

Minutes

Council Meeting

Monday 16 November 2026, 7:00 pm

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

greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

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 2025-29 (Council Plan 2025-29 | 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 places*
- *A green city committed to a sustainable future*
- *A city that supports business, entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcomes*
- *A Council that demonstrates leadership, responsible use of public resources, 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.

Supporting Documents

Attachments for reports included in these Minutes can be found within the corresponding Agenda document on Council's website https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-meetings.

Your Councillors

Mayor Phillip Danh

Deputy Mayor Alice Phuong Le

Cr Isabella Do

Cr Lana Formoso

Cr Rhonda Garad

Cr Jim Memeti

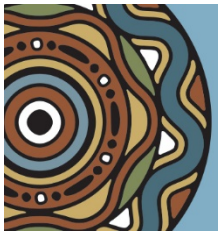
Cr Bob Milkovic

Cr Sean O'Reilly

Cr Sophaneth (Sophie) Tan

Cr Loi Truong

Cr Melinda Yim



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.

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Acknowledging Bunurong Country

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1 MEETING OPENING

1.1 OPENING OF MEETING BY CHAIR

Cr Phillip Danh opened the Meeting at 7.00pm.

1.2 ATTENDANCE

Apologies

Cr Bob Milkovic, Cr Loi Truong.

Councillors Present

Cr Phillip Danh, Mayor
Cr Alice Phuong Le, Deputy Mayor
Cr Jim Memeti, Cr Isabella Do, Cr Lana Formoso (Online), Cr Rhonda Garad, Cr Sean O'Reilly, Cr Sophie Tan, Cr Melinda Yim.

Officers Present

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer; Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures; Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening; Yuri Guzman, Chief Customer and Information Officer; Marjan Hajjari, Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services; Mark Burke, Chief Financial Officer; Sophie D'Rozario, Manager of Governance, Integrity, Legal and Risk.

1.3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF LAND

Those who wish to stand for the acknowledgement to country are welcome to do so.

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 Bhavani Padmanabhan, a member of the Brahma Kumaris faith and Greater Dandenong Interfaith Network, read the following:

"*Good evening, dear brother and sisters, I now invite you to join me in a moment of silent reflection or prayer. I hereby offer this prayer in the spirit of peace and solidarity with all of you.*

From my inner space of silence and stillness, I come to You, The Being of Light, The Being of Love, The Supreme. You embrace me with your rays of purity and love and all walls around my heart dissolve, and I am myself again. I am filled with Your love, peace and wisdom, and I share this with the world.

Dear God, You are my Trusted Companion, The One Who is always by my side and never leaves me. My heart begins to trust again, it begins to heal. You are just a thought away.
You are my Ever Loving Parent, and Guide, Who shows me the path of truth. Being the Ocean of Love, Your love is unconditional. Your love teaches me how to love others, and more importantly how to love myself. It allows me to grow, and to heal at my own time. It is a love that is patient and silent. It doesn't rush, it doesn't push. My heart opens, and I share Your love with the world.

Dear brothers and sisters, in the spirit of friendship and mutual respect, let us begin to bring about unity within diversity, with the awareness of us all being one global family, under the Fatherhood of One God, The Being of Light, Love and Truth. Thank you."

1.5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Meeting of Council held 19 October 2026.

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held 19 October 2026 be confirmed.

MINUTE No.466
Moved by: Cr Jim Memeti
Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held 19 October 2026 be confirmed.

CARRIED 8 / 0

1.6 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cr Jim Memeti disclosed material conflict of interest in 4.3.1. as he is the Director of a company that owns a stall at the Dandenong Market. Cr Jim Memeti left the Chamber prior to discussion and voting on this item.

2 OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 1

2.1 STATUTORY PLANNING APPLICATIONS

2.1.1 Planning Delegated Decisions Issued – October 2026

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures
Attachments: 1. Planning Delegated Decisions Issued – October 2026 [**2.1.1.1** - 11 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That the listed items in Attachment 1 to this report be received and noted.

Executive Summary

1. This report provides Council with an update on the exercise of delegation by Council officers.
2. It provides a listing of Town Planning applications that were either decided or closed under delegation or withdrawn by applicants in October 2026.
3. It should be noted that where permits and notices of decision to grