase awareness of fireworks permit requirements and fireworks notification processes through a range of avenues, including but not limited to: providing information to all incoming queries, providing information through e-newsletters, social media and actively checking in with event organisers who are applying for event permits.

As per Council's Fireworks Policy, a permit cannot be issued without it being linked to a public event, so private fireworks events are not permitted. Additionally, one of the conditions on fireworks permits, if one is granted, is that on days of Total Fire Ban, fireworks cannot go ahead.

Currently, Greater Dandenong Council have two (2) fireworks shows on our events delivery annual calendar (NYE and Springvale Snowfest). Feedback from both events indicates that attendees highly value the fireworks program at these events. Alternative display-based programs, such as drone shows, remain unaffordable alternatives being much more expensive.



4 OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 2

4.1 POLICY AND STRATEGY

4.1.1 Quarterly Performance Report October to December 2023

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: 1. Council Quarterly Report Q 2 2023-24 [4.1.1.1 - 89 pages]

Executive Summary

1. This report details Council's progress against performance targets outlined in the Council Plan 2021-25, Annual Plan 2023-24, and Budget 2023-24.
2. This report recommends that Council notes the achievements against the Council Plan indicators and the Mid-Year Budget for the period ending 31 December 2023.



Background

3. Council formally adopted the Council Plan 2021-25, Annual Plan 2023-24 and Budget 2023-24 on Monday 26 June 2023.
4. The Council Plan 2021-25 outlines the vision and objectives of the current Council over the four years of its term in office. This document guides service delivery, innovation and good governance, and provides the foundation for the corporate planning framework for all business activities. The Council Plan also guides the budget, service delivery priorities and the continuous improvement of our services.
5. The Council Plan 2021-25, Annual Plan 2023-24 and Budget 2023-24 are made available to residents through the Customer Service Centres, libraries and on Council's website at www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

Key Points / Issues / Discussion

6. The Quarterly Performance Report provides a summary of key highlights for the quarter against the Council Plan, Budget, Reshaping Greater Dandenong and the Capital Works Program.
7. Progress against performance targets is outlined in the following components of the Attachment to this report:
 - a) Part A – Annual Plan progress details the achievements for the Council Plan strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2021-25 for the period 1 October to 31 December 2023.
 - b) Part B – The Financial Report is designed to inform Councillors of the results of operations for the period 1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023 including financial performance against the 2023-24 Budget. The Original Budget information contained in the report is the budget approved by Council on 26 June 2023. The year-to-date budget in this report reflects the Mid-Year Budget as adopted by Council on 11 December 2023.
 - c) The financial report incorporates a set of Financial Statements and a Directorate Analysis of financial performance by Business Unit. The following are contained in the Attachment:
 - Income Statement
 - Balance Sheet
 - Cash Flow Statement
 - Capital Expenditure Statement
 - Management Accounting Result
 - Capital Expenditure report
 - Investment Report
 - Directorate Analysis

Financial Implications

8. The financial position of the Council will be monitored against the approved Mid-Year Budget to ensure that Council achieves its financial goals.



Operating Result

9. For the six months ended 31 December 2023, Council achieved a surplus operating result of \$9.87 million which is \$5.74 million better than the year-to-date budget. The main factors contributing to this result comprise:

- **Income** (\$1.45 million favourable)
 - Higher than anticipated operating grant funding due mainly to an expanded Family Day Care (FDC) program combined with additional funding in other programs (Community Strengthening \$754,000).
 - Favourable user fees due to higher than anticipated Health registration permit income raised to date which is expected to come in line with budget over the coming months (City Futures \$496,000).
 - Contributions monetary mainly due to unbudgeted income received for the Status Resolution Support Services program and Healthy Children and Young People grant program (Community Strengthening \$130,000) and higher public open space contributions which are transferred to reserves (City Futures \$73,000).
- **Operating expenditure** (\$4.29 million favourable)
 - Employee costs lower than anticipated due to vacant positions and delay in recruitment (\$4.65 million). Approximately half of this variance (\$2.09 million) relates to grant funded programs which require an acquittal (mainly in Community Strengthening).
 - Materials and services (\$1.78 million favourable) due to delay in receipt of waste management invoices combined with lower contract costs and professional expenses to date (City Futures \$1.49 million).

Partly offset by:

- Prior year capital expenditure unable to be capitalised (\$2.21 million unfavourable). This is due to works in progress (prior year capital expenditure) that is not capital in nature, does not meet the capitalisation threshold or relates to non-Council owned assets (Non-Directorate). This is an accounting entry that does not impact on Council's cash position. It is not included in the budget as it is difficult to predict.

Capital Result

10. Capital expenditure for the first six months (\$22.38 million) is \$6.39 million favourable to budget. The more significant variances relate to the following projects - Ross Reserves Athletic Track (\$1.17 million), Perry Road (\$1.05 million), Building Renewal Program (\$556,000) and Dandenong Wellbeing Centre (\$408,000).
11. There are also \$24.07 million in commitments (open purchase orders) at 31 December.

Community and Stakeholder Consultation

12. The Chief Executive Officer, Directors, and staff responsible for reporting were consulted.
13. Council's Finance Department has prepared the financial statements and all other attachments with feedback from Business Unit Managers.

Links to the Community Vision and Council Plan

14. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
- Safe and peaceful community.
 - Education, training, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities.
 - Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.
 - Sustainable environment.
 - Mind, body and spirit.
 - Art and culture.



15. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2021-25:

- A socially connected, safe and healthy city.
- A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts.
- A city of accessible, vibrant centres and neighbourhoods.
- A green city committed to a sustainable future.
- A city that supports entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcomes.
- A Council that demonstrates leadership and a commitment to investing in the community.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

16. This report has considered Council's legislative and policy obligations (where applicable) as outlined in the Report Considerations section detailed in the front of this Agenda. The applicable obligations considered and applied are:

- The Overarching Governance Principles of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
- The *Gender Equality Act 2020*.
- *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities 2006*.
- Climate Change and Sustainability.
- Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.

Conclusion

17. Greater Dandenong City Council provides a performance report against organisational objectives and its financial position on a quarterly basis. The reporting procedures and systems in place provide Councillors and the community with the opportunity to monitor progress against Council Plan indicators. This ensures that all resources are managed effectively and accountably. Council will be kept informed of the financial position on a quarterly basis, as is the current practice.

Recommendation

That Council notes the progress against the performance targets outlined in the Council Plan 2021-25 for the period 1 October - 31 December 2023 and the Financial Report for the period 1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023.

MINUTE No.986

Moved by: Cr Sophie Tan

Seconded by: Cr Loi Truong

That Council notes the progress against the performance targets outlined in the Council Plan 2021-25 for the period 1 October - 31 December 2023 and the Financial Report for the period 1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023.

CARRIED 7 / 0



Quarterly Performance Report

- Bangholme
- Dandenong
- Dandenong North
- Dandenong South
- Keysborough
- Keysborough South
- Lyndhurst
- Noble Park
- Noble Park North
- Springvale
- Springvale South



Q2 2023-24





Acknowledgement of Country

Greater Dandenong City Council acknowledges and pays respects to the Bunurong people of the Kulin Nation, as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters in and around Greater Dandenong.

We value and recognise local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures, heritage, and connection to land as a proud part of a shared identity for Greater Dandenong.

Greater Dandenong City Council pays respect to Elders past and present and recognises their importance in maintaining knowledge, traditions, and Culture in our Community.

Greater Dandenong City Council also respectfully acknowledges the Bunurong Land Council as the Registered Aboriginal Party responsible for managing the Aboriginal Cultural heritage of the land and waters where Greater Dandenong is situated.

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Dandenong Progress

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Message from the CEO



As we enter 2024 after a very busy first half of the financial year I am pleased to present the second quarter performance results for Greater Dandenong City Council.

Firstly I would like to congratulate our new Mayor, Cr Lana Formoso, and Deputy Mayor, Cr Richard Lim who were elected by their fellow Councillors in November. Myself and the Executive Team look forward to working with them and their fellow Councillors throughout 2024 to progress the key priorities of Council and deliver key projects and services to our community.

We are making great progress against our key actions in quarter two (October–December 2023) with 86% on track and 3% already completed. Large community events were held across the municipality, a number of capital works projects progressed and key leadership positions were recruited for Council's Executive Team.

Highlights this quarter include:

- The Container Deposit Scheme Victoria (CDS) was introduced marking a pivotal step in the ongoing efforts to overhaul Victoria's waste and recycling system. The scheme rewards people with a 10-cent refund for each eligible can, carton and bottle they return to one of the reverse vending machines located at Dandenong Market and Warwick Avenue, Springvale.
- Council received a commendation for our Business Permit Support Service, in the Improving Planning Processes Award as part of the Planning Institute of Australia Awards 2023.
- Over 500 people attended the annual Walk Against Family Violence to take a stand against violence towards women and children.
- The Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve upgrade received a Better Parks and Playgrounds grant for \$220,000.
- Council also received a Local Roads and Community Infrastructure grant for \$1,017,000.
- Light Up Our Streets was launched in December brightening up Noble Park's streets, parks, laneways and shops including a new public art installation of community lanterns in Copas Park.
- Council's Aged and Disability Services Review Community Consultation process, including the Deliberative Panel, received 1,341 responses from stakeholders.

- A public consultation was undertaken for the Webster Street Dandenong Level Crossing Removal and Council prepared a comprehensive submission to maximise the opportunities the road re-alignment offers to the Dandenong Activity Centre.
- Additional community consultations were conducted across the municipality by Council and external agencies including the Budget 2024-25, Shape Springvale, and an Environmental Protection Agency Community Information Session in Keysborough on 16 December.

As we enter 2024 we will continue to focus on Council's financial sustainability and ensure we are fiscally responsible in our decisions regarding capital improvements and ongoing asset renewal. As we enter an election year for Local Government, Council will also be focussed on engaging with our community on the strategic direction for 2025-29 and preparing for the development of a new Council Plan.

As always, I welcome any feedback and ideas for how we can improve the information we provide. If you have any suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact me at council@cgd.vic.gov.au or on 8571 1000.

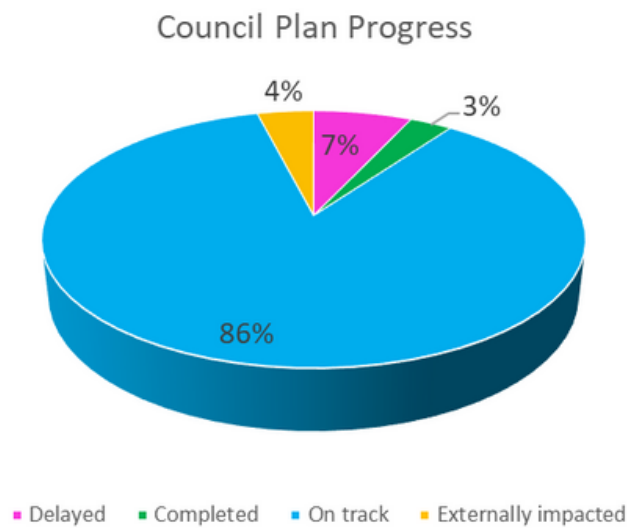
CEO, Jacqui Weatherill



Performance Summary

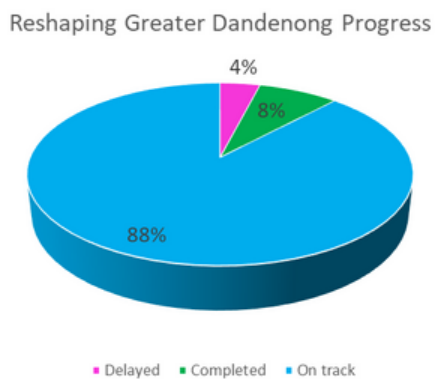
Council Plan Progress

The Annual Plan 2023–24 outlines Council's key activities to deliver on the Council Plan 2021–25. In Q2 86% of the actions are on track and 3% are complete. A small number of actions continue to be affected by external factors such as government reforms and planning decisions.



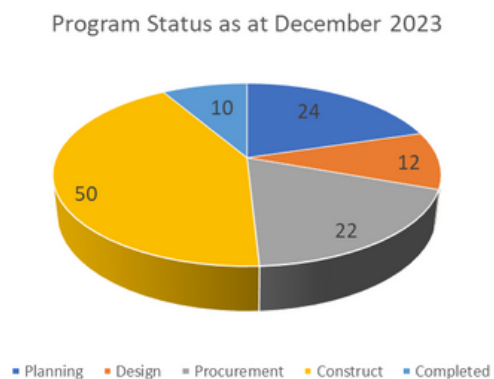
Reshaping Greater Dandenong

Council is progressing well against the actions outlined in the CEO's 100 Day Report – Reshaping Greater Dandenong.



Capital Works Program

Over 69 per cent of our capital works projects are in the procurement or construction phases or are completed as at the end of this quarter. The current process will be reviewed once a Project Management Office has been established.



Highlights



Strategic Objective 1: A socially connected, safe and healthy city

- 1,341 people participated in the Aged and Disability Services Review community engagement process. A multi-faceted approach was taken using surveys, pop-up sessions, forums, and interviews. A Deliberative Panel was also conducted with 42 community members to consider the consultation findings and provide feedback to Council to assist in future decisions on its role in Aged and Disability Services.
- The Clean Streets program, focused on illegal footpath trading, busking and littering, was a great success and has seen an improvement in the general amenity of the area.
- Maternal and Child Health commenced key child development stage visits for 3 and a half year olds including offering a Saturday service to accommodate working parents.
- The official opening of the Ross Reserve sports pavilion and synthetic soccer field was attended by the Mayor and Councillors.



Strategic Objective 2: A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts

- Major events were held including Carols which attracted 2,000 visitors and the New Years Eve Fireworks which saw 18,000 attendees.
- The Little Library at Menzies Avenue, Dandenong North was opened to provide residents convenient access to return and collect library items. 164 loans were made over the two month period of its opening.
- Year One Action Plans have been completed for the Springvale Community Hub, Arts and Cultural Heritage Strategy and Library Strategy.
- Drum Theatre had over 19,000 visits across all programs and performances.
- 184,581 visits were made to Greater Dandenong Libraries, a 12% increase on Q2 last year.
- The Anti-Racism Support Network Steering Committee Terms of Reference were signed by Greater Dandenong, Casey and Cardinia Councils.

Highlights



Strategic Objective 3: A city of accessible, vibrant centres and neighbourhoods

- \$175,000 of grant funding has been obtained from the IP43 Safe System Pedestrian Infrastructure Program for detailed design and improvements for pedestrian crossings around Dandenong Market and along Cleeland Street.
- The Light Up our Streets program was launched in Noble Park in December brightening up the streets and laneways.
- Council installed three “urban pods” at the corner of Lonsdale and Clow streets in central Dandenong designed to provide canopy shelter in a picnic bench setting.
- Traffic calming treatments were installed on Sunnyvale Crescent and Templewood Crescent and Corrigan Road/Harold Road traffic signals were installed as part of the Federal Blackspot Program.



Strategic Objective 4: A green city committed to a sustainable future

- An EPA led community engagement session was held for residents as part of the development of an Air and Water Quality Taskforce.
- The Our Bright Green Future electric van was used to educate the community on climate change and sustainability at a number of Council events.
- Community consultation was undertaken on the playground concept plans for Pitman Reserve, George T Andrews Reserve and Barry Powell Reserve. Park concept plan consultations have also been completed for Madison Reserve, Bakers Reserve, Browns Reserve, 218 Railway Parade and 86-88 Clow Street.
- A subsidised cat desexing program is complete with 90 additional cats having been de-sexed, microchipped and registered under the program. Round two of the program is expected to roll out in March.

Highlights



Strategic Objective 5: A city that supports entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcomes

- 1,094 contacts were made across youth programs and initiatives that promote youth voice, build leadership capability and skills that enhance employment.
- The Ignite program was run in November and provided 18 participants with essential training, tools, mentorship, and resources to elevate their business ventures. Throughout the program participants engaged in comprehensive modules covering planning, strategy formulation, marketing, compliance, and fostering innovation within their enterprises.
- A Women in Business showcase event was held in November with Dr Kim Hazendonk presenting on how neuroscience can increase confidence and work performance.
- Drum Theatre hosted the GSEM Jobs and Skills Plan Launch on 17 November.



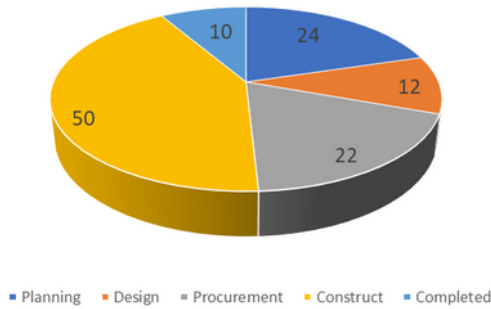
Strategic Objective 6: A Council that demonstrates leadership and a commitment to investing in the community

- Council elected its new Mayor Cr Lana Formoso and Deputy Mayor Cr Richard Lim.
- Four Citizenship ceremonies were held with 864 recipients.
- Research was undertaken to better understand how our community likes Council to communicate in particular in relation to the Greater Dandenong Council News. 85% of respondents indicated they still prefer to receive the magazine via post.
- New members of Council's Executive Team were appointed and are due to commence in January and February.
- Council commenced planning for the development of its new Council Plan 2025-29 and upcoming community engagement activities to be delivered.
- Council adopted a new, consolidated Community Grants program to simplify funding to community organisations, groups and individuals.

Capital Works Summary

Project Updates

Program Status as at December 2023



- Keysborough South Community Hub – earthworks and in-ground works are in progress. Council is awaiting a stage 2 building permit to be issued but this is not expected to delay the project.
- Dandenong New Art – A process is underway to appoint a builder to reconstruct in-ground services.
- Perry Road – Construction and Widening from Greens Road to Pacific Drive – Works have commenced on site. Trees have been removed and footpath construction is underway.



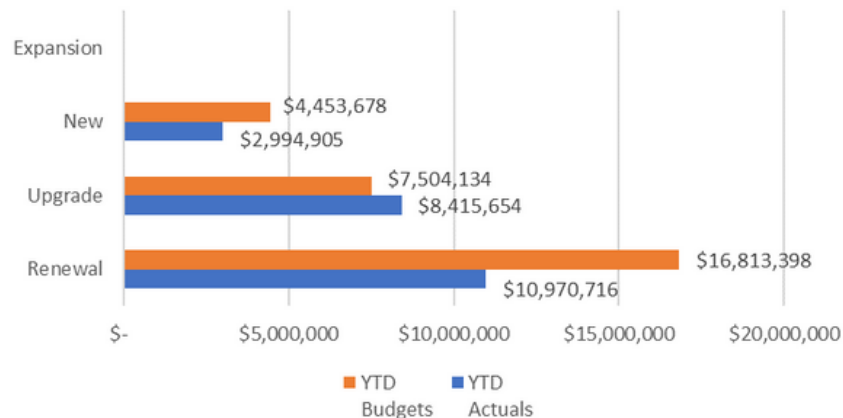
Dandenong New Art



Keysborough Community Hub

Expenditure

Capital Expenditure vs Budget (YTD)

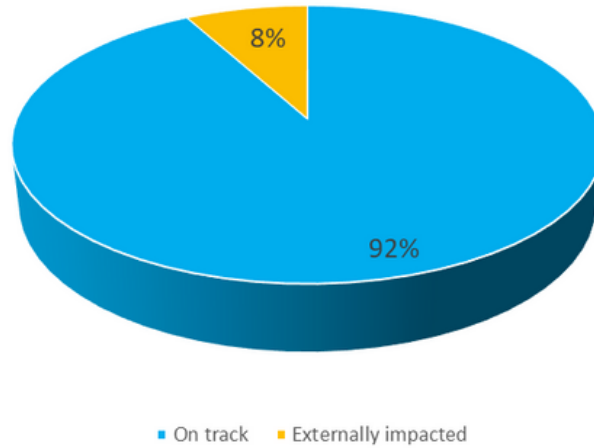


The capital program has experienced underspend due to project delays including required permits and third party approvals. Efforts will be made to progress projects as soon as practicable.





Part A:






Annual Plan Progress





Strategic Objective 1: A socially connected, safe and healthy city










Action	Comment	Progress
Implement the Year Four actions of the 'Make Your Move' Greater Dandenong Physical Activity Strategy 2020-30 to improve health outcomes for our diverse and multicultural community	14 of 17 actions have commenced. Two actions are not yet due to start and one is on hold due to external factors. A range of community programs and activities were delivered with key stakeholders including the completion of pavilion redevelopments at Ross Reserve and Thomas Carroll Reserve; opening of the 'Blue Soccer Pitch' on George Street, Dandenong; an enhanced focus on gender equity through the updated Sports Allocation Policy; and a Black Rhino's UBUNTU basketball event.	
Partner with Melbourne City Football Club and City in the Community to develop and deliver aligned programs that focus on community outreach, engagement, participation and business networking.	The Memorandum of Understanding has been finalised and signed by Melbourne City's CEO and is now awaiting sign off by Council. The agreement will commence in early 2024.	
Commence implementation of the Climate Change Community Engagement and Mobilisation Plan (CEMP)	The CEMP has been drafted and is currently undergoing internal review prior to presentation to Council in early 2024. Implementation will commence in mid 2024.	
Increase and promote meaningful volunteering opportunities within Council and recruit, support and recognise Council volunteers	Nine new volunteers were recruited. A volunteer appreciation event was held in December with 70 volunteers attending. One of Council's long serving volunteers received the Julian Hill MP Federal Member for Bruce Volunteer Recognition Award.	


Action	Comment	Progress
Work with strategic partners and key stakeholders including the Department of Health, Monash Health and the South East Public Health Unit to address Victorian and local health priorities	Planning is underway to leverage partnerships in the development of the new Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan. Council joined the SEPHU Population Health Catchment Plan Advisory Committee and participated in Regional Expert Advisory Groups for priority action areas including reducing vaping, tobacco use and related harms; and falls prevention.	
Implement the agreed key recommendations from the Future Directions for Council's Community Transport Program Project	A record number of day trips, outings, education sessions and luncheons were provided as part of Seniors Festival 2023. Feedback from the initial loop trials has been analysed with a number of new loop options to be trialled in Q3. Bus drivers have been recruited as part of the increased transport offerings for older people and people with a disability.	
Undertake community consultation and development of an Options Paper that determines the future role of Council in the provision of home support services	A total of 1,341 participants (staff, clients, service providers, and community) provided Council with feedback via interviews, focus groups, pop-ups, and surveys. 42 people participated in the Aged and Disability Services Deliberative Panel who met to consider the consultation findings and analysis from the technical consultant on an Options Paper. Councillors received a briefing of the high level outcomes of the consultation process and panel and further briefings are planned for January.	
Support and encourage older residents to understand the importance of developing and maintaining social connection through support to seniors clubs and groups and increasing the range and number of social activities provided by Council.	Seniors Festival returned to in-person activities with an afternoon dance, several social and informative activities, and the inaugural celebration of local centenarians. The "Social Connections in Older People" survey, in conjunction with feedback from the Aged and Disability Services Review, was used to develop a program of activities aimed at strengthening the social connections of older people. Day trips have been very popular and the bimonthly Living Well newsletter, promoting opportunities for connection, is now available in electronic and printed formats to cater to differing needs.	

Action	Comment	Progress
Actively collaborate with the Orange Door and Southern Area Family Partnership to support vulnerable families to address/prevent family violence	Family Services has received increased funding to effectively deal with demand management of vulnerable family referrals. Referrals continue to come through the Orange Door and Family Support meet weekly with them as well as participating in monthly governance meetings for family violence and six-weekly meetings for Family Alliance.	
Implement the Youth and Family Services Strategy Year Three action plan	Youth and Family Services are on track for all strategic actions of year three under the priority pillars Lead and Advocate, Engaged and Valued, Learn and Work, Health and Wellbeing and Safe and Inclusive.	
Implement Year Three of the Children's Plan	The Year Three Action Plan is being implemented.	
Provide information and support to local residents with a disability and their families to successfully find the necessary supports to assist them to actively participate in community life including employment opportunities, how to access the NDIS and support for carers.	Utilising additional short-term HACC PYP funding Council is working with all potentially eligible HACC PYP clients to navigate and support their access to the NDIS. Council is also participating in several local disability networks focused on increasing access to supports and employment. Council has become a member of the Sunflower program which supports people with a hidden disability to access Council programs and services.	
Deliver preventative health activities to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families through the New Directions project	The New Directions Project has delivered a large number of preventative health activities to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families including the Koorie Maternity Service Early Parenting Yarning Group (12 sessions), Kirrup Playtime (12 sessions), Safe Space for Mum and Bub and Clow Street Yarning Group (65 Mums and carers participating), Regional Aboriginal Maternal and Child Health liaison nurse visits (30 Yarning Groups attended).	

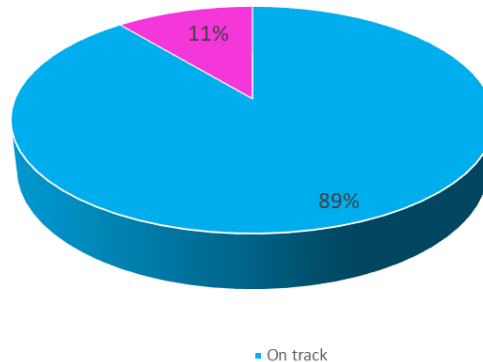
Action	Comment	Progress
Implement the VicHealth Local Government Partnership health promotion modules, incorporating the Vic Kids Eat Well and Healthy Kids Advisor initiatives	The VicHealth Local Government Partnership is in its third year of operation with multiple health promotion modules continuing to be delivered including: the newly formed local anti-racism network, support of the Connecting to Country program for young local First Nations people, delivery of the local 'Get Active Get Moving' campaign to support active travel among children, delivery of a local This Girl Can campaign each year, and work on the partnership agreement with Monash Health and South East Leisure (SEL). Over 25 schools have signed up to the 'Vic Kids Eat Well' program to support healthier food choices for children and young people.	
Support the mental and physical health of children, young people and their families through preventative health initiatives and responsive interventions	Family Services engaged 46 families and 159 children, providing a total of 4,242 contact hours of support. 146 intake enquiries were responded to, providing information and referral to young people, families and professionals. Individual support was provided to young people via phone check-ins and transition support was provided for primary school students transitioning to secondary.	
Work with the Alliance for Gambling Reform to implement initiatives that reduce the level of gambling harm	Data concerning Electronic Gambling Machine losses and impacts, and losses to other forms of legal gambling has been shared with the Alliance for Gambling Reform and local government partners. Submissions supporting mandatory pre-commitment have been submitted to a State Parliamentary Inquiry and a letter sent to Sport and Recreation Victoria urging action on sports gambling. Council initiated a roundtable meeting of key gambling stakeholders including the Alliance, Gambling Commission and Gambler's Help to build links and progress gambling reform.	
Promote gender equity and support and implement initiatives to address and prevent family violence with the municipality.	Information about family violence prevention and response is displayed on Council screens and brochures available at public events. Assistance has been provided to community agencies such as Women's Health in the South East to conduct regional training and professional development events.	




Action	Comment	Progress
Proactively deliver and support initiatives that raise young people's awareness of harmful alcohol, vape/tobacco and other drugs use	Social media campaigns were run regarding the re-use of alcohol, drugs and vaping.	
Coordinate tobacco control activities to meet service and funding requirements in accordance with the Municipal Association of Victoria service agreement	46 education visits were conducted last year including 19 retail education visits and 27 visits to eating and drinking establishments. Seven Hospital inspections were conducted with two incidents reported to security teams where non-compliance was identified. Two tobacco complaints were received resulting in two infringement notices.	
Work with key stakeholders to deliver a 'Functional Zero' model of homelessness in Greater Dandenong	Council continues to partner with Launch Housing to deliver the Dandenong Zero Rough Sleeper program. Regular Service Coordination, Hotspots and Improvement meetings are conducted with specific service providers who offer case management and other supports. 17 people from the By Name List of those experiencing rough sleeping have been moved into long-term social and affordable housing. Other activities included a focus group discussion and survey on people's perception of social housing (in partnership with regional Councils), and a combined submission on behalf of Dandenong Zero and other Functional Zero projects to address the Federal Government's National Housing and Homelessness Plan Issues Paper.	




Action	Comment	Progress
Increase access and availability of social housing stock in the city by activation of Council and community assets for delivery of social housing, and advocate for increased State and Federal Government provision	Increased supply of emergency, crisis and transitional housing within the municipality continues to be affected by external factors such as high rental demand, low supply of available rentals and increased demand for homelessness services. A Building Permit has been approved for a Council owned site to construct four single level units to be managed by homelessness service provider WAYSS to provide housing support for women and families affected by family violence.	
Complete Keysborough South Community Hub Strategy and develop an Action Plan	The Keysborough South Community Hub Strategy has been developed and Council are currently working towards an engagement plan. Consultation is anticipated to be undertaken in early 2024 once construction of the new Hub is visibly underway.	
Implement the Springvale Community Hub Action Plan	Activities included the implementation of a soft plastics recycling collection at the Hub, holiday activities both indoor and outdoor, and working with Foodbank to support vulnerable families to access food. The annual Christmas Giving Tree was in place and over 1,160 gifts and food items were donated to local families in partnership with Friends of Refugees and Cornerstone.	
Improve the lives of those experiencing poverty in our community through implementation of Council's Anti-Poverty Strategy	200 people attended the 'Help Yourself' event during Anti-Poverty week which highlighted useful tips and tricks community members could use to save money. The 'Bring Your Bills' day hosted by the Salvation Army and supported by Council was held in the same week as the delivery of Foodbank's special backpacks for the homeless that were provided to consortium partners for distribution. Council and consortium partners will focus on advocacy in 2024 and the need for additional support from State and Federal Governments.	




Action	Comment	Progress
<p>Create safer spaces and improve actual and perceived levels of community safety within the municipality</p>	<p>Funding for two mobile CCTV trailers for dedicated Victoria Police use was approved by Council. The Community Safety Advisory Committee met in November and members were advised of the creation of a new dedicated Community Safety unit at Council. Dandenong Plaza hosted Coffee with a Cop and Councillor on 5 December.</p>	

Strategic Objective 2: A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts

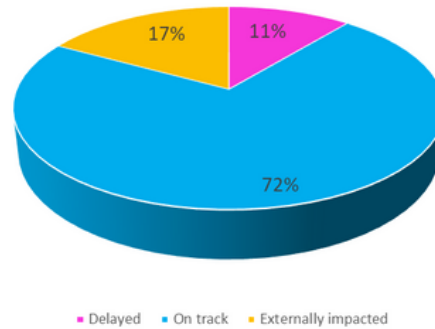


Action	Comment	Progress
Deliver a range of major festivals, events and program across the City which celebrate the diversity of cultures within our community.	Two major festivals, events and programs were conducted across the city including Greater Dandenong Carols (2,000 people), and New Year's Eve Fireworks (18,000 people).	
Support appropriate event applications from community/corporate event organisers in planning and delivering festivals and events across the municipality	Event applications for 35 community events and 15 council events were supported. This includes 36 completed events and 14 events that were cancelled, postponed or changed during the event permit process.	
Support and promote LGBTQIA+, anti-racism and gender equitable initiatives throughout the community.	Midsumma Pride March promotional material has been published and an offer to help facilitate transport made to residents wishing to attend. The Anti-Racism Support Network Steering Committee Terms of Reference were signed by Greater Dandenong, Casey and Cardinia Councils. Invitations to the 25 January meeting of the committee will be extended to representatives of the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing.	






Action	Comment	Progress
Support and advocate for the rights of people seeking asylum and refugees as part of the 'Back Your Neighbour' campaign	<p>The Mayoral Taskforce continues a recruitment campaign for new members across Australia and Executive Council members have approved an updated Back Your Neighbour Advocacy Campaign Strategy and Communications Plan. The Taskforce's priority objectives have been updated and a letter template created for members to write to their local Member of Parliament.</p>	
Promote reconciliation by implementing Council's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)	<p>Activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Collaboration with Nairn Marr Djambana including two Deadly Dingo and Living Culture intergenerational environmental engagement sessions -Lunchbox sessions with Aunty Helen Bhads re the Voice Forum -Greater Dandenong Multicultural Community for the Voice Forum -Eyes on Boorais partnership re Aboriginal children out of home care -Bunurong Land Council have been added to the Rapid Global procurement portal -Sponsorship of Dardimunwurro Connecting to Country initiative - 'Native Footsteps - Tracing Indigenous Footsteps' -Acknowledgement lanyards created and distributed to over 500 staff and meeting room acknowledgement cards in place for all Council meeting spaces. 	
Progress the Dandenong New Art Gallery and associated PEP redevelopment	<p>Works are progressing on the gallery with a tender awarded to complete the underground services. Market sounding is being undertaken to determine interest for delivering the remainder of the works via alternative management arrangements.</p> <p>The initial co-design process concept design stage was successfully completed for the 'Creative Industry Space' redevelopment project for the former Precinct Energy Plant (located on the corner of Halpin Way and Moysey Lane, Dandenong).</p>	






Action	Comment	Progress
Implement the Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy 2022-26	<p>Key highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -20.6% social media reach for Arts in Greater Dandenong - 83 attendees for Heritage Hill tours and public programs. - 10 arts events, workshops, interviews and webinar opportunities delivered online and in person via Walker St Gallery. 9,558 visits were made across programs, hire activities and performances. - 4 creative RISE programs, 11 community exhibitions and a culturally significant public art piece, 'Hanging by a Thread' were hosted. - Two exhibitions were delivered in partnership with historical societies and 453 visits were made to Heritage Hill including a sold out program and eight tours. -Council's online heritage collection page views totaled 1,612. -Drum Theatre delivered 64 events and activities including 35 performances. Visitation was 19,509. 	
Complete a review of the existing sites covered by the Heritage Overlay within the Planning Scheme	<p>The review of the Heritage Overlay commenced in May 2023. A report and recommendation from the Heritage consultant has recently been received by officers. A report on the outcomes and recommendations will be presented to the Executive Team in February.</p>	
Implement the Greater Dandenong Libraries Strategy 2022-26	<p>99,238 people attended Springvale Library and 85,383 visited Dandenong. The total number of visitors was 184,581, a 12% increase on Q2 last year. The "Little Library" locker at Menzies Avenue in Dandenong North was opened providing greater library access across the municipality with 164 loans in two months. A total of 395 programs with 5,927 attendees were delivered.</p>	




Strategic Objective 3: A city of accessible, vibrant centres and neighbourhoods




Action	Comment	Progress
Conduct a comprehensive review of the Dandenong Visitor Attraction Action Plan (DVAP) and implement actions identified that will increase the number of visitors to the city in support of local businesses and the economy, raise awareness of the City as a destination, and promote the unique features and attractions to potential visitors.	The DVAP Working Group has been formed and will identify a number of actions to deliver on visitation aspirations.	
Deliver the Greater Dandenong Regional Food Strategy through the successful implementation of the 12 month action plan for 2023-24	114 businesses were assisted with various issues and numerous business visits were undertaken. 42 businesses have been contacted to showcase how Council can support businesses with any issues they might have and five site visits made. A collaboration with Food Innovation Australia has been finalised to deliver a workshop for the local business community and across the South East titled Middle East Trade Readiness.	
Deliver the Tourism Strategy through the successful implementation of the 12 month action plan for 2023-24	Work has begun to update the Dandenong Visitor Attraction Plan and connections have been made with the Dandenong Market to address collaborative projects in the next quarter.	

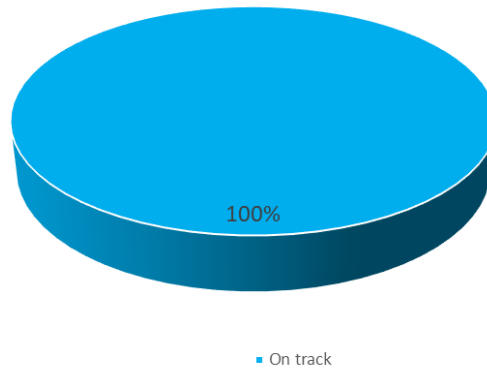
Action	Comment	Progress
Commence construction of a new aquatic and wellbeing centre to replace Dandenong Oasis at Mills Reserve subject to Council funding approval.	The detailed design process is now complete. Following Council endorsement the procurement of the principal construction contract will commence and construction is expected to start in late 2024.	
Continue to plan for the development of a new table tennis centre in Greater Dandenong in partnership with key stakeholders.	A feasibility study has been completed and a CIP bid has been submitted to undertake concept designs in 2024-25.	
Advocate to the State Government to create a State and Local Government Task Force to address inconsistencies in the standards of social housing providers	Discussions with Consumer Affairs Victoria and the Department of Housing has highlighted their increased focus on compliance of rooming house operators licensing and the minimum standards under the Residential Tenancies (Rooming House Standards) Regulations 2023. The focus of this action will now move to a review of the many different and confusing legislative requirements for operating and regulating rooming houses.	
Progress the Environmentally Sustainable Design 2.0 Planning Scheme Amendment	The Environmentally Sustainable Design 2.0 Planning Scheme Amendment was submitted to the Minister for Planning for authorisation in July 2022. The Minister for Planning has advised that the Planning Scheme Amendment remains under active consideration although further time will be required prior to a decision. In late November it was confirmed with the DTP that the Planning Scheme Amendment remains under active consideration by the Minister.	
Develop a Place Activation Plan to increase the attractiveness and vibrancy of Greater Dandenong's activity centres	Two workshops and a site visit have been conducted for the selected areas of focus. The Activation Plan will centre around the Settler's Square Precinct, Palm Plaza and Harmony Square.	



Action	Comment	Progress
Progress the Sandown Redevelopment Planning Scheme Amendment	The Sandown Redevelopment Planning Scheme Amendment continues to await authorisation from the Minister for Planning. The amendment was submitted to the Minister for authorisation on 9 September 2022. DTP requested further information regarding the proposed amendment which has been provided. Council is now awaiting a decision.	
Advocate for public transport initiatives identified in Council's Greater Dandenong Public Transport Advocacy Statement	Council continues to advocate on priorities identified in the Advocacy Statement, primarily through regional groups and support for community initiatives. Council's messaging is consistent with the most recent recommendations in Infrastructure Victoria's 'Fast, frequent, fair' research report on improvements to the bus network.	
Advocate for, plan and deliver improved active transport networks and initiatives	Planning for the delivery of the Active Transport Infrastructure program continues. \$175,000 of grant funding has been obtained from the IP43 Safe System Pedestrian Infrastructure Program for detailed design and improvements for pedestrian crossings around Dandenong Market and along Cleeland Street.	
Roll-out a high priority local road program within Dandenong South, including the Dandenong South Industrial Area Extension Structure Plan's Transport Network	The Abbots Road duplication project including signals at Taylors Road are complete. Work continues with developers to roll out the road network and this is anticipated to continue for several years.	
Review the Municipal Early Years Infrastructure Plan to continue the delivery of three and four-year-old kindergarten at 15 hours working to 30 hours by 2030	A meeting with the Victorian School Building Authority was held to discuss options for two new Kindergarten on School Sites projects to help meet the infrastructure needs of the municipality to roll out 30 hours of PrePrep.	




Action	Comment	Progress
Advocate for, and deliver, transport safety improvements and initiatives to improve road safety awareness and to mitigate road safety risks	Advocacy on key transport safety projects, including the Stud Rd / McFees Rd intersection, Heatherton Rd / Douglas St roundabout and general anti-social driving issues (i.e. Hooning) continued via various forums. Works to install traffic calming treatments on Sunnyvale Crescent and Templewood Crescent were undertaken. Corrigan Road/Harold Road traffic signals were installed as part of the Federal Blackspot Program. A letter was sent to the Minister regarding a tragic fatality on Stud Road.	
Implement the Springvale Revitalisation Action Plan to improve the physical and social environment to enhance the quality of life for residents, workers and visitors, encourage economic development and investment, and foster a sense of community and social cohesion in the Springvale activity centre	<p>Endorsement of the SRAP is scheduled for March 2024. Community consultation occurred in October/November and included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Feedback from Phase 1 consultation presented to stakeholders and community members for consideration -An increase in the awareness, knowledge and understanding of the SRAP and Placemaking -Collation of the communities' input and metrics in relation to the SRAP objectives to facilitate a community led co-design of the Placemaking objectives and priorities. <p>The feedback from this process is being integrated in to the final version of the SRAP.</p>	
Develop and implement the Noble Park Revitalisation program to enhance the quality of life for residents, workers and visitors by improving their physical and social environment, encouraging investment and economic development, and fostering a sense of community and social cohesion within the Noble Park activity centre	<p>Two of the four project bids were successful in securing funding with the other two projects being revisited for potential support in Q3. Formal funding applications and project plans have been submitted. Project success so far includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Muderra Way Railbridge Pillars: First Nations Mural – project advocacy and delivery with DJSIR and BLCAC -Place Activation Program: A \$50,000 funding pool for innovative, community-led place activation at Frank Street open space and Civic Space, Noble Park. 	






Action	Comment	Progress
Facilitate Development Victoria/Capital Alliance investment project in the Revitalising Central Dandenong Foster Street precinct	The next steps of the project are dependent on the outcome of the master plan submission to DTP which is currently pending.	





Strategic Objective 4: A green city committed to a sustainable future






Action	Comment	Progress
Finalise review and update the Waste and Litter Strategy	A revised draft strategy, incorporating recent changes in the waste and recycling sector, is due to be finalised in Q3 with a view to formal adoption by Q4.	
Implement the Open Space Strategy 2020-30	Community consultation is complete on the playground concept plans for Pitman Reserve, George T Andrews Reserve and Barry Powell Reserve. Park concept plan consultations have also been completed for Madison Reserve, Bakers Reserve, Browns Reserve, 218 Railway Parade and 86-88 Clow Street. Summary reports have been prepared for each project and the implementation of works has progressed. The Springvale Reserve Master Plan was adopted at the 23 October Council meeting and the Greaves Reserve Master Plan was adopted on 13 November.	

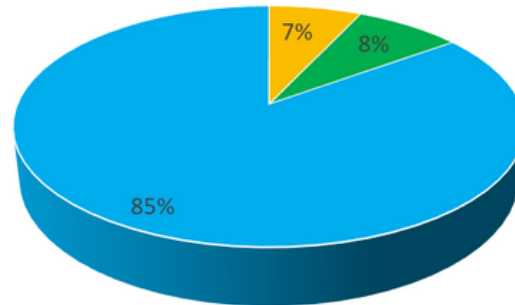
Action	Comment	Progress
Undertake tree canopy coverage audit	The tree canopy coverage audit project has commenced and an assessment of canopy coverage consistent with the methodology used in previous audits undertaken. A draft report was reviewed in November and further detail has been requested of the consultants working on the project.	
Implement the Urban Forest Strategy 2021-28 and Green Wedge Management Plan	The raising of community awareness on the importance of tree canopy is led by a priority objective for the design and upgrade of the open space projects that have capital improvement funding in 2023-24 to increase the number of trees that will be planted in Council reserves. The implementation of the Green Wedge Management Plan is supported by the planning for equestrian trails and supporting DEECA's proposed Patterson River Master Plan which envisages the naturalisation of Patterson River and lower reaches of the Dandenong Creek inclusive of connective paths.	
Implement the Tree Protection on Private Land Local Law and undertake a community education program	Certification of the Local Law is complete and the certificate tabled at the 11 December Council meeting to enable immediate gazettal and implementation. A community education program consisting of an online communication plan, flyers and community sessions is currently being implemented.	

Action	Comment	Progress
Implement the Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-26	Implementation for the delivery of the Biodiversity Action Plan is currently on track. The focus has been developing the 2024 revegetation program and securing State Government grant funding (\$220,000) for ecological and accessibility improvements at Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve.	
Implement the Cat Curfew in line with the Domestic Animal Management Act	A subsidised cat desexing program is complete with 90 additional cats having been de-sexed, microchipped and registered under the program. Round two of the program is expected to roll out in March. A Cat Curfew education plan has been initiated in preparation for the official enforcement period in April. An expanded Cat trapping program is to be launched in March. This has been delayed due to the global shortage of cat vaccines which should be resolved in January.	
Develop a strategic register of sites for potential open space acquisition	Research into methodologies and systems for the identification of potential open space acquisition sites has been undertaken. Findings from the research has identified potential digital processes to identify properties coming to the market on a weekly basis. A software product has been purchased to assist with the identification of strategic sites.	
Commence the review of the Playground Strategy 2013-23	The review of the Playground Strategy has commenced.	
Implement year six of the Greening Our City: Urban Tree Strategy 2018-28	Finalising street and park tree planting has been a high priority along with transitioning to watering and establishment maintenance.	

Action	Comment	Progress
Implement the Electric Vehicle Transition Plan	Implementation of the EV transition plan is well underway. All chargers at the Operations Centre and Thomas Street carpark are commissioned and operational. EV footpath sweepers have been trialled by the Cleansing team and several small plant items have been procured. Council's EV van is operational and being used at Council events by several teams.	
Work with partners and key stakeholders to support increased community awareness of climate change risks and their ability to respond	Council's commitment to increasing community awareness is a key priority. A workshop was held at the recent Children's Forum employing a 'Design Your Own Climate Change Superhero' activity to instil climate awareness in a fun and engaging manner.	
Support local business efforts to respond to their climate change risks by informing them of relevant State and Federal Government policies and programs	Informative resources are being sought for the Talking Business newsletter to embrace eco-friendly practices and develop a community of environmentally conscious businesses. By promoting awareness and understanding of sustainable business practices, the newsletter seeks to inspire positive change within the small business landscape.	
Deliver the Sustainability Festival	The Sustainability Festival is set to return to the Dandenong Market on Sunday 25 February. Individuals, community groups, clubs and schools are invited to host their own small-scale sustainability events and activities throughout Greater Dandenong between 1 and 29 February, expanding the Festival's reach and engagement. The 2024 theme, 'Urban Heat', will be explored in -depth to provide the community with valuable insights and actionable steps to enhance their personal resilience to climate change.	




Action	Comment	Progress
Implement the Climate Emergency Strategy, Sustainability Strategy and climate emergency declaration	A notable achievement this quarter is participation in the 'Business Renewables Buying Group'. This collaborative effort with approximately 30 other Councils aims to source a renewable electricity power purchasing agreement for small-medium enterprises in Greater Dandenong, contributing to their sustainability goals.	
Working with key internal and external partners provide our older residents and residents with a disability with information on the impacts of climate change and possible ways to mitigate these impacts	Heatwave information was sent to all Community Care clients providing suggestions on how to prepare for heatwaves, including information on how to minimise energy costs by planning ahead. As part of Council's contract with the Commonwealth Government to provide in home care to eligible older residents Council developed a Heatwave Plan for clients. This plan identifies the most vulnerable clients in regards to coping with a heatwave. All identified clients were contacted and offered further assistance where required. Identified clients will be contacted on hot days to monitor their health and safety.	
Advocate to the Environment Protection Agency to undertake regular air and water quality assessments to protect the health of our community	The EPA and Council held a community information session in December to discuss the differences between odour nuisance and poor air quality. Recent scientific air quality monitoring has also been conducted by the EPA and showed that there are no air quality impacts on the residential areas of the city. Further monitoring will take place over the next three months as well as within residential properties to inform the future of the formulation of a taskforce.	





Strategic Objective 5: A city that supports entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcomes







■ Externally impacted ■ Completed ■ On track

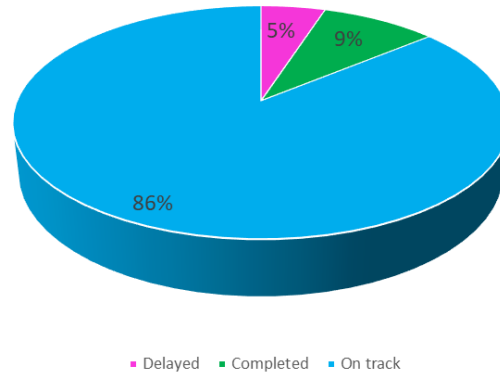
Action	Comment	Progress
Drive the ongoing implementation of the Local Economic and Employment Development Strategy	Implementation of the Local Economic and Employment Strategy continues with a focus on business education and providing support to businesses. Pre-work on the refreshed strategy has commenced. A brief economic profile has been prepared and sent out for expressions of interest as the first stage of the strategy development.	
Manage, support and deliver activities that strengthen the capability and capacity and jobseekers in our community facing multiple barriers to employment.	The Greater Dandenong Regional Employment Taskforce incorporates oversight and governance of the GameChange project. This project has occupied the majority of the Taskforce' focus this quarter and will continue over the coming months. Members continue to share their intelligence as to what is happening on the ground which enables Council to identify any gaps in services that may need to be addressed. Members of the taskforce are also involved in the GSEM Jobs and Skills committee to enhance the collaboration between the organisations. GSEM is planning a major employment event in 2024.	

Action	Comment	Progress
Deliver youth programs and initiatives that promote youth voice, build leadership capability and skills that enhance employment	<p>The following programs, initiatives and activities were delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young Leaders program • FReeZA events committee • Disability Inclusion project • Proud to Be – a program to combat discrimination and homophobia and raise awareness of culturally diverse LGBTIQ+ young people • Holiday Activities Committee • Lighthouse Christian College Careers Expo • Noble Park English Language School service literary workshop • Wired interactive performance for secondary school students around cyber bullying and mental health strategies • Year 10 Careers Breakfast (1,094 contacts) 	
Maintain support, collaboration and board participation of SEMMA	Council continues to maintain support of and collaboration with SEMMA and have maintained board participation and attendance at meetings and events.	
Deliver a range of networks, common interest groups and targeted activities that have relevance and impact for local manufacturers, including exposure to global issues and international opportunities	Site visits including Rinnai and Bosch Australia were held. Network sessions covered a variety of topics including market sentiment, quality clinic, lessons learned from automation projects, AI versus AI and working with universities.	





Action	Comment	Progress
Deliver key events that showcase women in business including International Women's Day and facilitate the SEBN Women in Business Network	Network meetings continue and a Women in Business showcase event was held in November with Dr Kim Hazendonk presenting on how neuroscience can increase confidence and work performance.	
Review the Family Day Care Business and Marketing Plans to maintain market share and community expectation	The Business and Marketing Plan is currently under review. Professional development training was completed for educators on sleep and settling for infants in partnership with Council's Maternal and Child Health team. A professional development calendar has been developed for 2024 with a focus on streamlining processes and training to assist educators manage their time and business more effectively.	
Guide the 'collective impact' phase of CR #2: GameChange towards a community-led jobs and skills system, strengthening pathways to economic participation (SPEP)	To ensure the initiative remains relevant the Backbone team led structural changes across the priority action groups including the merging of three into one and the development of a communications toolkit to assist community members to promote their projects and GameChange work. The pop-up central employment project hub resulted in two visitors gaining employment and renewed interest in the hub from across the sector.	
Successfully deliver an annual Ignite Program for local entrepreneurs who have recently started their business or are looking to get a business idea off the ground	The program was run in November and provided 18 participants with essential training, tools, mentorship, and resources to elevate their business ventures. Throughout four weeks of workshops, participants engaged in comprehensive modules covering planning, strategy formulation, marketing, compliance, and fostering innovation within their enterprises. The program offered personalised support through mentoring and expert advice. A notable highlight in the Talking Business magazine was the success story from 'We Do Tennis', a business venture of a former participant, who through the program's support, guidance and resources was able to develop his project from ideation to activation and is now looking to grow interstate.	






Action	Comment	Progress
Deliver initiatives which provide opportunities for young people to gain skills and experience that enhance their employment opportunities, including Schools-Industry 'Lunch with the Winners' annual event with SELLEN	This event was held in Q1 and preparation for the next event in September has begun.	
Facilitate and deliver the fundraising event 'Take a Swing for Charity' Golf Day in collaboration with industry partners	Planning is well underway for the CGD-Industry Golf Day which will be held on 20 February at Kingston Heath Golf Course.	
Partner with SEMMA, the Chamber of Commerce, local business and industry to facilitate and inform the business community on the transition to a net zero economy.	SEBN continues to raise awareness to promote sustainability and move towards a circular economy. All networks address reducing waste within manufacturing environments. Given current legislation and the potential impact on the manufacturing community sustainability will be an even greater focus in 2024.	
Advocate for the establishment of a Revitalising Central Dandenong Taskforce/Board with representation from Government, agencies and other influential stakeholders, to identify, support, and deliver targeted renewal initiatives for improved economic and social outcomes	The current focus is centred on the Capital Alliance project for Sites 11-15 in Dandenong. Once the outcome of the Master Plan submission to the Department of Transport and Planning is known, strategic direction on next steps around advocacy can be developed.	


Strategic Objective 6: A Council that demonstrates leadership and a commitment to investing in the community







Action	Comment	Progress
Improve access to, from, and within major Activity Centres, including the management of parking, harnessing modern and smart technologies to build on existing capacity	Design for consolidated and improved parking wayfinding for Springvale is underway and expected to be delivered in early 2024. The roll-out of access to mobile phone/pedestrian data through Planwisely occurred and will inform utilisation statistics to determine needs and priorities.	
Conduct a comprehensive review of the 10-year Activity Centre Capital Improvement Program including evaluation of ongoing projects, identification of any changes in community needs or priorities, and ensure the program is aligned with the strategic goals and objectives of Council.	Three in-house workshops were held in November and December to review the 10 year pipeline of infrastructure projects for each activity centre. Consideration was given to activity drivers, public/private development and major Council projects. Funding constraints arising from expenditure on the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre are being managed by delaying infrastructure investment in activity centres. The workshop outcomes will be tabled with the working group.	
Encourage the voice of children and young people through the facilitation of the children's and youth forums and advisory groups to inform planning and policy development.	The annual Children's Forum was held on 25 October with 80+ primary school students in attendance. One Children's Advisory Group meeting was held in November with 44 students in attendance.	

Action	Comment	Progress
Enhance Council's customer interactions through the development of a Customer Experience (CX) Strategy	Door to door research by Metropolis research has been conducted and the report delivered in December. Initial discussions are underway about the future approach to CX.	
Undertake a review of Council's information technology systems to identify gaps in the organisation's digital capability	Stage two of the review is currently underway with Digital Frontier Partners actioning a scope of works to continue improving Council's digital capability and enhancing its cyber security.	
Review the Business Classification System to better meet Council's record keeping practices and responsibilities	The review of the Business Classification System (BCS) is progressing well and has been the focus of an internal working group. Feedback will be sought from departments on the proposed changes and will guide the final version of the BCS for endorsement.	
Completion of Council's annual approved Capital Works Program	Approximately 52% of the capital program has been committed to date. This includes completed works as well as those contracted and underway. Additionally, 40% of all projects are either completed or in construction.	






Action	Comment	Progress
Develop an investment attraction program to encourage investment within the Dandenong, Springvale and Noble Park activity centres	The Request for Quote (RFQ) for the development of an Economic and Place Profile was sent to qualified consultants in December with responses expected in January. The Brand Dandenong project brief and RFQ are undergoing a final review and are set to be distributed in mid-January.	
Pilot new wearable technology to prevent musculoskeletal disorders and injuries	The pilot was completed in 2023 and additional funding has been secured to expand the program in 2024.	
Introduce psychosocial programs to identify hazards to manual handling and psychological health	The OHS team is currently approaching providers of Psychosocial Risk and Education services to undertake programs in 2024. A project plan is currently being developed.	
Drive innovation through Council's Service Improvement Program	All innovation projects have been completed for 2023. Further training will be rolled out in 2024. Council is working with Swinburne Edge in the first half of 2024 on a 'future of flexible and hybrid work' project.	
Implement a Policy Development Program to ensure the currency of Council policies	The number of policies has been reduced by 25% since the Policy Register was introduced. Further work will continue on consolidation in 2024.	

Action	Comment	Progress
Maintain transparency of Councillor expenses as required under the Council Expenses, Support and Accountability Policy.	Councillor expenses are updated as soon as they are received and made publicly available via Council's website.	
Comply with the auditing and reporting requirements of the Gender Equality Act 2020 including the implementation of the Gender Equality Action Plan	The Gender Audit and People Matter survey have been analysed and the compulsory Commission for Gender Equality in the Public Sector reporting template is complete. A report has been tabled for noting at the 12 February Council meeting and then staff will be notified of the outcomes of both the audit and survey.	
Comply with the requirements of the Child Safe Standards	A revised Code of Conduct is expected to be sent to the Staff Consultative Committee Policy Sub-Committee in mid-January. Advocacy is underway to the State Government to introduce mandatory Working with Children checks for all individuals seeking to stand for election as Councillors in our communities. The Appropriate Workplace Behaviours policy will also be updated in early 2024.	
Meet budget revenue targets for all commercial properties.	Revenue actuals are still slightly under budget targets this quarter and are likely to remain so until the end of the financial year due to the timing of the receipt of revenue.	
Develop a Strategy Framework to streamline Council's planning and future focus	A review of existing documents has been undertaken to ensure alignment with the Community Vision principles. A number of consolidation options have been identified which will be further investigated in Q3.	
Review Council's Long Term Financial Plan	The Long Term Financial Plan figures have been reviewed and the document is now being prepared for presentation to Council at the Executive Leadership Workshop in February.	







Action	Comment	Progress
<p>With the community, strengthen engagement, build capacity and accessibility to Council's grants programs</p>	<p>Council's Community Support Grants Program (CSGP) 2023 Round 1 went through panel decision making in October and was finalised in November with Council endorsement. Of the 63 applications, 19 community development submissions and 8 arts, festivals and events were funded. 17 applications were submitted to the Community Response Grants Program. Council has administered the contracts and payments for awarded grants. The review of funding program guidelines and preparation for the opening of new funding rounds has commenced.</p> <p>The Community Grants Program Policy was finalised and endorsed on 11 December. A project brief has been developed to specifically address Neighbourhood Houses and Community Centre's Funding Proposal and North Dandenong Neighbourhood House Proposal.</p>	
<p>Implement a Revenue Optimisation Plan to enhance existing revenue streams and identify new options</p>	<p>An issues and options report has been completed and a Councillor Briefing Session has been scheduled for January.</p>	

Action	Comment	Progress
Coordinate and conduct four Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) meetings with key stakeholders and agencies	<p>The next meeting of the MEMPC is scheduled for 20 February. The Municipal Fire Management Planning Sub-Committee met on 15 December to discuss arrangements for the 2023-24 fire season.</p>	
Implement, monitor and review progress on mitigation strategies to risks identified via the Community Emergency Risk Assessment (CERA) – Heat/Health, Floods and Storms, and Pandemic	<p>The latest Community Emergency Risk Assessment (CERA) was completed on 22 August by members of the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMCP) and invited subject matter experts from local major hazard facilities and various Council departments. As a result sub plans of Council's Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) are being produced for Heatwaves, Storms, Floods, Pandemics and Fires. These sub plans are due to be approved by the Southern Metropolitan Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee in 2024.</p>	



Reshaping Greater Dandenong

Action	Comment	Progress
SUSTAINABILITY – We will deliver on our community vision in a financially sustainable manner		
1.1 Undertake a review of Council's 2 major projects (Dandenong Wellbeing Centre – DWC and Dandenong Community Hub – DCH) with a view of postponing one and to ensure Major Projects remain within budget parameters.	<p>The Dandenong Community Hub Project will undertake codesign workshops in Q3 to finalise the preferred concept design and undertake a further cost plan prior to advancing to detailed design and documentation.</p> <p>The Dandenong Wellbeing Centre's procurement documentation has been finalised and is currently awaiting a further/final review by Council prior to tenders being released.</p>	
1.2 Explore new revenue streams/optimize existing revenue streams to implement a Revenue Optimisation Plan.	An issues and options report has been completed and will be presented at a Councillor Briefing in January.	
1.3 Explore Private Public Sector Partnership (PPP) model for major projects e.g. Dandenong Community Hub (DCH)/Multicultural Hub.	Exploration of partnership opportunities will be advanced upon completion of a finalised concept.	
1.4 Explore Strategic Asset Sales.	Given the strategic nature of this issue asset sales will form part of Council's future planning discussions post election.	
1.5 Develop a Model of Service Review/Improvement.	A benchmark model for service improvement has been identified and reviewed. The scope of the model is to be refined and implemented in 2024.	




Reshaping Greater Dandenong

Action	Comment	Progress
CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE – Improve customer experience across all touchpoints		
2.1 Undertake a Review of Customer Experience to identify current situation and assess multicultural effectiveness,	Door to door research was undertaken in October and November by Metropolis Research and a report was delivered in December. This will be reviewed and the outcomes of the research benchmarked against Council's current situation.	
2.2 Implement a Customer Experience Action Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> digital technology KPI's – feedback system 	Discussions have been held on how to measure customer sentiment. Touchpoint (after call survey), SnapSendSolve, Oracle, and Ingenius AI (chatbot) will be investigated for ways to measure sentiment.	
PEOPLE AND CULTURE – Ensure we have the right number of the right people and right ability in the right roles		
3.1 Recruitment of Director Community Strengthening	Achieved – Peta Gillies commenced in April	
3.2 Create and roll out an updated employee value proposition	Work is well underway in updating the EVP for CGD. Edits will be made to update the current EVP and later in 2024 to develop a new EVP focused on meaningful work research.	
3.3 Develop and implement a People Plan for the organisation:	Once the organisational functional review is completed work will continue on developing a new people strategy for CGD.	
3.4 Review organisational structure and workforce plan with focus on staff shortages and skills	Work on reviewing the organisational structure as part of the Our Future Your Future functional review is now virtually complete. Transition to the new organisational structure has also been completed with new Executive Directors and an Executive Manager recruited in December and due to commence in January and February.	







Reshaping Greater Dandenong

Action	Comment	Progress
PEOPLE AND CULTURE – Ensure we have the right number of the right people and right ability in the right roles		
3.5 Refresh the Workplace Culture Development Strategy	Work has commenced on this action.	
3.6 Create a Workplace Diversity Strategy	Work has commenced on this action.	




Reshaping Greater Dandenong

Action	Comment	Progress
COMMUNICATION, ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY – National leader in communication and engagement with diverse communities		
4.1 Develop a Community Engagement Resourcing Plan, incorporating benchmarking of other LGA's	The development of an engagement brief will assist staff to start their engagement process. Attendance at the Local Government Community Engagement network has developed connections and enabled Council's Engagement Lead to hear what other Local Governments are doing to comply with the Act.	
4.2 Investigate translation software, use of and strategies to enhance translation services	Advice from expert consultancy Ethnolink has been received. There are opportunities to improve access to Communications through plain English and visual communications. There may be opportunities to improve access through including translated snippets in the Council News though this may impact overall content. There are opportunities to include content in community languages in the New Residents kits, or through local real estate agents – these could promote how to use the TIS translation and interpreting service and access Google Translate content and will be explored in the first half of 2024.	
4.3 Explore options for the community newsletter in line with enhanced community engagement/ communication	New design concepts for the Council News were presented to Council in August but have not yet been adopted. The research by Metropolis to better understand residents satisfaction with the Council News magazine was completed in October and a report has now been received. Further information will be provided to Councillors once the report has been reviewed.	

Reshaping Greater Dandenong

Action	Comment	Progress
SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES – Fit for purpose processes, systems and technology in place for our objectives to be enabled		
5.1 Update financial delegations and thresholds to enhance speed of decision making/ effectiveness	Financial delegations were updated in October and this action is now complete.	
5.2 Assess the capturing of Councillor correspondence in Oracle to ensure tracking of 100% of all queries	This action has been delayed as the Oracle system is yet to be implemented.	
5.3 Progress our target to be a paper less organisation by 2026	Council continues to review its paper consumption and identify areas for improvement. Councillor communications and meeting agendas and minutes for Councillor Briefing Sessions and the Executive Team have been moved to digital platforms in Q2. All new and updated Council forms are also created in an online format to reduce the use of hard copies.	
5.4 Launch customer portal/dashboard	The customer portal has continued growing with an additional 330 new users in the last quarter. Feedback is currently being received to then determine the next enhancements to be made for the portal, which will be targeted to be added next quarter.	
5.5 Investigate new models for a Councillor intranet	This action is in the early stages of planning.	
5.6 Assess our current digital capability and invest in contemporary technology and digital systems to facilitate identified opportunities for system and process improvements.	The review of Digital and IT Capacity including cyber security is complete. Improvement actions linked to a high level roadmap have commenced.	

Reshaping Greater Dandenong

Action	Comment	Progress
STRATEGY AND FUTURE PLANNING		
6.1 Review Council's performance measures	Council's performance measures will be reviewed as part of the Council Plan process for 2025-29 .	
6.2 Develop a set of organisational KPIs which track progress against the recommendations of the 100 Day Report	Performance against the 100 Day Report actions will be presented quarterly to Council and the community. Further work will be undertaken regarding specific KPIs as the actions progress.	
6.3 Create a framework for Council's strategies and plans which provides an integrated approach to their development and clearly articulates alignment with Council's strategic and operational priorities	Work has commenced on developing a strategy and policy framework and initial discussions have been held regarding possible consolidation opportunities. Decision making frameworks have been created to assist with the creation of new documents and further work will be undertaken in Q3.	

Part B:

Finance Report

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Key financial highlights

Period ending 31 December 2023

	31 Dec 2023 Year-to-Date					Full Year				
	Actual \$'000	Mid Year Budget \$'000	Variance \$'000	Var. %	Status Var.	Original Budget \$'000	Mid Year Budget \$'000	Variance \$'000	Var. %	Status Var.
Operating Income	119,959	118,510	1,449	1%	✓	247,868	253,805	5,937	2%	—
Operating Expenses	110,085	114,377	4,292	4%	✓	218,785	234,393	(15,608)	(7%)	—
Operating Surplus	9,874	4,133	5,741	139%	✓	29,083	19,412	(9,671)	(33%)	×
Capital Expenditure	(22,381)	(28,771)	6,390	22%	✓	(58,331)	(87,442)	(29,111)	(50%)	×
Non-Cash Operating Items	19,496	17,093	(2,403)	(14%)	×	27,553	26,953	(600)	(2%)	—
Loan Repayments	(1,785)	(1,785)	-	0%	✓	(3,713)	(3,713)	-	0%	✓
Loan Proceeds	-	-	-	0%	✓	6,120	6,120	-	0%	✓
Lease Repayments	(308)	(178)	(131)	(74%)	×	(710)	(710)	-	0%	✓
Net Reserve Transfers	(6,366)	(6,229)	137	2%	✓	4,047	5,602	1,555	38%	✓
Current Year Cash Surplus	(1,470)	(15,737)	14,267	91%	✓	4,049	(33,779)	(37,828)		
Accumulated Surplus b/f	-	-	-			-	34,589	34,589		
Accumulated Cash Surplus	(1,470)	(15,737)	14,267			-	810	(3,239)		
Cash/Investment Holdings	211,982	<i>Not applicable</i>				143,184	143,184	-	0%	✓

Note – The Accumulated Surplus brought forward (b/f) represents funds committed to finance capital and operating carry overs from 2022-23.

Budget information

The Original Budget information contained in the report is the budget approved by Council on 26 June 2023. The year to date budget in this report reflects the Mid-Year Budget as adopted by Council on 11 December 2023.

Executive Summary

Operating Result

For the six months ended 31 December 2023, Council achieved a surplus operating result of \$9.87 million which is \$5.74 million better than the year-to-date budget. The main factors contributing to this result comprise:

- **Income** (\$1.45 million favourable)
 - Higher than anticipated operating grant funding due mainly to an expanded Family Day Care (FDC) program combined with additional funding in other programs (Community Strengthening \$754,000).
 - Favourable user fees due to higher than anticipated Health registration permit income raised to date which is expected to come in line with budget over the coming months (City Futures \$496,000).
 - Contributions monetary mainly due to unbudgeted income received for the Status Resolution Support Services program and Healthy Children and Young People grant program (Community Strengthening \$130,000) and higher public open space contributions which are transferred to reserves (City Futures \$73,000).
- **Operating expenditure** (\$4.29 million favourable)
 - Employee costs lower than anticipated due to vacant positions and delay in recruitment (\$4.65 million). Approximately half of this variance (\$2.09 million) relates to grant funded programs which require an acquittal (mainly in Community Strengthening).
 - Materials and services (\$1.78 million favourable) due to delay in receipt of waste management invoices combined with lower contract costs and professional expenses to date (City Futures \$1.49 million).

Partly offset by:

- Prior year capital expenditure unable to be capitalised (\$2.21 million unfavourable). This is due to works in progress (prior year capital expenditure) that is not capital in nature, does not meet the capitalisation threshold or relates to non-Council owned assets (Non-Directorate). This is an accounting entry that does not impact on Council's cash position. It is not included in the budget as it is difficult to predict.

More detailed variance explanations are included in the body of this report.

Capital Result

Capital expenditure for the first six months (\$22.38 million) is \$6.39 million favourable to budget. The more significant variances relate to the following projects - Ross Reserves Athletic Track (\$1.17 million), Perry Road (\$1.05 million), Building Renewal Program (\$556,000) and Dandenong Wellbeing Centre (\$408,000).

There are also \$24.07 million in commitments (open purchase orders) at 31 December.

Income Statement

For the period 1 July 2023 - 31 December 2023

	Note	YTD ACTUAL \$'000	YTD BUDGET \$'000	YTD VARIANCE \$'000	ANNUAL MID YEAR BUDGET \$'000	ANNUAL ORIGINAL BUDGET \$'000
Income	B1					
Rates and charges		86,501	86,507	(6)	170,408	170,138
Statutory fees and fines		5,418	5,407	11	10,817	10,865
User fees		4,838	4,343	495	9,178	9,214
Grants - operating		13,187	12,490	697	24,570	33,824
Grants - capital		1,107	1,010	97	13,828	5,316
Contributions - monetary		1,218	1,000	218	4,358	2,000
Contributions - non-monetary		-	-	-	7,500	7,500
Net gain (loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		478	500	(22)	746	746
Other income		7,212	7,253	(41)	12,400	8,265
Total income		119,959	118,510	1,449	253,805	247,868
Expenses	B2					
Employee costs		45,452	50,099	4,647	103,317	95,009
Materials and services		40,986	42,767	1,781	86,093	80,136
Prior year capital expenditure unable to be capitalised (non-cash)		2,209	-	(2,209)	-	-
Bad and doubtful debts		890	870	(20)	2,245	2,245
Depreciation		16,794	16,794	-	34,201	33,601
Amortisation - right of use assets		299	299	-	598	598
Borrowing costs		1,290	1,290	-	2,698	2,698
Finance costs - leases		-	-	-	22	22
Asset write offs		194	-	(194)	-	-
Other expenses		1,971	2,258	287	5,219	4,476
Total expenses		110,085	114,377	4,292	234,393	218,785
Net surplus (deficit)		9,874	4,133	5,741	19,412	29,083

NOTE

For comments regarding movements in Operating Income and Expenditure items, please refer to explanatory notes located at B1 to B2.

Balance Sheet

As at 31 December 2023

	Note	2023-24 ACTUAL 31 Dec 2023 \$'000	2022-23 ACTUAL 30 Jun 2023 \$'000	2023-24 MID YEAR BUDGET \$'000	2023-24 ORIGINAL BUDGET \$'000
ASSETS					
Current assets	C1				
Cash and cash equivalents		22,099	72,244	60,193	143,184
Financial assets		189,883	122,869	102,000	-
Trade and other receivables		95,551	30,705	31,203	30,267
Other assets		3,342	9,310	8,104	5,852
Total current assets		310,875	235,128	201,500	179,303
Non-current assets	C2				
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		2,510,851	2,507,665	2,568,152	2,526,769
Investment property		6,575	6,575	6,575	6,336
Right-of-use assets		1,255	1,554	1,656	2,044
Intangible assets		25	25	25	56
Trade and other receivables		274	273	273	281
Total non-current assets		2,518,980	2,516,092	2,576,681	2,535,486
Total assets		2,829,855	2,751,220	2,778,181	2,714,789
LIABILITIES					
Current liabilities	C3				
Trade and other payables		6,516	24,505	29,327	25,063
Prepaid rates		83,744	-	-	-
Trust funds and deposits		13,975	5,959	6,159	5,670
Unearned income		57,360	58,816	58,816	52,483
Provisions		20,722	20,954	21,127	22,909
Interest-bearing liabilities		1,813	3,597	4,193	4,193
Lease liabilities		439	548	545	518
Total current liabilities		184,569	114,379	120,167	110,836
Non-current liabilities	C4				
Provisions		1,259	1,258	1,215	975
Trust funds and deposits		881	2,112	2,112	2,409
Interest-bearing liabilities		46,182	46,182	47,993	47,993
Lease liabilities		839	1,038	1,031	1,310
Total non-current liabilities		49,161	50,590	52,351	52,687
Total liabilities		233,730	164,969	172,518	163,523
NET ASSETS	C5	2,596,125	2,586,251	2,605,663	2,551,266
EQUITY					
Accumulated surplus		971,628	968,119	991,578	1,008,893
Asset revaluation reserve		1,530,252	1,530,252	1,530,252	1,472,583
Reserves		94,245	87,880	83,833	69,790
TOTAL EQUITY		2,596,125	2,586,251	2,605,663	2,551,266

NOTES TO THE STATEMENTS

Balance Sheet *(previous page)*

Prepaid Rates: Rate revenue (excluding supplementary rates) is accrued evenly over the year, although cash is received may be received in a variety of patterns including quarterly instalments, nine direct debit payments or a lump sum, depending on how the ratepayer chooses to pay. Rate revenue in the Income Statement is a monthly accrual of the rates determined for the year in July.

Trust funds and deposits (current) are higher this quarter due to the timing of the quarterly Fire Services Property Levy payment to the State Revenue Office.

For comments regarding movements in other Balance Sheet items, please refer to explanatory notes located at C1 to C5.

Cash Flow Statement *(next page)*

Details regarding Council's cash movements are contained in **Note D - Cash Flow Statement**.

The dissemination of Council's restricted and operating cash is provided in the graph "*Restricted and Unrestricted Cash*" in **Appendix 2 Investment Analysis** in this report.

Cash inflows and outflows are inclusive of GST where applicable.

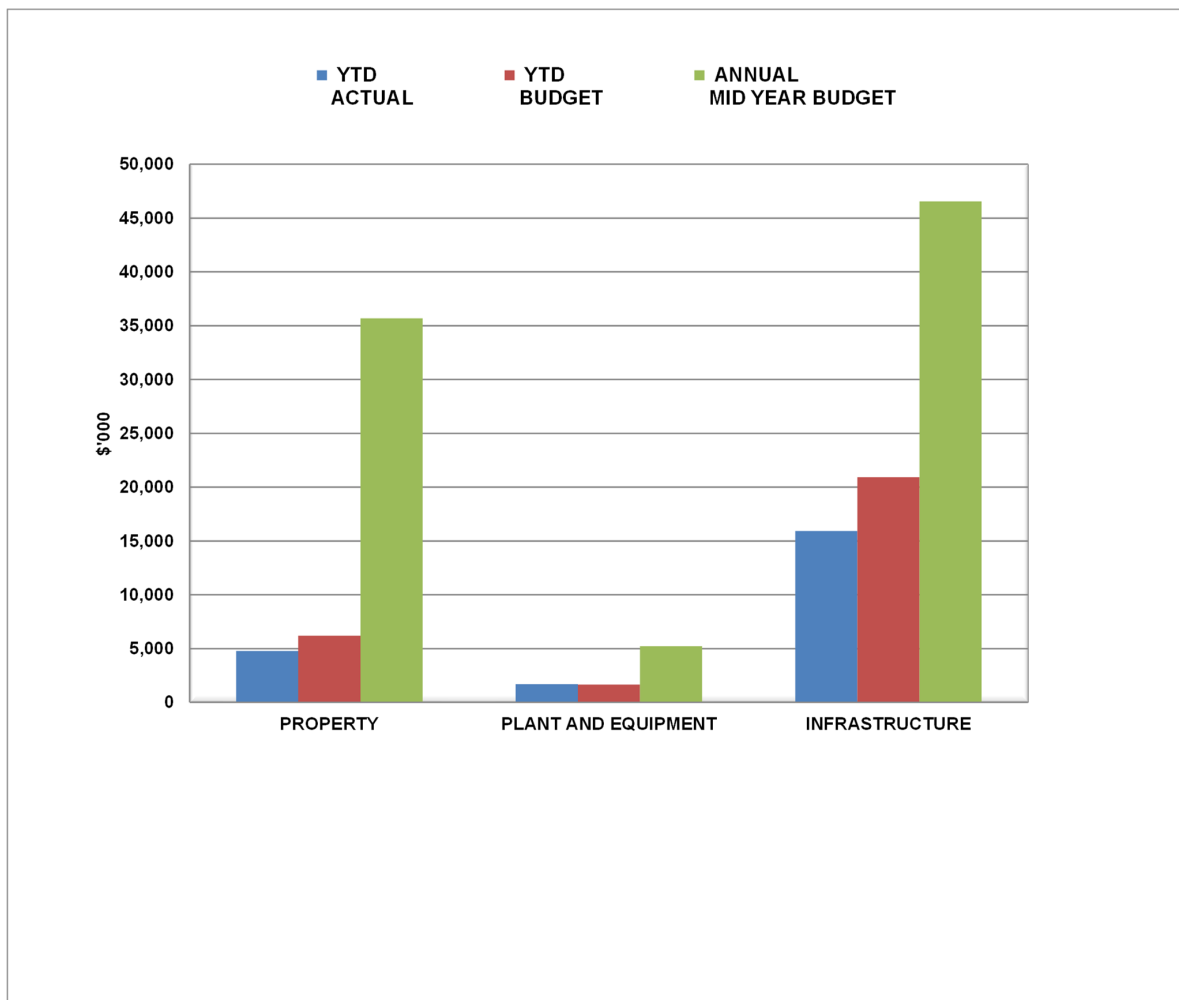
Cash Flow Statement

	2023-24 ACTUAL as at 31 Dec 2023 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$'000	2023-24 ANNUAL MID YEAR BUDGET Inflows/ (Outflows) \$'000	2023-24 ANNUAL ORIGINAL BUDGET Inflows/ (Outflows) \$'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Rates and charges	103,714	169,910	168,756
Statutory fees and fines	3,664	8,572	8,104
User fees	5,619	10,549	9,939
Grants - operating	15,356	25,761	35,794
Grants - capital	3,908	12,845	5,316
Contributions - monetary	323	7,154	2,000
Interest received	3,130	6,800	3,394
Trust funds and deposits taken	17,689	29,400	31,050
Other receipts	2,942	6,466	5,452
Net GST refund	6,208	13,911	10,688
Employee costs	(50,038)	(102,893)	(94,092)
Materials and services	(48,712)	(98,695)	(95,674)
Short-term, low value and variable lease payments	(359)	(641)	(641)
Trust funds and deposits repaid	(10,626)	(29,200)	(30,250)
Other payments	(1,283)	(5,394)	(4,283)
Net cash provided by operating activities	51,535	54,545	55,553
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(31,482)	(87,442)	(58,331)
(Payments) proceeds for investments	(67,291)	20,869	-
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	478	1,000	1,000
Net cash provided by investing activities	(98,295)	(65,573)	(57,331)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Finance costs	(1,288)	(2,698)	(2,698)
Proceeds from borrowings	-	6,120	6,120
Repayment of borrowings	(1,784)	(3,713)	(3,713)
Interest paid - lease liability	(5)	(22)	(22)
Repayment of lease liabilities	(308)	(710)	(710)
Net cash used in financing activities	(3,385)	(1,023)	(1,023)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(50,145)	(12,051)	(2,801)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	72,244	72,244	145,985
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	22,099	60,193	143,184
Represented by:			
Operating cash	(150,330)	(97,031)	2,538
Restricted cash	172,429	157,224	140,646
Total	22,099	60,193	143,184

Capital Expenditure Statement

The detailed program under each of the capital groups is contained in **Appendix 1 – Capital Expenditure**.

	YTD ACTUAL \$'000	YTD BUDGET \$'000	YTD VARIANCE \$'000	COMMIT \$'000	ANNUAL MID YEAR BUDGET \$'000	ANNUAL ORIGINAL BUDGET \$'000
PROPERTY	4,765	6,205	1,440	14,773	35,686	26,745
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	1,696	1,662	(35)	1,466	5,213	4,995
INFRASTRUCTURE	15,920	20,905	4,985	7,831	46,543	26,591
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	22,381	28,771	6,390	24,069	87,442	58,331



Management Accounting Result

For the period 1 July 2023 - 31 December 2023

Whilst the Financial Statements are prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, they contain several items which are “non-cash” in nature such as depreciation on assets and the written down (book) value of assets sold. They also exclude capital expenditure, new borrowings and loan repayments and as such, these Statements do not provide an accurate indication of the surplus/deficit cash position within a financial year.

The following table provides a management accounting summary of the financial performance for the period 1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023 which removes non-cash items and adds back cash items that are excluded from the financial statements.

Description	YEAR TO DATE			FULL YEAR		
	ACTUAL	MID YEAR	VARIANCE	ORIGINAL	MID YEAR	VARIANCE
	\$'000	BUDGET	Fav(unfav)	BUDGET	BUDGET	Fav(unfav)
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Income Statement						
Income	119,959	118,510	1,449	247,868	253,805	5,937
Expenditure	110,085	114,377	4,292	218,785	234,393	(15,608)
Net surplus - ongoing operations	9,874	4,133	5,741	29,083	19,412	(9,671)
Management Accounting reconciliation						
<u>Add back (less) non cash items</u>						
Depreciation	16,794	16,794	-	33,601	34,201	(600)
Amortisation - right of use assets	299	299	-	598	598	-
Contributions non-monetary assets	-	-	-	(7,500)	(7,500)	-
Assets written off	194	-	(194)	-	-	-
Prior year capital expenditure unable to be capitalised	2,209	-	(2,209)	-	-	-
Written down value of assets sold/disposed	-	-	-	254	254	-
Sub total	19,496	17,093	(2,403)	26,953	27,553	(600)
Net operating surplus	29,370	21,226	8,144	56,036	46,965	(9,071)
<u>Add/less non operating cash items</u>						
Capital expenditure	22,381	28,771	6,390	58,331	87,442	(29,111)
Net transfers to (from) reserves	6,366	6,229	(137)	(598)	(4,047)	3,449
Repayment of borrowings	1,785	1,785	-	3,713	3,713	-
Proceeds from borrowings	-	-	-	(6,120)	(6,120)	-
Repayment of lease liabilities	308	178	(131)	710	710	-
Sub total	30,840	36,963	6,123	56,036	81,698	(25,662)
Cash surplus (deficit)	(1,470)	(15,737)	14,267	-	(34,733)	(34,733)
Accumulated surplus brought forward	-	-	-	-	34,733	34,733
Surplus (deficit) position	(1,470)	(15,737)	14,267	-	-	-

The overall management accounting result (after removing non-cash items) at 31 December 2023 shows a favourable variance between the budget and actual of \$14.27 million. The variance is due to a favourable surplus from ongoing operations (\$5.7 million), caused by lower than anticipated operating expenditure and higher income combined with lower than anticipated capital expenditure to date (\$6.39 million).

Notes to the Financial Statements

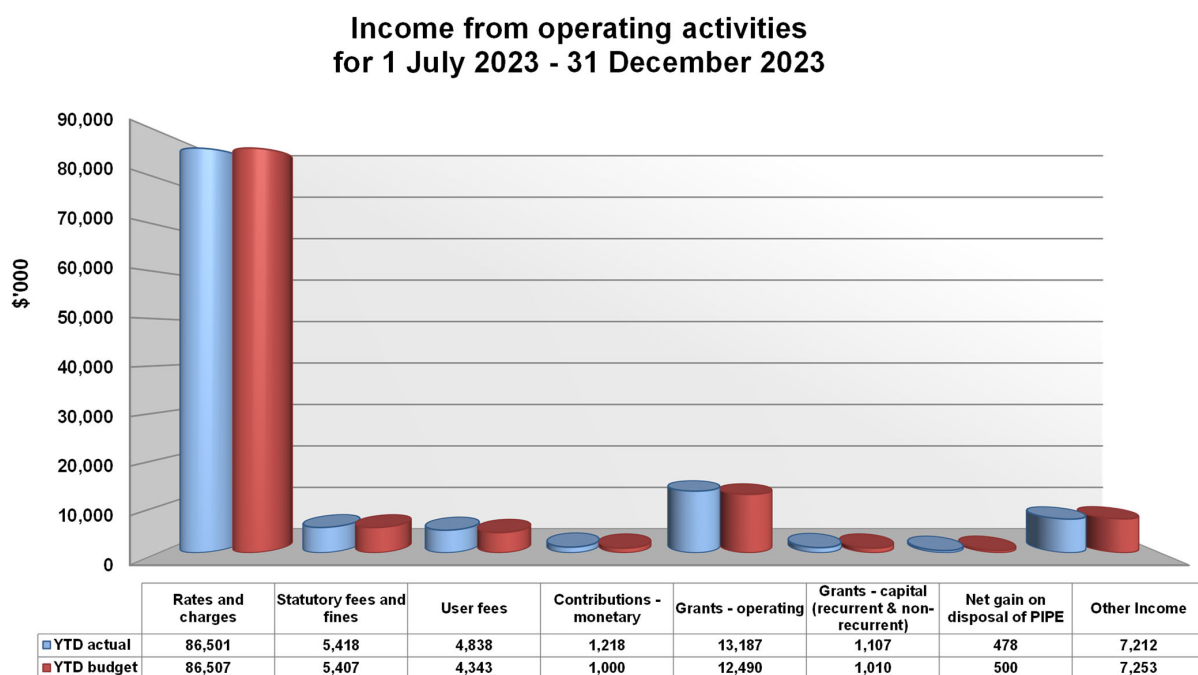
A. Accounting Policy Notes

The financial report is prepared on the principles of accrual accounting. Accrual accounting recognises income when earned and expenditure when incurred, regardless of whether cash settlement has taken place. The basis of recognition of major income and expenditure in these statements are defined below.

1. **Rate revenue:** Rate revenue (excluding supplementary rates) is accrued evenly over the year, although cash is received in quarterly instalments or a lump sum, depending on how the ratepayer chooses to pay. Rate revenue in the Income Statement is a monthly accrual of the rates determined for the year in July.
2. **Grants revenue:** Council receives two types of grants, namely a General Purpose Grant (Financial Assistance Grant funding from the Victoria Local Government Grants Commission) which is not tied to any programs and Special Purpose Grants for various programs. In accordance with new Accounting Standards, AASB 15 'Revenue from Contracts with Customers' and AASB 1058 'Income of Not-For-Profit Entities', grant income is now generally recognised in the Income Statement to the extent of satisfied performance obligations. Alternatively, grant funding which does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations are recognised as income when the cash is received. Any grant income relating to unsatisfied performance obligations are recognised as unearned income in the Balance Sheet at balance date. Grants comprise of operating and capital (recurrent and non-recurrent in nature).
3. **Fees and charges:** Most fees and charges are recognised when cash is received. Generally, where Council raises a debtor's invoice, income is recognised at the point of the invoice and not when cash is received. Car parking permit income relating to a future period at balance date are recognised as unearned income in the Balance Sheet.
4. **Contributions - cash:** Cash contributions are essentially from developers towards open space works. These monies are treated as income when received. Council is obligated to spend these monies for the purpose for which they are given by the developers. Council also receives external contributions for other capital projects. Cash contributions received are held in reserves and treated as "restricted cash" until they are spent (see **note 9** below).
5. **Employee costs:** Salaries expenditure is based on fortnightly salaries paid and accruals for salary on-costs such as leave entitlements, superannuation and workcover.
6. **Capital expenditure:** The two broad areas of capital are the capital improvement program (CIP) (which includes infrastructure and major projects) and 'other' which includes fleet, computers, plant and furniture. Expenditure is recognised as capital if it is significant in value and results in assets which have a useful life in excess of at least one year.
7. **Budget information:** The Original Budget information contained in the report is the budget approved by Council on 26 June 2023. The year to date budget in this report reflects the Mid-Year Budget as adopted by Council on 11 December 2023. In accordance with Section 97(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020* the Chief Executive Officer is of the view that a Revised Budget is not required for the financial reporting period 31 December 2023. No variations have been made to the declared rates and charges or loan borrowings other than what has been approved in the 2023-24 Adopted Budget.
8. **Cash Flow Statement:** Reflects the actual cash movements during the year.
9. **Restricted cash:** These are monies set aside for specific purposes and are not readily available for day to day operations or general capital works. They include funds set aside towards meeting long service leave commitments (required by government regulations), statutory reserves (eg. open space contributions) and other funds that are committed towards specific purposes.

B1. Operating Income

The chart below shows the categories of operating income against their respective budgets (excludes non-cash accounting entries such as non-monetary contributions or gifted assets).



Operating income for the period ended 31 December 2023 is \$1.45 million favourable against budget. This is primarily due to the following:

- **Grants – operating (\$754,000 favourable)** – Higher than anticipated operating grant funding due mainly to an expanded Family Day Care (FDC) program (\$559,000) combined with additional funding in other programs including Child First (\$140,000), Maternal and Child Health (\$118,000), Market Street Occasional Care Centre Operational (\$82,000), Children's Support Services (\$65,000), HACC Co-ordination \$36,000, Emergency Management (\$36,000), Positive Ageing (Senior Citizens) (\$21,000), Home and Community Care (\$19,000), PYP Linkages (\$17,000), Playgroups Initiatives (\$15,000) and Volunteer Program (\$13,000).

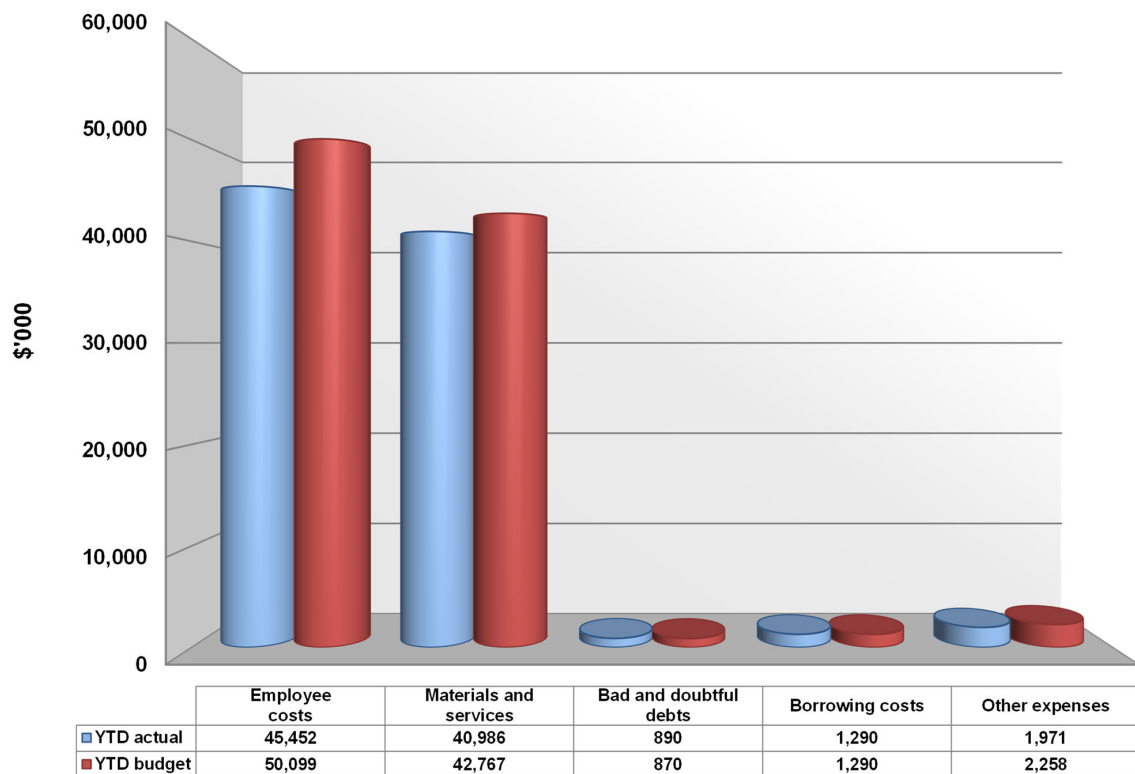
These favourable variances are partly offset by lower than anticipated grant funding recognised to date based on satisfied performance obligations for HACC – Assessments and Team Leaders (\$203,000), Sleep and Settling Initiative (\$105,000), Planned Activity Group (\$36,000) and Food Services (\$14,000).

- **User fees (\$495,000 favourable)** – Higher than anticipated Health registration permit income which is expected to come in line with budget over the coming months (City Futures \$496,000).
- **Contributions-monetary (\$218,000 favourable)** - Due to unbudgeted income received for the Status Resolution Support Services program and Healthy Children and Young People grant program (Community Strengthening \$130,000) and higher public open space contributions to date which are transferred to reserves (City Futures \$73,000).

B2. Operating Expenditure

The chart below shows the categories of operating expenditure against their respective budget (excludes non-cash accounting entries including depreciation, amortisation, asset write offs and prior year capital expenditure unable to be capitalised).

Expenditure from operating activities for 1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023



Operating expenditure for the quarter ended 31 December 2023 is favourable by \$4.29 million against budget. The major variances are in Employee Costs and Materials and Services.

Employee costs (\$4.65 million favourable)

- Approximately half (\$2.09 million) of this favourable variance relates to grant funded programs which require an acquittal, caused mainly by a delay in recruitment (Community Strengthening).
- The remaining favourable variance is due to a delay in recruitment of vacant positions combined with challenges in sourcing permanent skilled staff in Community Strengthening (\$1.90 million), City Futures (\$342,000) and Corporate Development (\$241,000).

Materials and services (\$1.78 million favourable) – The major items contributing to this favourable variance are:

- Delay in receipt of waste management invoices, timing of works at Spring Valley Landfill combined with lower than anticipated costs in graffiti removal to date (City Futures \$1.41 million).
- Lower than anticipated software maintenance and network communications rental combined with a delay in receipt of invoices for telephone costs, street lighting tariffs and asbestos audits (CEO \$284,000), printing and stationery, postage and storage, legal services, professional services, software and application maintenance, advertising (Corporate Development \$151,000) and parking equipment maintenance, cash collection and the animal pound contract, food service materials and PYP Linkages service delivery costs (Community Strengthening \$254,000).
- These favourable variances are offset by higher than anticipated cleaning and security costs (City Futures \$511,000) and higher payments to educators relating to an expanded Family Day Care program matched by higher grant income (Community Strengthening \$502,000).

C. Balance Sheet

Council's net assets are valued at \$2.60 billion at 31 December 2023.

C1. Current assets

Cash and other assets that can be readily converted to cash.

Cash and cash equivalents (\$22.10 million) – Represent the net amount held by Council in cash or investments with a term of less than 90 days.

\$172.43 million of cash and investment funds are 'restricted' for various purposes. The reduction in operating funds at 31 December 2023 is due to the classification of \$189.88 million of term deposits greater than 90 days as 'financial assets'. These are detailed in the notes to the cash flows that follow in **section D** and a graphical presentation in **Appendix 2**. If these term deposits were classified as cash, the operating cash balance would be \$211.98 million.

Funds are invested in accordance with Council's Investment Policy. The policy requires Council to invest with prudence, consideration of acceptable risks and relevant legislation.

The details of Council's investments are contained in **Appendix 2**. In selecting investment products, Council has paid due consideration to risk by ensuring the investment portfolio does not exceed the limits set in the Policy based on the Standard and Poor's Long-Term rating of Authorised Deposit Taking Institutions (ADI) combined with the term of the investment.

Financial assets (\$189.88 million) – Increase in financial assets from 30 June 2023 is due to the make-up of Council's cash and investments holdings at 31 December 2023 with more investments placed with a term of over 90 days and less investments with a term of under 90 days.

Trade and other receivables (\$95.55 million) – This balance includes:

- Rate debtors \$78.46 million
- Infringement debtors of \$9.69 million (net of provision for doubtful debts).
- General debtors \$7.40 million (net of provision for doubtful debts).

Rate revenue (excluding supplementary rates) is accrued evenly over the year, although cash can be received in quarterly instalments, nine direct debit payments or a lump sum, depending on how the ratepayer chooses to pay. Rate revenue in the Income Statement is a monthly accrual of the rates determined for the year in July.

Other assets (\$3.34 million) – This balance includes:

- Accrued income \$2.77 million – income earned but cash not yet received as at 31 December 2023.
- Prepayments \$9,000 - expenses prepaid at 31 December 2023.
- Other deposits \$567,300 – represents \$8,700 works warranty bond for Soccer Pitch and Community Centre - 9 Memorial Drive, Noble Park, \$75,000 deposit for Metropolitan Resource Recovery organic waste processing contract, \$250,000 deposit paid for Metropolitan Resource Recovery Landfill Services Gate Fee and \$233,600 deposit paid to South East Water for 5 Mason Street, Dandenong works.

C2. Non-current assets

Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (\$2.51 billion) – Includes Council roads, drains, buildings, plant and other fixed assets. These values are reflected after recognising the depreciation allowed against each asset.

Investment property (\$6.58 million) is separately classified from 'Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment' in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards. Any adjustment to the fair value of these assets on an annual basis is recorded in the Comprehensive Income Statement and these assets are not depreciated.

Right-of-use assets (\$1.26 million) – Represents leased (right-of-use) assets and includes property, fleet, IT and office equipment that has been leased under ordinary lease arrangements.

Intangible assets (\$25,000) – Represents computer software assets. These values are reflected after recognising the associated amortisation expense.

Trade and other receivables (\$274,000) – \$200,480 for Council's share of funds held in trust by Whitehorse City Council relating to the former Narre Warren landfill site and a \$73,320 refundable bond with Western Health (originally related to Community Chef) which is expected to be returned upon completion of the contract.

C3. Current liabilities

Debts due to be repaid within 12 months.

Trade and other payables (\$6.52 million) – This balance includes trade creditors arising from operations and capital works.

Prepaid rates (\$83.74 million) – Rate revenue (excluding supplementary rates) is accrued evenly over the year, although cash is received in a variety of patterns including quarterly instalments, nine direct debit payments or a lump sum, depending on how the ratepayer chooses to pay. Rate revenue in the Income Statement is a monthly accrual of the rates determined for the year in July. Prepaid rates represent the monthly rate income not yet recognised in the Income Statement for the remaining months of this financial year.

Trust funds and deposits (\$13.98 million) – Includes:

- Fire services property levy funds collected by Council on behalf of the State Government, but not yet paid on to the State Revenue Office (\$8.62 million). These monies are remitted to the State Revenue Office in accordance with legislative timeframes (28 days after each quarterly rate instalment date).
- Other deposits (\$3.72 million).
- Landscape deposits (\$1.11 million).
- Road deposits (\$361,000).
- Open space contributions (\$168,000).

Unearned income (\$57.36 million) – Represents income not yet earned based on specific performance obligations that were not complete at 31 December 2023 in respect of:

- Developer Contribution Plan (DCP) liabilities – (\$42.36 million).
- Operating grants (\$12.47 million).
- Capital grants (\$2.19 million).
- Other – including facility hire for future events (\$337,000).

Provisions (\$20.72 million) – This balance represents the provision for employee entitlements and landfill restoration works.

- Employee entitlements:
 - Long service leave entitlements - \$11.95 million.
 - Annual leave entitlements - \$7.95 million.
 - Rostered days off (RDO) - \$533,000.
- Landfill provision - \$294,000 - provision for the restoration and aftercare management of the former Spring Valley landfill site (closed). The former closed landfill is owned by the Council and is used as recreational open space. Council's share is 19.88% of the total future estimated costs.

Interest-bearing liabilities (\$1.81 million) – Represents the repayment of long-term borrowings expected during 2023-24.

Lease liabilities (\$439,000) - Represents the lease repayments in respect of right-of-use assets that are payable during 2023-24.

C4. Non-current liabilities

Debts due to be repaid in future years.

Provisions (\$1.26 million) – Represents the provisions estimated to be paid beyond the 2023-24 financial year and comprises of long service leave entitlements for employees (\$539,000) and landfill provision for restoration of Spring Valley landfill site (\$720,000) (Council's share is 19.88% of the total future estimated costs).

Trust funds and deposits (\$881,000) – Represents deposits that are payable beyond the 2023-24 financial year and comprises asset protection bonds of \$577,000, landscape deposits of \$239,000 and contractor deposits of \$65,000.

Interest-bearing liabilities (\$46.18 million) – Comprises outstanding borrowings to be repaid beyond the next 12 months.

Lease liabilities (\$839,000) – Represents lease payments in respect of right-of-use assets to be repaid beyond the next 12 months.

C5. Net assets and equity

Net assets - Represents the difference between total assets and total liabilities. It is the Council's net worth to the City's ratepayers.

Reserves – Includes both statutory reserves (S) and discretionary reserves (D). The statutory reserves apply where funds are gained from the application of legislative requirements to contribute – and where expenditure of the funds is not entirely discretionary (i.e. the funds need to be used for certain expenditure only). The reserves listed below are explained in the notes to the cash flows that follow.

The discretionary reserves are:

- Major projects reserve
- Insurance fund reserve
- Council funded – Development Contribution Plans reserve
- Spring Valley landfill rehabilitation reserve
- Springvale Activity Precinct – Parking and Development reserve
- Dandenong Activity Precinct – Parking and Development reserve
- Native re-vegetation reserves
- Keysborough South Maintenance Levy reserve
- General reserve (Aged Care)
- Grants in advance reserve
- Future maintenance reserve

The statutory reserves are:

- Open space – planning, development, and improvements
- Open space – land acquisitions

D. Cash Flow Statement

Cash and investment holdings total \$22.10 million as at 31 December 2023, an decrease of \$50.14 million since 30 June 2023. Total cash and investment holdings are made up of operating cash and restricted cash. The reduction in operating funds at 31 December 2023 is due to the classification of \$189.88 million of term deposits greater than 90 days as 'financial assets'. Please refer below for a detailed listing of Restricted Cash items, which are set aside for specific purposes.

Cash flows from operating activities – net inflow of \$51.53 million.

The major inflows are rates (\$103.72 million), trust funds and deposits taken (\$17.69 million), grants - operating (\$15.36 million), user fees (\$5.62 million) and statutory fees and fines (\$3.66 million).

The major outflows are employee costs (\$50.04 million), materials and services (\$48.71 million), and trust funds and deposits repaid (\$10.63 million).

Trust funds and deposits taken and repaid mainly relate to fire services property levies (FSPL). The remittance of the FSPL and FSPL levy interest amounts are made to the State Revenue Office (SRO) in four payments in accordance with Section 41(1) of the FSPL Act. An instalment is due and payable to the Commissioner of State Revenue 28 days after the due date of rates instalments. Council collects FSPL on behalf of the State Government.

Cash flows from investing activities – net outflow of \$98.29 million, including:

- \$67.29 million relates to cash outflow for term deposits with a maturity of greater than three months.
- \$31.48 million for capital works expenditure. The detailed capital works schedule is included in this report as Appendix 1. Please note the difference between the two capital expenditure amounts is due to the movement in capital trade creditors at the start and end of the reporting period. Appendix 1 is on an accrual basis.

Partly offset by:

- \$478,000 proceeds on asset sales mainly relating to the fleet replacement program.

Cash flows from financing activities – outflow of \$3.39 million.

Council incurred \$1.29 million in finance costs on its borrowings and repaid \$1.78 million of existing borrowings. In addition, Council repaid \$308,000 of its lease liabilities as at 31 December 2023.

Restricted cash - Represents funds set aside for specific purposes, as detailed in the following tables.

Type	31-Dec-23	Notes
Reserve funds	\$'000	
Council funded Development Contribution Plans (DCP) reserve	19,277	Reserved for specific expenditure in accordance with the published DCP.
Open space – planning, development and improvements	3,338	Reserved for enhancing the City's open space by planning, development and improvements.
Open space – acquisitions	6,000	To fund acquisitions of new open space land.
Major projects reserve	48,193	Funds realised from sale of Council's property assets or surplus Council funds to invest in other properties or funding future major projects.
Keysborough South Maintenance Levy	3,685	Reserved for specific maintenance expenditure relating to this area.
Spring Valley landfill rehabilitation	3,119	Rehabilitation of the Spring Valley landfill site.
Re-vegetation reserves	217	To meet native re-vegetation requirements on Council's reserves.
Insurance fund reserve	469	To meet large and unexpected policy excesses on multiple insurance claims.
Springvale Activity Precinct Parking and Development reserve	236	To fund development in the Springvale Activity Centre.
Dandenong Activity Precinct Parking and Development reserve	3,061	To fund development in the Dandenong Activity Centre.
Grants received in advance	0	Represents grants received in advance.
General reserve (Aged Care)	2,431	Funds set aside for the aged care reforms.
Future maintenance reserve	4,219	Contribution funds for future works to address level crossing removal authority defects.
Total reserve funds	94,245	
Employee provisions	\$'000	
Long service leave	12,484	Funds to meet long service leave commitments.
Annual leave and other	8,483	Funds set aside to meet annual leave and rostered days off (RDO) commitments.
Employee provisions	20,967	
Trust funds and deposits	\$'000	
Fire services property levy (FSPL) collected and due	8,624	Payable to State Revenue Office – legislative requirement.
Open space contributions	168	Pending completion of works.
Landscape deposits	1,345	Pending completion of works.
Road deposits	361	Pending completion of works.
Other trust funds and deposits	4,358	Refundable upon finalisation of programs.
Total trust funds and deposits	14,856	
Other restricted funds	\$'000	
DCP unearned income	42,361	Pending completion of works by developers.
Other restricted funds	42,361	
Total restricted cash	172,429	

E. Statement of Capital Works

Total capital expenditure at 31 December 2023 was \$22.38 million. A further \$24.07 million was committed as at the end of December. The following **CIP Expenditure Report** contains the expenditure status of each of the approved capital projects.

The timing of cash outflows and project completion can differ for capital projects. Commentary on the status of each project with major year to date variances are reported if the variance is greater than \$300,000. Please note that the variances detailed below are the total of all asset classes by project whereas the Capital Expenditure report details the variances separately by asset class and project.

Property

- **3876 Building Renewal Bathroom (\$556,000 favourable)** - Designs and request for quotes are underway for several child projects.
- **3974 Dandenong Wellbeing Centre (DWC) (\$408,000 unfavourable)** - The design for the DWC facility has been completed. The project is awaiting endorsement to proceed with the procurement phase. Procurement plan and preferred project governance model under review.
- **3902 Ross Reserve Pavilion (\$341,000 favourable)** – Minor outstanding works required for the certificate of occupancy including rainwater tank connection and access ramps.
- **3219 Thomas Carroll Pavilion (\$327,000 unfavourable)** - Minor Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) rectification works are underway.
- **4004 8 Balmoral Avenue (\$319,000 unfavourable)** – The unfavourable variance in this project is due to the enhancement to the original project scope to install a user activated roller shutter. This created a secure parking area for permit holders as well as reducing anti-social behaviour and vandalism on the roof level. This work was undertaken knowing that there was savings within the broader CIP 2022-23 budget. However, due to delays with manufacturing the works were completed in 2023-24 and invoice received in August 2023. A review of the broader CIP 2023-24 budget will be undertaken in February 2024 to identify savings to cover the over expenditure on this project.

Infrastructure

- **4120 Ross Reserve Athletics Track (\$1.17 million favourable)** – On site works are progressing well with estimated completion in February 2024.
- **3992 Perry Road DCP-KR01a (\$1.05 million favourable)** - Contract has been awarded and works have commenced. Trees have been removed. Footpath construction is in progress. Awaiting approval from Melbourne Water to commence drainage works.
- **4158 Springvale Reserve Netball (\$348,000 favourable)** - Tender evaluation underway.

Roads

- **3752 Roads to Recovery Program (\$422,000 favourable)** - Kerb and channel works of 15 road segments completed. Contractor for asphalt works of 20 road segments appointed. Procurement works for asphalt works of 9 road segments in progress.
- **3754 Road Rehabilitation Program (\$377,000 unfavourable)** – Twelve road sections are nominated this financial year. Five road segments were resurfaced and completed. The remaining works are planned to start in January 2024.

APPENDIX 1 - Capital Expenditure Report

	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	YTD VARIANCE	COMMIT	ANNUAL MID YEAR BUDGET	ANNUAL ORIGINAL BUDGET
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
PROPERTY						
Buildings						
1631. 2434-22/23 Art Gallery PEP Bldg	14,066	228,600	214,534	7,995	573,668	-
1818. 1622-19/20 Walker St Carpark	10,845	-	(10,845)	4,435	-	-
1869. 2587-23/24 D'nong Community Hub	125,042	148,800	23,758	1,481,061	2,000,810	1,756,000
1943. Air Fryer Crowe Pavilion	-	-	-	-	15,000	-
3219. 1943-20/21 Thomas Carroll Pavilion	802,296	475,310	(326,986)	77,285	475,310	-
3547. 1504-19/20 George Andrews Reserve	312,678	78,210	(234,468)	327,909	103,210	-
3548. 2588-23/24 Keysb Sth Community Hub	1,343,953	1,486,000	142,047	10,392,578	13,830,089	11,000,000
3793. 1583-19/20 Dandenong Market Square	2,463	68,834	66,371	24,045	68,834	-
3817. 2356-22/23 Civic Archive Building	4,405	-	(4,405)	6,788	-	-
3820. 2367-22/23 N'Park Aquatic Ctr NPAC	-	-	-	13,372	-	-
3874. 2272-22/23 Bldg Renewal.- HVAC	-	186,100	186,100	-	465,000	465,000
3876. 2456-23/24 Bldg Renewal Bathroom	31,815	588,000	556,185	337,425	1,470,000	1,470,000
3879. 2457-23/24 Bldg Renewal Minor Wrks	147,844	58,800	(89,044)	89,106	147,000	147,000
3880. 2458-23/24 Bldg Renewal Roof	-	182,000	182,000	-	377,950	260,000
3883. 2321-22/23 Bldg Renewal Kitchen/Eq	106,850	-	(106,850)	238,060	-	-
3902. 1928-20/21 Ross Reserve Pavilion	6,800	347,465	340,665	130	347,465	-
3904. 2459-23/24 Bldg Renewal Theatre	-	153,200	153,200	36,760	383,000	383,000
3906. 2583-23/24 Dandenong Gallery of Art	745,533	504,400	(241,133)	498,296	4,681,181	3,000,000
3946. 2452-23/24 Bldg Renewal Aquat/Leis	144,661	416,000	271,339	200,486	1,039,500	1,039,500
3949. 1785-20/21 NPAC Redevelopment	8,502	-	(8,502)	13,107	-	-
3974. 2586-23/24 D'nong Wellbeing Centre	408,274	-	(408,274)	60,235	5,152,186	5,500,000
4003. 2054-21/22 Springvale Reserve	92,718	-	(92,718)	286,794	-	-
4004. 1764-19/20 8 Balmoral Avenue	319,738	-	(319,738)	9,699	-	-
4026. Springvale Town Hall Works	-	-	-	1,111	-	-
4042. NPR N'Park Comm Ctr Bldg Upgrade	36,690	41,752	5,062	15,561	41,752	-
4067. 2570-23/24 Lyndale Sec Coll Kitchen	8,000	5,000	(3,000)	29,682	544,800	400,000
4069. 2585-23/24 Pep Redevelopment	64,801	290,800	225,999	500,830	1,526,995	800,000
4105. 2311-22/23 Police Padck Water Main	-	144,100	144,100	68,182	144,100	-
4106. 2330-22/23 D'nong Civic Hot Water	-	66,500	66,500	-	93,280	-
4109. 2167-22/23 Bains Pavilion	-	104,400	104,400	-	348,875	-
4132. 1009-18/19 Heritage Hill (Laurel)	-	12,000	12,000	-	60,000	60,000
4133. 1028-18/19 Jan Wilson Community Ctr	-	9,200	9,200	-	45,000	45,000
4142. 1944-20/21 Dandy Mkt Carpk Bollards	-	3,200	3,200	-	15,000	15,000
4143. 2336-22/23 Cooinda Ctr - DDA Comply	14,715	80,000	65,285	-	200,000	200,000
4144. 1925-20/21 Dandy CvcCtrLib Ccpt Des	-	5,200	5,200	-	25,000	25,000
4145. 1362-19/20 Paddy O'Donoghue Centre	-	7,200	7,200	-	35,000	35,000
4146. 1487-19/20 39a Clow Street-Lighting	-	7,600	7,600	-	38,000	38,000
4147. 2340-22/23 Dandenong West Prim Sch	-	1,600	1,600	7,852	7,000	7,000
4148. 1688-19/20 Noble Park - Mbl Lib Srv	-	10,000	10,000	-	50,000	50,000
4149. 2602-23/24 Dandy North Snr Citizens	-	8,000	8,000	-	40,000	40,000
4150. 1893-20/21 The Castle - Lighting	-	2,000	2,000	-	10,000	10,000
4184. Dandenong Market - Lift	-	52,500	52,500	-	175,000	-
4185. Dandenong Market - Fire Services	12,420	180,000	167,580	42,937	600,000	-
Leasehold Improvements						
3941. 1767-19/20 Police Padck Grandstand	-	130,100	130,100	-	433,660	-
4006. 1671-19/20 Police Padck Function Rm	-	-	-	1,000	-	-
4111. 2247-22/23 Rosewd Downs PS MCH	-	122,070	122,070	-	122,070	-
Total property	4,765,108	6,204,941	1,439,833	14,772,724	35,685,735	26,745,500



	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	YTD VARIANCE	COMMIT	ANNUAL MID YEAR BUDGET	ANNUAL ORIGINAL BUDGET
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT						
Plant, machinery and equipment						
1188. HACC Minor works	-	-	-	-	50,000	-
1445. 1702-19/20 Fleet Purchases	1,093,701	861,000	(232,701)	880,498	3,140,900	3,140,900
1447. 2252-22/23 Fleet New Program	130,571	57,770	(72,801)	-	57,770	-
4044. NPR Pedestrian Counters S/City	-	12,492	12,492	-	12,492	-
Library books						
3104. 2593-23/24 Library Strategy	334,576	436,600	102,024	282,179	878,000	878,000
Computers and telecommunications						
3957. 2294-22/23 Audio Visual Renewal	24,225	111,200	86,975	303,312	556,500	556,500
4007. 1713-19/20 Merit CRM Replacement	-	88,050	88,050	-	88,050	-
4052. LRCI3 Optical Fibre Various	-	10,194	10,194	-	10,194	-
4104. 1932-20/21 Security Program	-	8,000	8,000	-	40,000	40,000
4112. 2455-23/24 Keysborough Food Svcs	110,745	33,200	(77,545)	-	165,500	165,500
4152. 1347-19/20 Various Locations Wi-Fi	-	7,200	7,200	-	36,000	36,000
4153. 1346-19/20 Hemmings Pk-Radio/Wi-Fi	-	5,200	5,200	-	25,000	25,000
4154. 2358-22/23 Var Locations Pple Count	-	7,600	7,600	-	37,000	37,000
Fixtures, fittings and furniture						
3314. 2460-23/24 Furniture Renewal Prg	-	13,200	13,200	-	65,780	65,780
4151. 2463-23/24 Public Art Renewal Prog	2,501	10,000	7,499	-	50,000	50,000
Total plant and equipment	1,696,318	1,661,706	(34,612)	1,465,989	5,213,186	4,994,680

INFRASTRUCTURE						
Parks, open space and streetscapes						
1629. 2231-22/23 Vanity Lane 275 Lonsdale	275	-	(275)	5,576	1,985,276	-
3442. 2574-23/24 NPR Noble Park Revital'n	-	90,000	90,000	-	335,000	150,000
3849. 2201-22/23 Fred Wachter Playground	-	92,392	92,392	-	92,392	-
3900. 1542-19/20 Ross Reserve Landscape	92,394	134,279	41,885	5,542	134,279	-
3931. 2440-23/24 Guardrail Program	1,750	20,000	18,250	69,155	100,000	100,000
3932. 2462-23/24 Passive O/Space Renewal	445,702	407,300	(38,402)	337,682	1,335,000	1,335,000
3977. 1996-20/21 LXRA Rectification Works	-	12,185	12,185	16,818	40,644	-
4012. 1800-20/21 Alex Wilkie Wetlands	-	50,000	50,000	-	50,000	-
4014. 2575-23/24 NPR Frank Street	157,226	24,000	(133,226)	-	120,000	120,000
4018. 2101-21/22 Tirhatuan Park Wetland	-	-	-	1,760	-	-
4020. 2225-22/23 LRCI3 Railway Parade SC	198,050	213,742	15,692	3,563	213,742	-
4027. 1920-20/21 NPR Ian St Street Scape	116,556	305,221	188,665	38,075	305,221	-
4032. 1138-18/19 Hemmings St Precinct	11,277	141,320	130,043	-	141,320	-
4043. NPR Leonard/Buckley Streetscape	-	31,400	31,400	-	31,400	-
4062. 2561-22/23 NPR Muderra Artwork	10,800	179,664	168,864	2,500	179,664	-
4065. 2564-22/23 NPR Leonard Av St-Scape	344,773	398,079	53,306	36,782	398,079	-
4128. 1313-18/19 Tyers Lane Reserve	13,039	24,000	10,961	68,892	120,000	120,000
4134. 2465-23/24 Lighting Renewal Prg	121,695	264,500	142,805	1,056,612	1,390,000	1,802,500
4136. 1519-19/20 Norine Cox Reserve	14,900	-	(14,900)	-	-	-
4141. 2560-22/23 Keshava Mural Thunder FC	25,000	30,000	5,000	-	30,000	-
4162. 2303-22/23 Safe City CCTV RenewProg	-	27,200	27,200	-	136,550	136,550
4163. 2469-23/24 Ligh Renew Prog-Op Space	1,560	100,000	98,440	390	412,500	-
4164. 2318-22/23 Dandy CBD-LED Upgrade	-	94,200	94,200	-	409,640	409,640
4165. 2359-22/23 Hemmings Pk - Lighting	-	18,800	18,800	81,766	93,500	93,500
4166. 2223-22/23 86-88 Clow St Landscape	-	50,000	50,000	5,649	250,000	250,000
4167. 1869-20/21 Ian Tatt Lsr Prk LEDStg1	-	40,000	40,000	-	200,000	200,000
4168. 2113-21/22 Warner Rsv - Stg 2 of 2	43,639	40,000	(3,639)	7,034	200,000	200,000
4169. 2141-21/22 Madison Reserve	500	50,000	49,500	7,034	250,000	250,000
4170. 2144-21/22 Bakers Reserve	500	50,000	49,500	1,386	250,000	250,000
4171. 2202-22/23 Fred. Wachtr. RsvLndscpe	-	20,000	20,000	10,551	100,000	100,000
4172. 2207-22/23 Rowley Allan Rsv LapBldg	-	19,200	19,200	65,273	95,000	95,000



	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	YTD VARIANCE	COMMIT	ANNUAL MID YEAR BUDGET	ANNUAL ORIGINAL BUDGET
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Parks, open space and streetscapes (continued)						
4173. 2398-22/23 Thoms. Carroll Rsv Entry	20,594	100,000	79,406	71,481	500,000	500,000
4174. 2414-22/23 Springvalley Park	-	40,000	40,000	5,542	200,000	200,000
4175. 2576-23/24 Springvale Revit ActPLAN	-	50,000	50,000	-	250,000	250,000
4177. 1832-20/21 George Andrews Rsv Upgrd	500	30,000	29,500	146,979	150,000	150,000
4178. 2614-23/24 Burden Park-Shade Sails	9,785	24,000	14,215	-	120,000	120,000
4179. 2609-23/24 Glendale Reserve	21,783	20,000	(1,783)	2,771	100,000	100,000
4180. 2214-22/23 218 Railway Pde Pckt Prk	500	16,000	15,500	5,649	80,000	80,000
4181. 2147-21/22 Thornton Reserve	-	25,200	25,200	44,318	125,000	125,000
4191. Railway Parade Shopping Centre	-	-	-	-	200,000	-
Recreational, leisure and community facilities						
3209. 2464-23/24 Active Reserves Renewal	346,817	347,700	883	709,711	1,995,000	5,995,000
3454. 2584-23/24 ash program	5,995	47,000	41,005	-	100,000	100,000
3518. 1987-20/21 Harmony Square	1,200	-	(1,200)	3,182	-	-
3849. 2201-22/23 Fred Wachter Playground	445,220	523,554	78,334	41,633	523,554	-
3853. 2186-22/23 Parkfield Rsvr Cricket	29,290	53,418	24,128	-	53,418	-
3969. 1641-19/20 Thomas Carroll P'ground	10,162	-	(10,162)	-	-	-
4031. 1499-19/20 Ross Reserve SoccerPitch	83,881	338,081	254,200	255,596	338,081	-
4066. 2592-23/24 George Andrews Rsv Light	119	-	(119)	701,753	704,130	230,800
4119. 1843-20/21 Fred Wachter Tennis Lght	138	-	(138)	71	-	-
4120. 2475-23/24 Ross Reserve Ath Track	3,586,390	4,755,506	1,169,116	1,087,996	5,166,121	-
4121. 2339-22/23 Children Services Prg	17,944	-	(17,944)	7,063	-	-
4123. 2192-22/23 Ross Reserve Lighting	-	-	-	71	-	-
4124. 2194-22/23 Thomas Carroll Oval1 Lgt	138	-	(138)	71	-	-
4157. 2209-22/23 Springvale Rsv - Playgrd	-	141,000	141,000	2,771	300,000	300,000
4158. 2416-22/23 Springvale Rsv - Netball	-	347,800	347,800	280	740,000	740,000
4159. 2197-22/23 Warner Rsv-Tennis-1 of 3	3,250	6,000	2,750	11,764	30,000	30,000
4160. 2601-23/24 Booth Rsv-Afghan RockCrt	195	15,200	15,005	39,062	75,000	75,000
4161. 2203-22/23 Fred. Wachtr. Rsv-RecDes	-	16,000	16,000	-	80,000	80,000
Roads						
3080. 2232-22/23 LRCI2 DCP-L102 AbbotsRd	-	-	-	-	350,000	-
3231. 2256-22/23 Road Reconstruction Prg	1,604,436	1,668,451	64,015	315,902	3,618,451	3,000,000
3373. 2441-23/24 Kerb & Channel Renewal	209,706	300,000	90,294	29,910	500,000	500,000
3404. Black Spot - Brady Rd, Dandenong	-	-	-	-	1,191,072	-
3418. 2582-23/24 LATM New Program	491,478	333,719	(157,759)	141,074	723,719	500,000
3752. 2445-23/24 Roads to Recovery Prg	437,917	860,200	422,283	362,350	2,496,388	2,407,702
3753. 2253-22/23 Road Resurfacing Prg	1,503	-	(1,503)	3,413	-	-
3754. 2446-23/24 Road Rehabilitation Prg	3,751,739	3,375,000	(376,739)	1,179,234	5,000,000	2,500,000
3828. 1685-19/20 Mason Street	28,407	-	(28,407)	16,075	-	-
3942. 1784-20/21 Black Spot Works Program	991,440	870,788	(120,652)	62,280	870,788	-
3962. 1478-19/20 Bakers Road Service Road	10,217	23,305	13,088	-	23,305	-
3992. 1399-19/20 Perry Road DCP-KR01a	223,476	1,269,600	1,046,124	40	4,232,883	-
4059. 2557-22/23 OUTLOOK DVE BLACKSPOT F	7,255	29,600	22,345	3,384	148,336	-
4060. 2558-22/23 RAILWAY PDE BLACKSPOT P	17,762	141,000	123,238	16,961	471,480	-
4061. 2559-22/23 Browns Rd Blackspot PG	23,240	127,900	104,660	2,297	427,083	-
4064. 2563-22/23 NPR Laneway Activation P	54,485	50,000	(4,485)	38,305	100,000	-
4138. 2448-23/24 LATM Renewal Program	125,225	109,500	(15,725)	24,326	150,000	150,000
Bridges						
4034. 2243-22/23 LRCI3 Hammond Rd Bridge	132,098	156,000	23,902	294,836	519,581	-
4046. 2244-22/23 LRCI3 Abbots Rd Bridge	-	30,000	30,000	-	100,000	-
Footpath and cycleways						
3174. 2581-23/24 Active Transport ATIPP	145,787	130,000	(15,787)	1,472	500,000	500,000
3355. 2443-23/24 Footpath Renewal Prg	439,016	350,000	(89,016)	272,879	700,000	700,000
4155. 1995-20/21 Mordialloc Crk Eq Trail	-	4,000	4,000	-	20,000	20,000

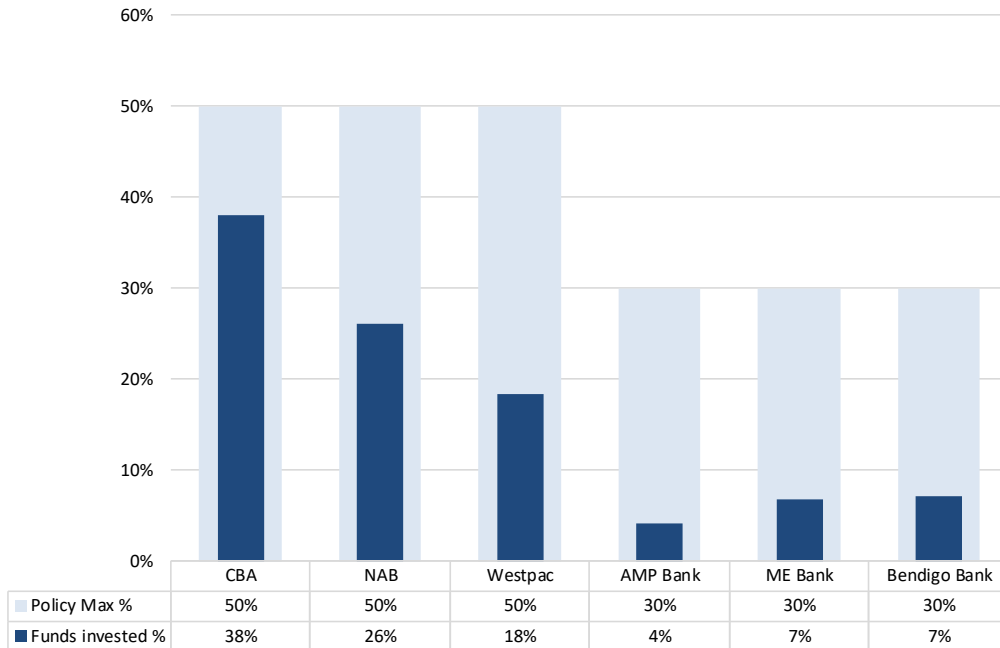


	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	YTD VARIANCE	COMMIT	ANNUAL MID YEAR BUDGET	ANNUAL ORIGINAL BUDGET
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Off street car parks						
4033. 1914-20/21 LRCI3 The Crescent	-	19,616	19,616	-	19,616	-
4049. 2288-22/23 LRCI3 Robert Booth-Bess	-	14,243	14,243	-	14,243	-
4182. 2205-22/23 Rowley Allan Rsv - Fence	91	12,000	11,909	70,410	60,000	60,000
4183. 1428-19/20 The Castle - Carpark Des	4,456	3,200	(1,256)	-	15,000	15,000
4186. D'nong Market - CarPark Recitificat	-	67,500	67,500	-	225,000	-
Drainage						
3019. 2439-22/23 Drainage Renewal Prg	388,306	390,000	1,694	7,721	400,000	400,000
3558. 2449-23/24 Pit Renewal Program	10,235	35,000	24,765	-	100,000	100,000
3939. 2438-22/23 Drainage Reactive Prg	163,139	175,000	11,861	26,553	500,000	500,000
4010. 2230-22/23 LRCI2 Callander Rd	-	60,000	60,000	1,350	300,000	300,000
4116. 1998-20/21 Drainage Catchment 38A	475,000	425,000	(50,000)	-	425,000	-
4156. 1798-20/21 Victoria Avenue New GPT	-	50,000	50,000	-	250,000	250,000
Total infrastructure	15,919,949	20,904,563	4,984,615	7,830,575	46,543,296	26,590,692
GRAND TOTAL	22,381,375	28,771,210	6,389,835	24,069,288	87,442,217	58,330,872

APPENDIX 2 – Investment Analysis

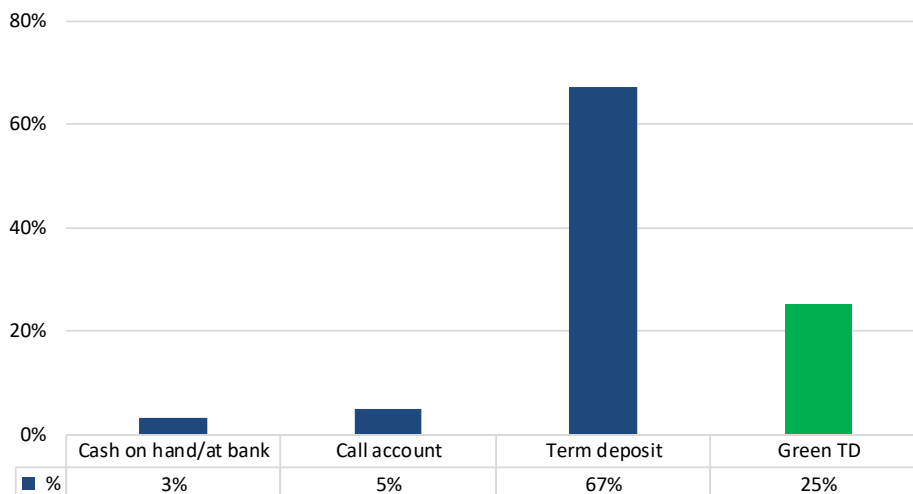
An update of Council's Investment Policy was approved in July 2023. The graphs in this appendix have been revised in accordance with the new policy parameters governing controls and thresholds of investment funds.

Individual Institution (ADI) limits



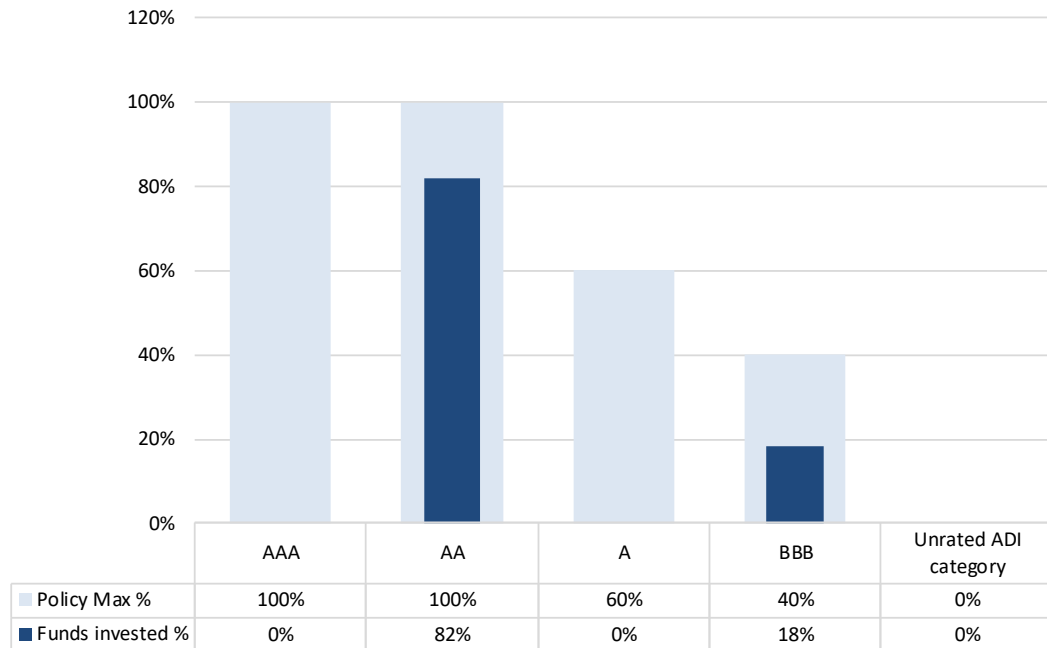
Policy limit – Council's Investment Policy limits funds invested in AAA category Authorised Deposit Institutions (ADI) to a maximum of 60%, 50% with AA category or major bank, 40% with A category ADIs, 30% with BBB category ADIs and 0% in unrated ADIs.

Portfolio Products

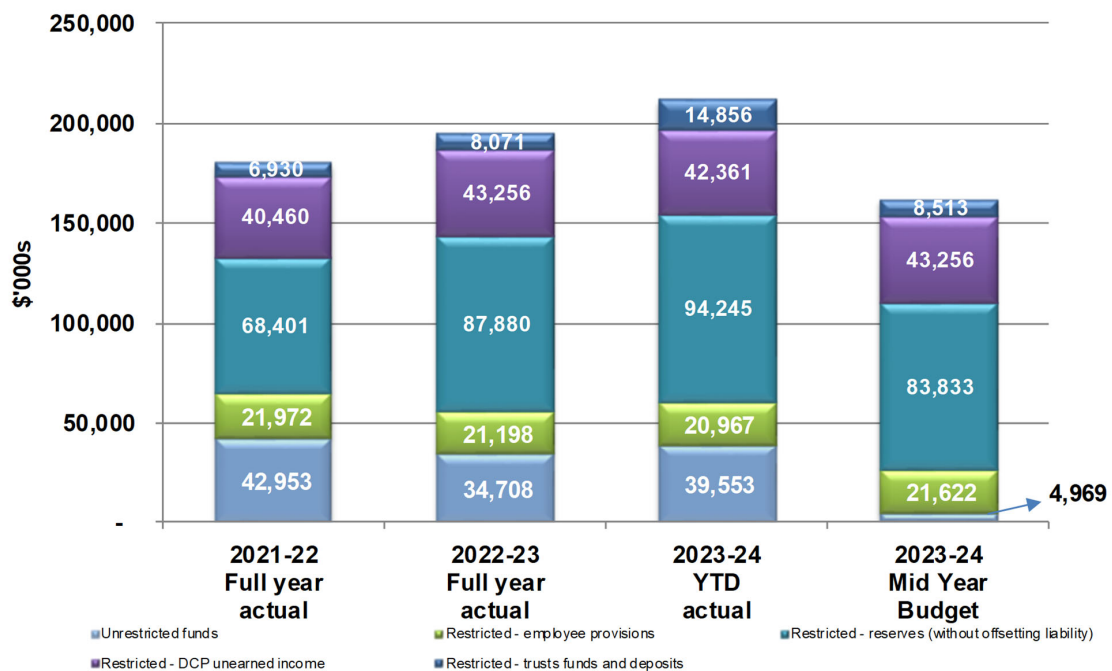


Note: Green deposits: 25% (or \$53.1 million) was invested at 31 December 2023. These investments are certified against Climate Bonds Initiative – Climate Bonds Standard, the same certification as green bonds. Investments held with Bendigo Bank fall under this category as this institution does not invest in fossil fuels.

Investment portfolio by credit rating

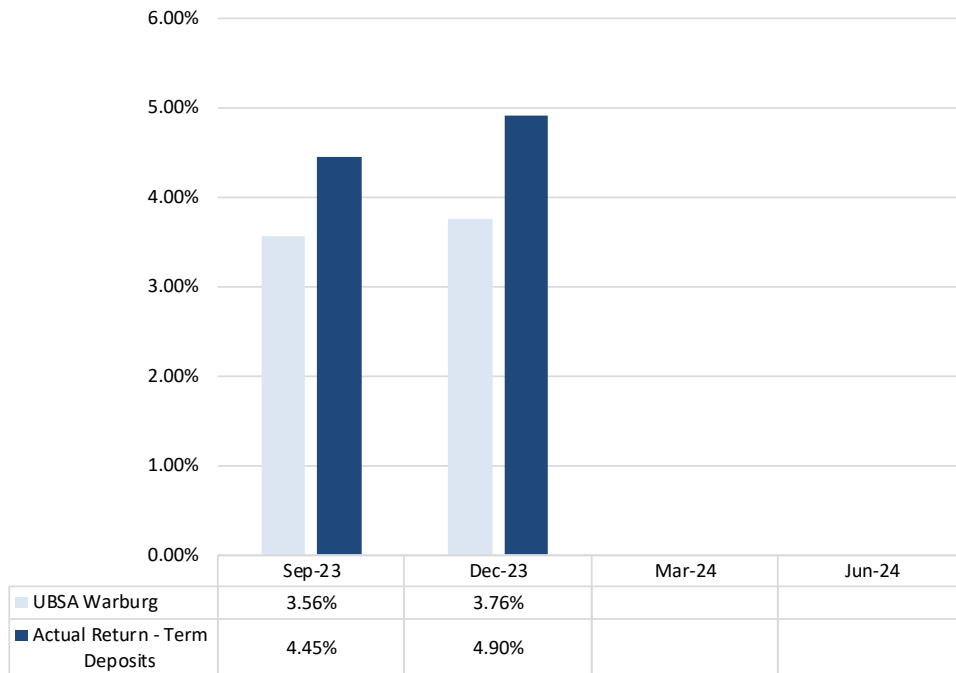


Restricted and unrestricted cash balances

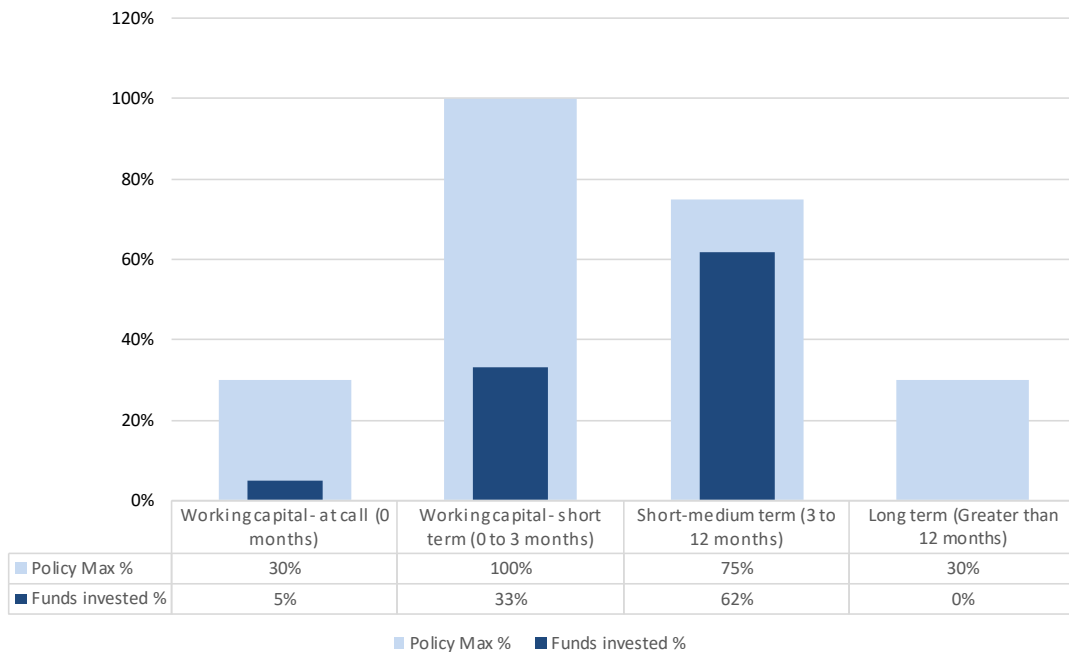


Note – the unrestricted cash balance at 31 December 2023 does not reconcile to the Statement of Cash Flows for the purposes of the above graph as the term deposits over 90 days classified as ‘financial assets’ has been included as cash here.

Benchmark Indicator - Term/Green Deposits



Maturity Targets



The above graph includes both cash and investments.

APPENDIX 3 – Directorate Analysis

Total Operating Results

CGD BY DIRECTORATE					
	YTD ACTUAL \$'000	YTD BUDGET \$'000	YTD VARIANCE \$'000	ANNUAL MID YEAR BUDGET \$'000	ANNUAL ORIGINAL BUDGET \$'000
Income					
Chief Executive Office	8	-	8	-	-
Corporate Development	880	968	(88)	1,951	1,951
City Futures	18,289	17,957	332	37,052	36,252
Community Strengthening	21,053	19,707	1,346	39,800	37,554
Non-Directorate ^(a)	78,602	78,867	(265)	159,072	167,050
Capital Works Program	1,129	1,010	119	16,186	5,316
Total income	119,961	118,509	1,452	254,061	248,123
Expenses					
Chief Executive Office	6,324	6,737	413	11,553	11,098
Corporate Development	9,256	9,686	430	18,207	17,687
City Futures	38,414	40,145	1,731	86,966	84,772
Community Strengthening	34,595	38,761	4,166	77,519	65,972
Non-Directorate ^(a)	21,498	19,047	(2,451)	40,404	39,511
Capital Works Program	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenses	110,087	114,376	4,289	234,649	219,040
Net surplus (deficit)	9,874	4,133	5,741	19,412	29,083

^(a) Non Directorate includes non-attributable items such as rates income, developer's contributions, interest income, non-monetary assets, finance costs and depreciation.

Note. Total income and total expenditure may differ to the operating result presented earlier in this report due to the treatment of proceeds from asset sales and associated written down value.

CEO DIRECTORATE

OPERATING RESULT

	Notes	YTD ACTUAL \$'000	YTD BUDGET \$'000	YTD VARIANCE \$'000	ANNUAL MID YEAR BUDGET \$'000	ANNUAL ORIGINAL BUDGET \$'000
Income						
Other income		8	-	8	-	-
Total income		8	-	8	-	-
Expenses						
Employee costs	1	2,077	2,232	155	4,464	4,464
Materials and services	2	3,938	4,222	284	6,523	6,068
Other expenses		309	283	(26)	566	566
Total expenses		6,324	6,737	413	11,553	11,098
Net surplus (deficit)		(6,316)	(6,737)	421	(11,553)	(11,098)

BUSINESS UNITS

	YTD ACTUAL \$'000	YTD BUDGET \$'000	YTD VARIANCE \$'000	ANNUAL MID YEAR BUDGET \$'000	ANNUAL ORIGINAL BUDGET \$'000
Income					
Digital Technology	8	-	8	-	-
Total income	8	-	8	-	-
Expenses					
CEO	405	390	(15)	709	709
Digital Technology	4,099	4,468	369	6,922	6,522
Strategic Growth & Advocacy	1,820	1,879	59	3,922	3,867
Total expenses	6,324	6,737	413	11,553	11,098
Net surplus (deficit)	(6,316)	(6,737)	421	(11,553)	(11,098)

Expenditure

Note 1 Employee costs (\$155,000 favourable) – Favourable variance due to salary savings from vacant positions and delay in recruitment (Digital Technology \$146,000), partly offset by higher than anticipated temporary staff costs.

Note 2 Materials and services (\$284,000 favourable) - Mainly due to lower than anticipated software maintenance and network communications rental (Digital Technology \$182,000) combined with a delay in receipt of invoices for telephone costs (Digital Technology \$24,000), street lighting tariffs and asbestos audits (Asset Management \$52,000).

CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

OPERATING RESULT

	Notes	YTD ACTUAL \$'000	YTD BUDGET \$'000	YTD VARIANCE \$'000	ANNUAL MID YEAR BUDGET \$'000	ANNUAL ORIGINAL BUDGET \$'000
Income						
Statutory fees and fines		63	52	11	104	104
User fees		13	11	2	23	23
Other income	3	804	905	(101)	1,824	1,824
Total income		880	968	(88)	1,951	1,951
Expenses						
Employee costs	4	5,651	5,893	242	11,951	11,747
Materials and services	5	3,263	3,414	151	5,407	5,102
Other expenses		342	379	37	849	838
Total expenses		9,256	9,686	430	18,207	17,687
Net surplus (deficit)		(8,376)	(8,718)	342	(16,256)	(15,736)

BUSINESS UNITS

	YTD ACTUAL \$'000	YTD BUDGET \$'000	YTD VARIANCE \$'000	ANNUAL MID YEAR BUDGET \$'000	ANNUAL ORIGINAL BUDGET \$'000
Income					
Governance, Legal & Risk	775	873	(98)	1,680	1,680
Financial Services	102	95	7	271	271
People and Change	3	-	3	-	-
Total income	880	968	(88)	1,951	1,951
Expenses					
Corporate Development Executive	148	147	(1)	299	299
Communications & Customer Experience	2,087	2,171	84	4,383	4,283
Governance, Legal & Risk	3,348	3,425	77	5,619	5,560
Financial Services	2,043	2,165	122	4,234	4,064
People and Change	1,630	1,778	148	3,672	3,481
Total expenses	9,256	9,686	430	18,207	17,687
Net surplus (deficit)	(8,376)	(8,718)	342	(16,256)	(15,736)

Corporate Development Directorate

Income

Note 3 Other income (\$101,000 unfavourable) – Lower than anticipated rental due to timing of quarterly invoice (Dandenong Market \$59,000) and commercial property rental expected to balance by year end (Property Management Administration \$33,000).

Expenditure

Note 4 Employee costs (\$241,000 favourable) – Favourable variance due to delay in recruitment and lower temporary agency staff costs (Call and Service Centres \$76,000, Community Property \$69,000, Occupational Health and Safety \$52,000, Financial Services \$52,000, People and Change Executive \$30,000, Records Management \$20,000 and Members of Council \$13,000).

This favourable variance is partly offset by a higher than anticipated salaries and temporary agency staff costs to date (Governance \$35,000 and Property Management Administration \$20,000).

Note 5 Materials and services (\$151,000 favourable) – Due to delay in receipt of invoices, combined with lower than anticipated printing and stationery, postage and storage, legal services, professional services, software and application maintenance and advertising (Property Revenue \$56,000, People and Change Executive \$44,000, Customer Service Executive \$21,000, Call and Service Centres \$19,000, Procurement \$17,000, Occupational Health and Safety \$19,000 and Urban Screen \$14,000).

This favourable variance is partly offset by higher than anticipated professional fees (Communications and Customer Experience Executive \$51,000).

CITY FUTURES DIRECTORATE

OPERATING RESULT

	Notes	YTD ACTUAL \$'000	YTD BUDGET \$'000	YTD VARIANCE \$'000	ANNUAL MID YEAR BUDGET \$'000	ANNUAL ORIGINAL BUDGET \$'000
Income						
Rates and charges		13,174	13,217	(43)	26,315	26,315
Statutory fees and fines	6	1,186	1,475	(289)	2,951	2,999
User fees	7	1,579	1,083	496	2,175	2,176
Grants - operating	8	445	360	85	642	529
Contributions - monetary	9	1,073	1,000	73	2,000	2,000
Asset sales		478	500	(22)	1,000	1,000
Other income		354	322	32	1,969	1,233
Total income		18,289	17,957	332	37,052	36,252
Expenses						
Employee costs	10	15,205	15,572	367	31,337	31,267
Materials and services	11	23,013	24,422	1,409	55,025	52,938
Bad and doubtful debts		11	-	(11)	15	15
Other expenses		185	151	(34)	335	298
Total expenses		38,414	40,145	1,731	86,966	84,772
Net surplus (deficit)		(20,125)	(22,188)	2,063	(49,914)	(48,520)

BUSINESS UNITS

	YTD ACTUAL \$'000	YTD BUDGET \$'000	YTD VARIANCE \$'000	ANNUAL MID YEAR BUDGET \$'000	ANNUAL ORIGINAL BUDGET \$'000
Income					
Business Development & Investment	176	190	(14)	392	386
Chief Engineering & Major Projects	14	10	4	20	20
Infrastructure Services	13,935	13,903	32	28,637	28,046
Building & Compliance Services	1,682	1,232	450	2,759	2,508
Statutory Planning	1,901	2,021	(120)	4,043	4,043
Strategic & Environmental Planning	55	13	42	25	25
Transport & Civil Development	526	588	(62)	1,176	1,224
Total income	18,289	17,957	332	37,052	36,252
Expenses					
City Futures Exec.	193	243	50	486	486
Business Development & Investment	1,589	1,881	292	3,973	3,515
Chief Engineering & Major Projects	6,990	6,182	(808)	12,566	12,474
Infrastructure Services	23,038	24,826	1,788	56,415	55,265
Building & Compliance Services	2,812	2,736	(76)	5,159	4,665
Statutory Planning	1,472	1,641	169	3,249	3,249
Strategic & Environmental Planning	1,071	1,304	233	2,620	2,620
Transport & Civil Development	1,249	1,332	83	2,498	2,498
Total expenses	38,414	40,145	1,731	86,966	84,772
Net surplus (deficit)	(20,125)	(22,188)	2,063	(49,914)	(48,520)

City Futures Directorate

Income

Note 6 Statutory fees and fines (\$289,000 unfavourable) – Unfavourable variance due to lower than anticipated application numbers (Statutory Planning \$178,000) and subdivisions to date (Civil Development and Design \$57,000).

Note 7 User fees (\$496,000 favourable) – Favourable variance mainly due to higher than anticipated income from Health registration permits which are expected to come in line with budget over the coming months (Health \$481,000).

Note 8 Grants – operating (\$85,000 favourable) – Mainly due to unbudgeted grant funding received for Liveable Communities, Liveable Waterways Yarraman Creek project (Parks Services \$78,000).

Note 9 Contributions – monetary (\$73,000 favourable) – Better than anticipated income from public open space contributions. The nature of these receipts makes timing difficult to predict. These funds are transferred to reserves (Statutory Planning).

Expenditure

Note 10 Employee costs (\$367,000 favourable) – Due to a delay in filling vacant positions (Infrastructure Services \$243,000, Statutory Planning \$204,000, Strategic and Environmental Planning \$181,000, Business, Development and Investment \$100,000 and Strategic and City Futures Executive \$44,000).

This favourable variance is offset by higher than anticipated temporary staff costs (Chief Engineer and Major Projects \$393,000 and Building and Compliance Services \$19,000).

Note 11 Materials and services (\$1.49 million favourable) – Favourable variance due to delay in receipt of invoices for contract costs (Waste Management \$1.73 million), timing of works (Spring Valley Landfill \$142,000) and lower than anticipated costs (Business Networks \$89,000, Economic Development Unit \$68,000, Strategic Design and Sustainability \$59,000, Building \$59,000, Strategic Asset Planning \$35,000, Place Making and Revitalisation \$34,000, Strengthening Pathways to Economic Participation (SPEP) \$24,000, Asset Protection \$22,000 and Transport \$21,000), particularly in graffiti removal (Cleansing \$285,000) and open space maintenance (Parks Services \$101,000).

This favourable variance is offset by higher than anticipated professional services Roads and Drains \$129,000, Health \$105,000, City Improvement Executive \$80,000, Building Maintenance – Dandenong \$65,000 and Statutory Planning \$36,000), particularly in cleaning and security services (Building Maintenance \$287,000).

COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING DIRECTORATE

OPERATING RESULT

	Notes	YTD ACTUAL \$'000	YTD BUDGET \$'000	YTD VARIANCE \$'000	ANNUAL MID YEAR BUDGET \$'000	ANNUAL ORIGINAL BUDGET \$'000
Income						
Statutory fees and fines	12	4,169	3,880	289	7,763	7,763
User fees		3,247	3,248	(1)	6,981	7,017
Grants - operating	13	12,458	11,704	754	23,361	21,079
Contributions - monetary	14	130	-	130	-	-
Other income	15	1,049	875	174	1,695	1,695
Total income		21,053	19,707	1,346	39,800	37,554
Expenses						
Employee costs	16	22,395	26,369	3,974	53,980	46,238
Materials and services	17	10,399	10,334	(65)	18,141	15,031
Bad and doubtful debts		879	870	(9)	2,230	2,230
Other expenses	18	922	1,188	266	3,168	2,473
Total expenses		34,595	38,761	4,166	77,519	65,972
Net surplus (deficit)		(13,542)	(19,054)	5,512	(37,719)	(28,418)

BUSINESS UNITS

	YTD ACTUAL \$'000	YTD BUDGET \$'000	YTD VARIANCE \$'000	ANNUAL MID YEAR BUDGET \$'000	ANNUAL ORIGINAL BUDGET \$'000
Income					
Community Strengthening Executive	-	-	-	-	-
Community Wellbeing	8,327	7,295	1,032	14,840	11,617
Community Care	3,643	3,969	(326)	9,306	10,278
Community Arts, Culture and Libraries	1,988	1,837	151	2,730	2,730
Safe, Active & Connected Communities	606	445	161	690	737
Community Amenity	6,488	6,161	327	12,234	12,192
Special Projects	1	-	1	-	-
Total income	21,053	19,707	1,346	39,800	37,554
Expenses					
Community Strengthening Executive	480	392	(88)	870	480
Community Wellbeing	10,616	13,136	2,520	27,182	18,203
Community Care	6,518	7,406	888	15,261	14,666
Community Arts, Culture and Libraries	6,839	7,032	193	13,568	13,292
Safe, Active & Connected Communities	5,441	5,808	367	10,283	9,316
Community Amenity	4,607	4,831	224	10,077	9,812
Special Projects	94	156	62	278	203
Total expenses	34,595	38,761	4,166	77,519	65,972
Net surplus (deficit)	(13,542)	(19,054)	5,512	(37,719)	(28,418)

Community Strengthening Directorate

Income

Note 12 User fees (\$289,000 favourable) – Due mainly to better than anticipated income from parking fines and infringement cost recoveries (Parking Management \$293,000).

Note 13 Grants – operating (\$754,000 favourable) - comprising:

Additional/unbudgeted or earlier than anticipated:

- Family Day Care \$559,000
- Child First \$140,000
- Maternal and Child Health \$118,000
- Market Street Occasional Care Centre Operational \$82,000
- Children's Support Services \$65,000
- HACC Co-ordination \$36,000
- Emergency Management \$36,000
- Positive Ageing (Senior Citizens) \$21,000
- Home and Community Care \$19,000
- PYP Linkages \$17,000
- Playgroups Initiatives \$15,000
- Volunteer Program \$13,000

These favourable variances are partly offset by:

Lower than anticipated grant funding recognised to date based on satisfied performance obligations for:

- HACC – Assessments and Team Leaders \$203,000
- Sleep and Settling Initiative \$105,000
- Planned Activity Group \$36,000
- Food Services \$14,000

A delay in grant funding:

- Library and Information Services \$51,000

Note 14 Contributions-monetary (\$130,000 favourable) – Due to unbudgeted income received for the Status Resolution Support Services program and Healthy Children and Young People grant program (Community Development \$58,000 and Healthy Children and Young People \$72,000).

Note 15 Other income (\$174,000 favourable) - Higher than anticipated rental and recovery income to date (Civic Facilities \$82,000, Drum Theatre \$58,000, Senior Citizen Facilities \$33,000, Jan Wilson Community Centre \$20,000 and Immunisation \$20,000).

This favourable variance is partly offset by delay in invoicing Carroll Lane car park lease and sports clubs for utility expenses (Car Parks \$41,000 and Sports Planning \$28,000).

Expenses

Note 16 Employee costs (\$3.97 million favourable) – Approximately half (\$2.09 million) of this favourable variance relates to grant funded programs which require an acquittal, caused mainly by a delay in recruitment (Enhanced MCH Program \$846,000, Sleep and Settling Initiative \$430,000, Pre-School Field Officer \$200,000, Playground Initiatives \$181,000, Child First \$159,000 and Drug Strategy \$105,000).

The remaining favourable variance is due to a delay in recruitment of vacant positions combined with challenges in sourcing permanent skilled staff (Home and Community Care \$461,000, Maternal and Child Health \$278,000, Childrens' Support Services \$247,000, Library Services \$230,000, Family Day Care \$159,000, Community Funding \$107,000, Community Arts, Cultural and Libraries Executive \$158,000, Youth and Family Support \$84,000, Access and Quality Systems \$84,000, HACC Co-ordination \$80,000, Planned Activity Group \$68,000 and Community Amenity Administration \$68,000).

Note 17 Materials and services (\$65,000 unfavourable) – Due to higher payments to educators (Family Day Care \$500,000) relating to an expanded service matched by higher grant income, partly offset by lower than anticipated expenditure for contract services in parking equipment maintenance, cash collection and the animal pound contract (Community Amenity \$103,000), food service materials and PYP Linkages service delivery costs (Community Care \$119,000).

Note 18 Other expenses (\$266,000 favourable) – Favourable variance due higher than anticipated grants distributed and lower than anticipated expenditure (Community Funding \$322,000. Empowering Communities \$40,000 and Marketing Street Occasional Child Care \$13,000).

Partially offset by lower than anticipated accommodation costs (Food Services \$12,000)

NON-DIRECTORATE

OPERATING RESULT

	Notes	YTD ACTUAL \$'000	YTD BUDGET \$'000	YTD VARIANCE \$'000	ANNUAL MID YEAR BUDGET \$'000	ANNUAL ORIGINAL BUDGET \$'000
Income						
Rates and charges		73,328	73,289	39	144,093	143,824
Grants - operating	19	284	426	(142)	568	12,215
Contributions - non-monetary		-	-	-	7,500	7,500
Other income	20	4,990	5,152	(162)	6,911	3,511
Total income		78,602	78,867	(265)	159,072	167,050
Expenses						
Employee costs	21	124	33	(91)	1,586	1,293
Materials and services		374	374	-	998	998
Prior year capital expenditure unable to be capitalised (non-cash)	22	2,209	-	(2,209)	-	-
Depreciation		16,794	16,794	-	34,201	33,601
Amortisation - right of use assets		299	299	-	598	598
Borrowing costs		1,290	1,290	-	2,698	2,698
Finance costs - leases		-	-	-	22	22
Asset write offs	23	194	-	(194)	-	-
Other expenses		214	257	43	301	301
Total expenses		21,498	19,047	(2,451)	40,404	39,511
Net surplus (deficit)		57,104	59,820	(2,716)	118,668	127,539

BUSINESS UNITS

	YTD ACTUAL \$'000	YTD BUDGET \$'000	YTD VARIANCE \$'000	ANNUAL MID YEAR BUDGET \$'000	ANNUAL ORIGINAL BUDGET \$'000
Income					
Corporate Accounting	78,602	78,867	(265)	159,072	167,050
Total income	78,602	78,867	(265)	159,072	167,050
Expenses					
Corporate Accounting	21,498	19,047	(2,451)	40,404	39,511
Total expenses	21,498	19,047	(2,451)	40,404	39,511
Net surplus (deficit)	57,104	59,820	(2,716)	118,668	127,539

Non-Directorate includes non-attributable items such as rates income, fire services levy payable on Council properties, developer's contributions, interest income, gifted assets, carrying amount of assets disposed/written off and finance costs.

Non Directorate

Income

Note 19 Grants - operating (\$142,000 unfavourable) – Due to timing of the Victoria Local Government Grants Commission funding allocation which will be resolved in February (Corporate Accounting \$142,000).

Note 20 Other income (\$162,000 unfavourable) – Due to phasing of interest income on investments which will resolve in January (\$191,000), partly off offset by unbudgeted legal discount rebate relating to prior year costs (\$30,000).

Expenses

Note 21 Employee costs (\$91,000 unfavourable) – Due to temporary agency staff costs to progress the key deliverables of 'Reshaping Greater Dandenong' including review of revenue optimisation opportunities, which have been budgeted in Materials and Services.

Note 22 Prior year capital expenditure unable to be capitalised (non-cash) (\$2,209,000 unfavourable) – Due to works in progress (prior year capital expenditure) that is not able to be capitalised to the asset register because it is not capital in nature, does not meet the capitalisation threshold or relates to non-Council owned assets (Non-Directorate). This is an accounting entry that does not impact on Council's cash position. It is not included in the budget as it is difficult to predict.

Note 23 Asset write offs (\$194,000 unfavourable) – Unfavourable variance arising from asset renewal and replacement as part of capital work projects. This item is not budgeted as it is difficult to predict and is a non-cash accounting entry.

CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM

OPERATING RESULT

	Notes	YTD ACTUAL \$'000	YTD BUDGET \$'000	YTD VARIANCE \$'000	ANNUAL MID YEAR BUDGET \$'000	ANNUAL ORIGINAL BUDGET \$'000
Income						
Grants - capital	24	1,107	1,010	97	13,828	5,316
Contributions - monetary		16	-	16	2,358	-
Other income		6	-	6	-	-
Total income		1,129	1,010	119	16,186	5,316
Expenses						
Employee costs		-	-	-	-	-
Materials and services		-	-	-	-	-
Other expenses		-	-	-	-	-
Total expenses		-	-	-	-	-
Net surplus (deficit)		1,129	1,010	119	16,186	5,316

Capital Works Program

Income

Note 24 **Grants – capital (\$97,000 favourable)** - comprising:

Unbudgeted grant funding recognised:

- Precinct Energy Plant (PEP) Redevelopment \$65,000
- Noble Park Revitalisation (NPR) Laneway Activation \$46,000

These grants will be offset by associated project expenditure and reflected in the full year forecast.

APPENDIX 4 - Operating Initiatives

Operating initiative project	2023-24 YTD Actuals \$	2023-24 YTD Budget \$	YTD Variance (Unfav) Fav \$	2023-24 Original Budget \$	Project update 31 December 2023
CITY FUTURES					
Concept Plan for Lois Twohig Reserve, Dandenong North	-	-	-	40,000	Commencement on the development of the Lois Twohig Reserve Concept Plan will not commence until early quarter three. The focus for the first and second quarters has been to plan, design and consult on all of the capital works projects that have a construction component that needs to be completed by the end of the 2023-24 financial year.
Sub-total	-	-	-	40,000	
Total Operating Initiatives	-	-	-	40,000	

Notes re Operating Initiative reporting:

The reporting on operating initiatives excludes the following:

- salary related initiatives
- operating initiatives that add to an existing budget
- ongoing initiatives



4.2 OTHER

4.2.1 Draft Minutes of Arts Advisory Board Meeting - 12 December 2023

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Community Strengthening
Attachments: 1. Draft Minutes of Arts Advisory Board Meeting 12 December 2023 [4.2.1.1 - 3 pages]

Executive Summary

1. At the Council meeting held 23 April 2018, Council resolved in part to *invite Advisory Committees and Reference Groups to submit meeting minutes for Council endorsement*. This resolution also allowed interested Councillors (and those that attend these Committees and Reference Groups) to speak to the meeting about items discussed at these meetings.
2. This report recommends that the Draft Minutes of the Arts Advisory Board meeting held on 12 December 2023 as provided in Attachment 1 to this report be noted by Council.



Background

3. Greater Dandenong Council is represented on a wide range of Committees, Reference Groups and Advisory Groups which frequently reflect the interests of individual Councillors in serving the broader community in their role. A full listing of these appointments is confirmed each November at Council's Meeting to elect the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and is available via Council's website.
4. The resolution of Council made on 23 April 2018 provides for Minutes of meetings held by Advisory Committees or Reference Groups to be submitted to Council for information purposes and for noting. To ensure they are provided to Council in a timely manner, Minutes of these Advisory Committees or Reference Groups are submitted to Council typically in a draft form (in that they have not yet been adopted by the relevant Committee). If significant material changes occur when they are adopted by the Advisory Committee or Reference Group, then those particular Minutes would then be resubmitted to Council for noting.
5. As such, Draft Minutes are provided as Attachment(s) 1 to this report.
6. There are no financial implications associated with the development and submission of this report.

Links to the Community Vision and Council Plan

7. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
 - Education, training, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities.
 - Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.
 - Sustainable environment.
 - Mind, body and spirit.
 - Art and culture.
8. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan
9. 2021-25:
 - A socially connected, safe and healthy city.
 - A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts.
 - A city that supports entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcomes.
 - A Council that demonstrates leadership and a commitment to investing in the community.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

10. This report has considered Council's legislative and policy obligations (where applicable) as outlined in the Report Considerations section detailed in the front of this Agenda. The applicable obligations considered and applied are:
 - The Overarching Governance Principles of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
 - The *Gender Equality Act 2020*.
 - *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities 2006*.
 - Climate Change and Sustainability.



Recommendation

That Council notes the Draft Minutes of the meeting for the Arts Advisory Board as provided in Attachment 1 to this report.

MINUTE No.987

Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

Seconded by: Cr Richard Lim OAM

That Council notes the Draft Minutes of the meeting for the Arts Advisory Board as provided in Attachment 1 to this report.

CARRIED 7 / 0

Advisory Committee or Reference Group Name: Arts Advisory Board Meeting

Date of Meeting: 12 December 2023

Time of Meeting: 6pm–8pm

Meeting Location: Heritage Hill - 66 McCrae Street, Dandenong

Attendees:

Leng Te (Chair) (LT), Roh Singh (RS), Emily Siddons (ES), Mish Eisen (ME), Oz Malik (OM), Coordinator Drum Theatre (City of Greater Dandenong [CGD]), Coordinator Arts and Cultural Development (CGD)

Apologies:

Cr Rhonda Garad (CGD), Acting Manager Community Arts, Culture and Library Services (CGD)

Minutes: Acting Team Leader Facilities (CGD)

Item No.	Item	Action	Action By
1.	Acknowledgement of Country <i>"We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this land, the Bunurong People, and pay respects to their Elders past and present.</i> <i>We recognise and respect their continuing connections to climate, Culture, Country and waters and we also pay our respects and acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their Elders present here today, in acknowledging their journey."</i>		
2.	Conflicts of Interest No conflicts of interest in relation to agenda.		
3.	Arts Story RS – shared arts inspiration experience of visiting Sculpture Muenster in 2007 and how it influenced his arts practice and career direction. Next meeting, ME to share arts story.	Prepare Arts Story to share at next meeting.	ME
4.	Apologies, Staffing updates Apologies as listed above. Noted current recruitment for roles of Manager Community Arts Culture and Libraries and Curator. Noted appointment of new Mayor. Noted appointment of Cr Rhonda Garad as Councillor representative of Arts Advisory Board.		
5.	Review of Minutes Arts Advisory Board Meeting 9 October 2023 Moved: RS Seconded: OM	Tour of Dandenong New Art (DNA) and Creative Industry Space to remain as pending action until appropriate time for visit.	Council Officers

If the details of the attachment are unclear please contact Governance on 8571 5235.

6.	<p>Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy Discussion: Priority 3: Elevate and expand the impact and representation of Arts, Culture and Heritage</p> <p>Officers provided update of how this strategic priority is being met. Including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public artworks and commissions with First Nations artists • Professional development programs • Online and digital programming and workshops that allow interstate and international artists to connect with local audiences • Approximately 40% of Council outdoor screen content is arts based from the Drum and Arts and Cultural Development teams • Upcoming Our Beat taking place at Springvale Community Hub • Exhibitions are occurring in the Drum Foyer • Drum Welcome Flags have been prepared via commission with First Nations artists 		
7.	<p>Working Group Chair Reports</p> <p><u>Public Art Working Group</u></p> <p>No meeting held, but verbal update on public art projects given. Included updates on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Muderra Way</i> commission • Home of Earthly Delights vandalism repair • Planned renewal works for Pillars of Freedom and The Park Mosaic Mural • Thanks to Public Art Projects Lead for providing updates <p><u>Community Connection Working Group</u></p> <p>Verbal update given based on meeting notes circulated as part of agenda. Included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group's discussion of Creative Industry Space and co-design process, noting positive that Council had worked with that process and well researched to ensure the right people were involved • Mention of Garage 35 and how welcoming the space is, noting would be beneficial if Council was able to offer similar spaces • Noting that advertising for new working group members is currently on public exhibition • Praise and acknowledgement given to Arts Promotions team in creating quality promotions and e-newsletter for this <p><u>Creative Infrastructure Working Group</u></p> <p>No meeting held. Noted advertising of Working Group members currently on public exhibition. Plan is to present nominations at February Board meeting for endorsement.</p>		
8.	<p>Dandenong New Art (DNA) and PEP/Creative Industry Space projects update</p> <p>Co-design process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short presentation on co-design process given by officer – including overview of sessions, 		

If the details of the attachment are unclear please contact Governance on 8571 5235.

	<p>approach, variety of participants and feedback on process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board members who participated in process offered feedback including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whilst they have seen this process take place overseas, they have never seen it occur to this depth in Australia High calibre of people 'in the room' Sense from participants that Council was 'really listening' – felt genuine, respected and recognised Noting the legacy for the people involved Board congratulated Coordinator Arts and Cultural Development and team, for undertaking and championing co-design process Board suggested process be put up for awards as best practice 	Consider putting co-design process forward for LGPro award or other community engagement award as appropriate.	Council Officers
9.	Service Updates & Discussion Covered in previous agenda items.		
10.	Sector Updates ME shared Renew Fitzroy Street report and update on new opportunity with new developer. ME shared new Public Artwork installed as part of Peninsula Link/ Southern Way McClelland Commissions. ES shared overview of attendance at Digital Preservation conference – including how digital artworks are preserved and maintained and how global think tanks and sectors are exploring this issue.		
11.	Other Business Discussion on lack of dedicated arts Instagram channel and opportunities that might be explored. Officer noted that resourcing for maintaining a dedicated Instagram channel has been a major factor in decision making process to date. Discussion held on future meetings and if 4 th Tuesday of month still suited. Noting that group able to be flexible if Cr Garad was unable to make that schedule.	Confirm with Cr Garad to ensure proposed Board meeting schedule suits.	Council Officers
12.	Next Meeting: Tuesday 27 February 2024		
Meeting closed 8.05pm			

If the details of the attachment are unclear please contact Governance on 8571 5235.



4.2.2 Gender Equality Progress Report

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Corporate Development
Attachments: Nil

Executive Summary

1. Under the Gender Equality Act 2020 (**GE Act**), every 2 years Council is required to report our progress towards gender equality to the Commission for Gender Equality in the Public Sector (**CGEPS**). Our current Gender Equality Action Plan (**GEAP**) extends from 2021 – 2025 with our first progress report due by 20 February 2024. This report provides an overview of the key results achieved in the progress reporting period.
2. Since the commencement of our GEAP in 2021, Council has made advances towards reducing gender inequality within the workplace. Key highlights include:
 - Eradication of a gender pay gap for banded staff;
 - Crucial steps made towards fostering a workplace free from sexual harassment;
 - Increased representation of women in governance and leadership roles;
 - Provision of learning & development opportunities;
 - Organisation commitment to family violence support and prevention;
 - Nurturing a supportive workplace for employees with family and caring responsibilities.
3. This report is for noting by Council.

Background

4. Under the Gender Equality Act 2020, Council is required to report on our progress towards gender equality every 2 years to CGEPS.
5. Council's current GEAP extends from 2021 – 2025 with our first progress report due by 20 February 2024. This progress report has been prepared. We are finalising the internal review process before it will be uploaded into CGEPS portal, following this report to Council.
6. Reporting is based on an updated gender audit and People Matter survey for all staff. It is completed by way of an electronic template spreadsheet supplied by CGEPS. It requires an extremely time-consuming and complex analysis of the data gathered in the audit and survey, and includes detail on:
 - The policies, programs and services that were subject to a Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) and the actions taken as a result of each GIA;
 - Our progress in relation to the measures and strategies set out in our GEAP;
 - Our progress in relation to the 7 workplace gender equality indicators, which are:
 - 1) Gender composition at all levels of the workforce;
 - 2) Gender composition of governing bodies;
 - 3) Gender pay equity
 - 4) Workplace sexual harassment
 - 5) Recruitment and promotion
 - 6) Leave and Flexibility
 - 7) Gendered work segregation
7. Our progress report will be published and accessible to the public via CGEPS' website, along with a data summary for our organisation.

Key Points / Issues / Discussion

Results overview

- During the reporting period, a GIA was conducted on 10 programs and policies, leading to actions implemented to improve gender equality;
- Advancements were achieved in 72 out of the 77 strategies outlined in our GEAP, with three more strategies set to commence and two undergoing reassessment;
- Progress made towards 6 of the 7 Workplace Gender Equality Indicators;
 - 1) Gender composition at all levels of the workforce;
 - 2) Gender composition of governing bodies;
 - 3) Gender pay equity;
 - 4) Workplace sexual harassment;
 - 5) Recruitment and promotion;
 - 6) Leave and Flexibility.

Key Highlights

Collective gender pay gap eradicated for banded staff

8. The collective median and mean total remuneration pay gaps for the organisation have shown substantial improvement since the 2021 gender audit. In 2023, there has been a notable shift in the median total remuneration pay gap for banded staff, now standing at -10.8% in favour of women, a positive shift from the 4.6% deficit observed in 2021. Similarly, the mean total remuneration pay gap for banded staff, which favoured men by 8.2% in 2021, has transformed to -0.8% in favour of women. Some small disparities remain within bands.

Crucial steps made towards fostering a workplace free from sexual harassment

9. A comprehensive strategy has been enacted that focuses on enhancing reporting channels, providing training on obligations and behavioural expectations, and promoting a zero-tolerance stance against sexual harassment.
10. Initiatives undertaken during this reporting period include the implementation of the "Living Our REACH Values" program, the rollout of Appropriate Workplace Behaviour refresher training, and the planning and development of bespoke sexual harassment training (which we commenced rolling out in late 2023). Additionally, the organisation has developed and implemented the anonymous reporting tool, Whispli, to support and encourage the reporting of inappropriate behaviour.

Representation of women in governance and leadership roles

11. Our Council boasts a balanced representation of Councillors, comprising 5 females and 6 males. This parity has endured from the 2021 reporting period, showcasing a sustained effort to ensure diverse voices are heard in decision-making processes. Throughout the audit period, there was either a female mayor or female deputy mayor, appointed at any one time.
12. Furthermore, noteworthy leadership appointments were made, welcoming a new female CEO and Executive Director.

Provision of learning & development opportunities

13. Opportunities for higher duties were abundant (254 in total), with 63% awarded to women. Moreover, markers such as career development & training opportunities, and internal secondments were more favourably awarded to women, at 61%, and 80%, respectively. Council has actively implemented initiatives, including the upcoming launch of the rejuvenated performance development plan process, the women's professional development Step Up program, and a spectrum of training and development opportunities, reflecting our commitment to gender equality.

Organisation commitment to Family Violence Support

14. The organisation's commitment to addressing family violence is reflected through employee support mechanisms enacted including specialised training on family violence, the appointment of staff Family Violence Contact Officers, the negotiation of comprehensive family violence entitlements in the Enterprise Agreement, and the creation of a dedicated intranet landing page with resources for Family Violence support. The organisation further demonstrates its commitment by orchestrating an annual community-based walk against family violence, fostering collaboration among community organisations and leaders to collectively denounce such violence. These initiatives collectively reflect a commitment to progress and a supportive environment for those facing family violence challenges.

Nurturing a Supportive Workplace for employees with Family and Caring Responsibilities

15. Advancements in this area consisted of;

- Enhancements to the Enterprise Agreement provisions concerning paid parental leave for primary carers and partners.
- The establishment of a thorough flexible-hybrid work policy benefiting all employees: and
- Increased utilisation of carer's leave, reflecting a growing acknowledgement and support for the diverse caregiving needs to employees.

16. These initiatives collectively represent a significant stride toward gender equality within the organisation, underscoring a commitment to achieving a more balanced distribution of caregiving responsibilities.

Areas for future focus:

17. Whilst the organisation has taken significant steps towards gender equality within the workplace there are certain areas that still demand additional attention for the remaining duration of the GEAP period.

Workplace gendered segregation

18. Gendered workplace segregation remains a focal point for improvement within Council, as indicated by our workforce data, which shows limited change in gender distribution across occupation categories from 2021. Council will need to reassess the strategies in this domain to address gendered workplace segregation.

Representation and remuneration within Senior Leadership roles

19. Twenty-eight employees currently hold senior positions in non-banded roles outside the Enterprise Agreement structure, consisting of 10 women and 18 men. At a high level whilst Council has successfully eliminated the overall gender pay gap at an organisational level, upon analysis of senior leadership roles there is an initial pay gap in favour of men which requires further consideration and action.

20. However, importantly, the occurrence of organisational restructures, recruitment processes, and temporary interim appointments during this reporting period has contributed to an impact on remuneration within these roles. Furthermore, the senior leadership level includes positions with varying responsibilities and portfolio sizes, resulting in remuneration variations. In light of, recent structural changes and with permanent appointments underway, there is an opportunity to reassess pay equity across the senior leadership team once these matters are finalised.

Financial Implications

21. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Community and Stakeholder Consultation

22. Consultation took place during the initiation of Council's Gender Equality Action Plan, however, is not required at this stage due to the nature of a progress report. Council results will be communicated internally and externally as appropriate.



Links to the Community Vision and Council Plan

23. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:

- Education, training, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities.
- Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.

24. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2021-25:

- A Council that demonstrates leadership and a commitment to investing in the community.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

25. This report has considered Council's legislative and policy obligations (where applicable) as outlined in the Report Considerations section detailed in the front of this Agenda. The applicable obligations considered and applied are:

- The *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

Conclusion

26. In conclusion, Council's commitment to gender equality, as mandated by the Gender Equality Act 2020, is evident in the strides made during the reporting period covered by our GEAP from 2021 to 2023. As we move forward, Council remains dedicated to advancing gender equality, building on the foundation laid by the GEAP to create an inclusive and equitable work environment.

Recommendation

That Council notes this report.

MINUTE No.988

Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That Council notes this report.

CARRIED 7 / 0



4.2.3 List of Registered Correspondence to Mayor and Councillors

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Corporate Development
Attachments: 1. Correspondence Received 15 January - 2 February 2024
[4.2.3.1 - 2 pages]

Executive Summary

1. Subsequent to past Council resolutions in relation to the listing of registered incoming correspondence addressed to the Mayor and Councillors, Attachment 1 to this report provides a list of this correspondence for the period 15 January – 2 February 2024.

Recommendation

That the listed items for the period 15 January – 2 February 2024 provided in Attachment 1 to this report be received and noted.

MINUTE No.989

Moved by: Cr Loi Truong
Seconded by: Cr Tim Dark

That the listed items for the period 15 January – 2 February 2024 provided in Attachment 1 to this report be received and noted.

CARRIED 7 / 0

Objective

CONNECTED. COLLABORATIVE. COMMUNITY.

Correspondences addressed to the Mayor and Councillors received between 15/01/24 & 02/02/24 - for officer action - total = 5

Correspondence Name	Correspondence Dated	Date Record Created	Objective ID	User Currently Assigned
A query regarding a vacant, derelict house in Piccadilly Crescent, Keysborough as to whether Council can assist to make the house available for accommodation.	18-Dec-23	23-Jan-24	fA305829	Completed
Feedback to all Victorian councils regarding Jeff Kennett's comments in the Herald Sun regarding Australia Day.	28-Jan-24	29-Jan-24	fA306425	Completed
An invitation to the Mayor from Yarraman Oaks Primary School to attend a special assembly for Grades 5 & 6.	01-Feb-24	01-Feb-24	fA306887	Completed
A request from a Keysborough resident for speed humps or traffic lights to be installed at William Road, Kirkham Road and Bryants Road Dandenong South.	22-Jan-24	01-Feb-24	fA305969	Transport
Concerns from a Springvale South resident regarding the shedding of leaves and bark into their gutters from council trees in the adjacent reserve.	24-Jan-24	24-Jan-24	fA305973	Community Care

NB: Users assigned may have changed by the time of the Council Meeting. Correct at time of report production only.

Objective

CONNECTED. COLLABORATIVE. COMMUNITY.

Correspondences addressed to the Mayor and Councillors received between 15/01/24 & 02/02/24 - for information only - total = 4

Correspondence Name	Correspondence Dated	Date Record Created	Objective ID	User Currently Assigned
Comments regarding Council proposing to fly the Palestinian flag via Notice of Motion.	15-Jan-24	17-Jan-24	A10551768	Mayor & Councillors
A letter to the Mayor from the Minister for Local Government regarding Greater Dandenong City Council's motion on the conflict in Gaza.	15-Jan-24	18-Jan-24	A10555684	Mayor & Councillors
A request from a Dandenong North resident Dandenong North to replace a tree removed from the nature strip in front of their home.	20-Jan-24	22-Jan-24	A10566024	Mayor & Councillors
Advice from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts regarding the Australian Council of Local Government in July 2024.	23-Jan-24	23-Jan-24	A10570436	Mayor & Councillors

NB: Users assigned may have changed by the time of the Council Meeting. Correct at time of report production only.



4.2.4 Dandenong Wellbeing Centre Procurement Update (Major Project)

Responsible Officer:	Executive Director City Futures Deputy Director Chief Engineer & Major Projects
Attachments:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. CONFIDENTIAL - Attachment 1 - Officer's Report - Dandenong Wellbeing Centre Procurement Update [4.2.4.1 - 12 pages]2. CONFIDENTIAL - Attachment 2 - Dandenong Aquatic and Wellness Centre Procurement Plan - Executive Summary [4.2.4.2 - 4 pages]3. CONFIDENTIAL - Attachment 3 - Legal Advice to Council from Maddocks re Procurement Options for DWC [4.2.4.3 - 7 pages]4. CONFIDENTIAL - Attachment 4 - COOP Endorsed Design Report - DWC - Council Meeting 8 May [4.2.4.4 - 52 pages]5. CONFIDENTIAL - Attachment 5 - Currie & Brown - DWC Project End Cost - 7 December 2023 [4.2.4.5 - 1 page]

Executive Summary

1. At Council's Meeting of 8 May 2023, Council resolved to proceed with the endorsed Dandenong Wellbeing Centre (DWC) detailed design and commence the procurement process for the project. This report provides additional information and recommends the procurement strategy pertaining to the appointment of the Head Contractor for the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre (DWC)
2. Due to the nature of commercial in confidence negotiations, the officer's detailed report and associated documentation is provided as attachments to this report and they are deemed to be confidential under section 3(1)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
3. If, in the course of consideration of this item, Councillors debate the contents of any of the confidential attachments, the meeting may be closed to the public by resolution under section 66 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **approves the preferred Construction Only (CO) procurement strategy for the appointment of the Head Contractor for the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre (DWC) project;**
2. **approves proceeding with the Head Contractor tender process, noting that the tender price will come back to Council for approval before appointing the Head Contractor;**
3. **acknowledges that a \$20M Federal grant contribution will be received, subject to signing a funding agreement;**
4. **approves Early Works to commence demolition of the existing Hockey Pavilion located at Mills Reserve, Dandenong and the establishment of temporary accommodation for the Hockey Club at Mills Reserve, Dandenong; and**
5. **notes a separate report will be forthcoming outlining future accommodation options for the Dandenong Table Tennis Club.**



MINUTE No.990

Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

Seconded by: Cr Jim Memeti

That Council:

- 1. approves the preferred Construction Only (CO) procurement strategy for the appointment of the Head Contractor for the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre (DWC) project;**
- 2. approves proceeding with the Head Contractor tender process, noting that the tender price will come back to Council for approval before appointing the Head Contractor;**
- 3. acknowledges that a \$20M Federal grant contribution will be received, subject to signing a funding agreement;**
- 4. approves Early Works to commence demolition of the existing Hockey Pavilion located at Mills Reserve, Dandenong and the establishment of temporary accommodation for the Hockey Club at Mills Reserve, Dandenong; and**
- 5. notes a separate report will be forthcoming outlining future accommodation options for the Dandenong Table Tennis Club.**

CARRIED 7 / 0



5 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.



6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

Comment

Cr Sophie Tan

Happy Lunar New Year to everyone celebrating, this year is the year of the Dragon. The Luna New Year Festival was held on 4 February 2024, hosted by the Springvale Asian Business Association (SABA) and supported by Council. It was a hot and humid day and over 2000 people attended along with Premier Jacinta Allan and local and federal Members of Parliament. Congratulations on a successful event.

Question

Cr Sophie Tan

How often are the Noble Park Activity Centre's footpaths deep cleaned?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Question taken on notice.

Question

Cr Sophie Tan

There is a lot of overgrown grass on nature strips, mainly on vacant lots. I am aware Council action requests when residents complain, however what is Council doing to manage the vacant areas where no one is living?

Response

Daniel Przychodzki, Interim Chief Engineer & Major Projects

The maintenance of nature strips rests with the property owner and we trust owners will keep their neighbourhood tidy and neat. If there is a vacant property, Council will only intervene if the grass becomes a fire hazard or other hazard from a road safety perspective. Often that means officers would probably attend the site twice a year when the grass gets high enough.

Further question

Cr Sophie Tan

If no one is checking the site and property owners are away, complaints may not be submitted and Council may not be notified. Can someone from Council investigate any vacant properties to ensure grass is not overgrown? When it grows over the footpath, it becomes unsafe.

Response

Daniel Przychodzki, Interim Chief Engineer & Major Projects

Should residents identify a location, Council are happy for them to report it. Officers would initially contact the property owner or undertake action ourselves if it is easy and efficient enough to do so. If there are any specific locations, residents can advise Council directly and officers will attend the site.



Comment

Cr Lana Formoso, Mayor

I have had this issue previously, if residents use Snap Send Solve that is usually the best way for action. It directs the request through to the right department so that they can follow up with the owners and issue infringements or reminders.

Question

Cr Tim Dark

I have a query that relates to page 138 of the Agenda regarding a property in Piccadilly Crescent, Keysborough and overgrown grass in the derelict house that has been vacant for quite some time. I have raised my concern previously. What is the process is with complaints and compliance around overgrown grass? If industrial properties have overgrown grass they are advised via letter stating it needs to be cut. Currently, there are many residential properties with this issue. How many do Council have and what is the action plan?

Response

Marcus Forster, Acting Executive Director Community Strengthening

We are aware of the case you are refencing. Councils Local Laws officers have investigated and determined that in that instance, none of the Local Laws that we can compel a landowner to rectify apply. We are aware that it is a long-term vacancy and one of the things that Local Laws have endeavoured to do is pass on social housing opportunities, whereby organisations like Launch Housing might be interested in taking over a property under lease to use it for social housing. That is at the landowner's discretion, so we do not have any control over whether they take up that opportunity. I will report back to you regarding how many cases we currently have across the municipality.

Question

Cr Tim Dark

I received a phone call from a resident who is 89 years old living in Noble Park. There is a house in the residents street which has been an issue for as long as I have been on Council. There is rubbish stacked so high, it now exceeds the height of the fence. The whole house cannot be seen from the street and it runs all the way to the back fence. The neighbours on either side are concerned as there seems to be some petrochemical tanks kept there and the fence requires support to hold it up. It is now getting to the point where it is breaching their quiet enjoyment. They have been speaking to Council for many years with no action. Can this please be investigated immediately, find out where things are at and take legal action if need be?

Response

Marcus Forster, Acting Executive Director Community Strengthening

I will investigate the status of that case and advise.



Question

Cr Tim Dark

There is a complex of factories on Progress Street, Dandenong just before the railway line that I have received emails about. There is a breakdown of the kerb and channel within the premises and on the street. There is a gym that is located within the complex that I believe is not registered with no active planning permit in place. There has been a significant amount of people that gather on a weekend to attend classes and are parking over the kerb and channel which is now reduced to rubble. Can officers investigate the gym and can engineering examine the state of the kerb and channel?

Response

Daniel Przychodzki, Interim Chief Engineer & Major Projects

Officers will investigate the kerb and channel issues and the use of the premises to ensure planning compliance is being adhered to. Officers will subsequently provide an update.

Question

Cr Tim Dark

I attended the Ross Reserve Pavilion, Noble Park for the relaunch of Springvale City's new soccer club. There was a strong discharge sewer smell. It was running through the whole pavilion along the front and back, it was quite nauseous to people who were trying to watch a soccer match. It had been noted that apparently Council had been investigating the sewer smell in the new pavilion. As it has happened a couple of times it is becoming a concern for the club. Can this please be investigated?

Response

Daniel Przychodzki, Interim Chief Engineer & Major Projects

We are aware of that issue. It appears to be somewhat transient. Sometimes when we investigate, there is no smell. Sometimes it is in certain rooms and not others. Council's contracting plumbers are out there this week investigating it, trying to track it down so we can resolve the problem once and for all.

Comment

Cr Tim Dark

As this is the last Council meeting for Daniel Przychodzki, Interim Chief Engineer & Major Projects I want to thank him for the work he has done as a Chief Engineer. I have been sending emails late at night and his response and the way he has run the department has been second to none.

Comment

Cr Lana Formoso, Mayor

Thank you to Daniel Przychodzki, Interim Chief Engineer & Major Projects for all your incredible work.



Question

Cr Sean O'Reilly

I have had a resident contact me regarding five (5) feline invaders swaggering onto their property, each with the confidence of a gang. They are being subjected to a cat invasion. Our website regarding cat control is quite unclear on in in my opinion on how they will be caught. The resident has contacted Council and been told that we do not provide a cat catching service. What does Council do for cat control?

Given that we are going to be introducing a cat curfew on 10 April 2024, how is the plan for that going? Currently, to hire a cat trap the resident has to pay a refundable deposit of \$164.50, why has the price increased from \$100? Although it is refundable, it is quite high. If residents have cats on their property, is that their only option? They have to make time to go to the Council office to pick it up.

Can they Snap Send Solve a cat? What evidence do they need? I understand that we do not want to send cat napping officers around, waiting for a cat to enter someone's property where they are not supposed to. I would like some stats on the number of cat traps that have been hired with the that high rate, and just how it all goes in general.

Response

Marcus Forster, Acting Executive Director Community Strengthening

I am aware that within our Local Laws department we do undertake a significant amount of control measures around cats throughout the year. I have just had a look at some statistics, and it seems that we remove between 507 cats per year from the municipality. 75% of them are not owned or deemed feral. So, we do have a system in place where residents can pay a deposit and get access to a cat trap to trap the cats that go on to their property. I will investigate why the price is \$164.50 and advise.

Further response

Peta Gillies, Acting Chief Executive Officer

We are currently putting together the formal education information around the cat curfew that was endorsed by Council last year. That will involve a comprehensive campaign leading up to the 10 April 2024 commencement date. In terms of enforcement, I am aware that in the last three (3) months, there has been a national shortage on cat vaccinations which has an impact once you capture the cat. Given that there has been a shortage of vaccines, the facilities do not have the ability to take as many cats as they otherwise would. My understanding is that vaccination shortage is starting to ease off. So, the sorts of numbers just mentioned will become relevant once more.



Comment

Cr Richard Lim OAM, Deputy Mayor

Happy Lunar New Year.

On Thursday 25 January 2024, I attended a meeting with University of Melbourne students. They are almost in their final year of architect and engineering. We had a good discussion. They want to start volunteering and be part of our Council.

On Friday 26 January 2024, I attended the Australian Citizenship Ceremony and Australia Day award presentation. Later that day, I made a speech at Noble Park RSL along with a flag raising ceremony. I also made a speech at the Australian Vietnamese Art and Culture event at Springvale Multicultural Place.

Later that night, I attended the opening of Bowl Juices Shop, Springvale. Please support our local economy.

On Wednesday 31 January 2024, I attended the Vietnamese Museum Australian luncheon with the Premier Jacinta Allan, the Minister for Multiculturalism.

On Thursday 1 February 2024, I had an interview with The Age Newspaper with Mayor Lana Formoso. Later that day, I attended the Thai-Australian Chamber of Commerce with Mayor Lana Formoso, where we had the chance to meet Arjaree Sriratanaban, Thai Ambassador for Australia.

On Friday 2 February 2024, I attended the Sri Lanka Independence Day flag raising ceremony in Harmony Square, Dandenong.

On Saturday 3 February 2024, I attended the Cambodian Chinese Friendship Association to celebrate Australia and Lunar New Year.

On Sunday 4 February 2024, I presented a speech at the Springvale Lunar New Year Festival hosted by SABA. A lot of Council officers attended and Jacinta Allan, Premier.

On Monday 5 February 2024, I had a meeting with Philips Abraham, representative of Victoria Knanaya Catholic Congress.

On Tuesday 6 February 2024, I attended a meeting with Mayor Lana Formoso and the Honorary Consul Kingdom of Thailand.

On Wednesday 7 February 2024, I attended the Monash Health Board meeting. I advocate very strongly for robotic surgery to compare to other private hospitals.

On Thursday 8 February 2024, I had a meeting about the Springvale Community Hub. We would like to increase the attendance at the hub.



On Sunday 11 February 2024, I attended the Chinese New Year celebration at Teo Chew Association of Victoria. Later that day, I attended the Chinese New Year celebration at Temple Mieu Quan Am.

On Monday 12 February 2024, I attended a meeting with Mrs Gam who is interested in creating a multicultural support group where people would come to work for free to help those within our city that cannot afford these services.

Comment

Cr Loi Truong

On Friday 26 January 2024, I attended the Citizenship Day Ceremony and Australia Day Awards with Mayor Lana Formoso, Deputy Mayor Richard Lim OAM and the rest of the Councillors. Later that day, I attended the Australia Day celebrations with the Australian Vietnamese Art and Culture event at Springvale Multicultural Place.

On Sunday 4 February 2024, I attended the Lunar New Year Festival. Later that day, I attended the South Eastern Melbourne Vietnamese Associations Council.

Question

Cr Jim Memeti

On Friday 26 January 2024, I attended the Australia Day Awards and Citizenship Ceremony, which was a lovely event. Unfortunately, it was not open to the public and I received many calls asking when Council is going to get back to pre-Covid entertainment at Dandenong Park. The last time we had it there was in 2019 where we had over 15,000 in attendance. Our community is crying out loud wanting to celebrate Australia Day. Will this Council take that on board? Will we be celebrating Australia Day at Dandenong Park as we have done so in the past?

Response

Peta Gillies, Acting Chief Executive Officer

As discussed last year, when we were looking at the event planning for this year, we determined that we would not be doing a public event for 2024. We will review it again for 2025.

Comment

Cr Jim Memeti

I attended the Lunar New Year Festival in Springvale, which was fantastic, congratulations to SABA, their president Daniel Chang and the committee for another successful event.

Our parks team have done a fantastic job with Dandenong Park. I drive past every day and see the magnificent flowers. Please pass on our thanks to that team. They have been on top of the overgrown grass throughout the city, and the maintenance all through our streets.

Question

Cr Jim Memeti

There have been ongoing works on the corner of Walker and Thomas Street, Dandenong. I have been notified that the footpath is very uneven. Can Council officers inspect that and advise when the footpaths will be repaired permanently?



Response

Daniel Przychodzki, Interim Chief Engineer & Major Projects

The works that are occurring have been undertaken by Melbourne Water, their sewage and main water works. The plans for finishing the footpath are subject to future financial budgets. If they have impacted the footpaths, they have a requirement to repair it. We will undertake our works investigations to ensure that they are keeping a safe surface during these works. We will also make sure they restore it to the condition it was previously.

Question

Cr Jim Memeti

Can we have an update on the construction of the veranda at George Andrew's Reserve, Dandenong?

Response

Daniel Przychodzki, Interim Chief Engineer & Major Projects

Officers had a meeting with the club late last year and discussed accessibility to the canteen during the start of the season because the works have been delayed. Council continues to work with the club to make sure they do have access to their canteen during the works. Unfortunately, it was delayed due to latent ground conditions, which are unavoidable. I will provide you with a response with an estimated time frame for completing those works.

Question

Cr Jim Memeti

I submitted a request about three (3) months ago about an overgrown nature strip in Norman Court, Dandenong. It is about 50 cm high. I have never seen grass that long and thick on a nature strip, but the property behind it is perfectly mowed. I think that the residents that live in that court do not want to cut their nature strip as it does not belong to them. Can officers investigate?

Response

Marcus Forster, Acting Executive Director Community Strengthening

I will investigate this and respond back to you.

Comment tabled

Cr Lana Formoso, Mayor

On Tuesday 30 January 2024, I attended the Inaugural Bruce electorate Interfaith Leaders Forum.

On Wednesday 31 January 2024, I attended the South East Leisure Board meeting.

On Thursday 1 February 2024, I attended the Hon Amanda Rishworth, Minister of Social Services announcement of the Agreement between the Republic of Serbia and Australia on Social Security.

On Saturday 3 February 2024, I attended the Serbian Sports Centre launch.

On Sunday 4 February 2024, I attended the Springvale Lunar New Year Festival.



On Monday 5 February 2024, I attended the Take a Swing for Charity Golf Day media launch.

On Wednesday 7 February 2024, I attended the soccer mums lunch at Ross Reserve, Noble Park. Later that day, I attended the 2024 Australian Chinese New Year Gala: Sleepless Tonight.

On Saturday 10 February 2024, I attended the Mural launch at the Keysborough Bowls Club.

On Monday 12 February 2024, I attended the Silverton Primary School Assembly to present leadership badges.

Peta Gillies, Acting Chief Executive Officer tabled a listing of responses to questions taken on notice/requiring further action at the previous Council meeting. A copy of the responses is provided as an attachment.

COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE/REQUIRING FURTHER ACTION

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
22/01/24 CQT10	Cr Angela Long	Hoarder, Dandenong North What is the progress of the hoarder at a residence in Prospect Hill Crescent, Dandenong North? Both Councillor Bob Milkovich and I have been inundated by emails and phone calls from people who live on that street.	Executive Director City Futures	30/01/2024	<p>Initial response provided 22/01/24: Question taken on notice.</p> <p>Further response provided 30/01/24: Council officers are aware of the situation and are currently resolving another hoarding matter in Springvale South that will be used as an example to develop a procedure to deal with hoarding properties.</p> <p>These are difficult and delicate situations that take many months of effort and resources from Council to resolve. We request the patience of the neighbours and the wider community during the coming months as we now turn our focus to begin resolving the hoarding matter in Dandenong North.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>
22/01/24 CQT11	Cr Tim Dark	Overgrown grass, Dandenong I have raised the issue of overgrown grass on the Dandenong Bypass near Perry Road, Keysborough many times before. I now have a puppy that I took for a run over the Christmas period in this area and noticed that the grass was incredibly high, almost up to hip level. There appears to be no action being taken.	Executive Director City Futures	31/01/2024	<p>Initial response provided 22/01/24: It is always a challenge to distinguish where the line begins and ends between Council and the DTP. I will ask the team tomorrow to see if they can provide a clearer delineation of what we are responsible for and what we are not and what we can do moving forward to resolve that issue as soon as possible.</p> <p>Further response provided 31/01/24: The DTP is the responsible road authority for the</p>

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
		<p>I also had a resident approach me and advise that they no longer feel safe to run along that path as they are worried about snakes. I advised that it is not something Council is responsible for, instead it is the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP). However there is not a clear line between what Council is tasked to maintain and what they are.</p> <p>Can we please have an update on this and whether we can get a work order sent to the DTP?</p>			<p>Dandenong Bypass between Springvale Road and South Gippsland Highway. This includes maintenance responsibilities for not only the road surface and related infrastructure (barriers, signage, lighting and traffic lights, etc...) but also the median and verges to either side including all grassed and landscaped areas, drainage swales and noise attenuation walls, etc... The only maintenance responsibilities Council has within the entire Dandenong Bypass road reserve is limited to the shared user path between Perry Road and South Gippsland Highway (specifically the condition of the surface and removal of any obstacles/hazards on the path).</p> <p>Over the last few years Council has received numerous complaints from the public in relation to the bypass and on each occasion we log a customer request with DTP on the residents behalf (the latest report number being ETS503028437). We have also made direct contact with the maintenance managers at DTP on a number of occasions to highlight these ongoing issues, however they never provide any timeframe for the works and simply indicate that grass mowing is low on their priority list as it does not meet criteria for hazards or defects within their Road Management Plan. Council Officers will contact DTP again to pass on Council's concerns regarding the issue.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPELTED</p>

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
22/01/24 CQT12	Cr Tim Dark	Keysborough Park Primary school Is there an update on the former Keysborough Park Primary school? I have raised this in the past, and it seems that the site has come to a standstill well before Christmas. Residents have been asking if there are any updates on exactly what is happening or what is planned.	Executive Director City Futures	31/01/2024	<p>Initial response provided 22/01/24: I will investigate and provide an update.</p> <p>Further response provided 31/01/24: The developer is finalising condition plans in preparation to commence construction of the approved dwellings on site. It is expected that these will be finalised in the coming months.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPELTED</p>
22/01/24 CQT13	Cr Bob Milkovic	Road resurfacing, Dandenong North In November or December 2023, I received correspondence from an officer about the road resurfacing works on Brady Road, Dandenong North that was supposed to be completed in early January 2024. It has not happened. Could we please have an update on this and the reason it has been delayed?	Executive Director City Futures	31/01/2024	<p>Initial response provided 22/01/24: I will investigate and provide an update.</p> <p>Further response provided 31/01/24: Officers confirmed that the patching works on Brady Road section between Dorset Road and Outlook Drive has been completed on 30th January as planned and final resurfacing is scheduled for 12th and 13th of February and the section between Central Avenue and Shalimar Crescent is scheduled for 8th and 12th of February. Some of the works need to be carried out during night time and these dates may slightly vary pending weather conditions on those days.</p> <p>Additionally, resurfacing works on entire section of Filmore Road including McAfee Court and Hill Court is scheduled for the week of 22nd to 29th of the February. Slight variation in dates is expected pending the weather condition during that period. Should there be any significant changes to these dates, further update will be provided.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPELTED</p>



7 URGENT BUSINESS

No urgent business was considered.



8 CLOSE OF BUSINESS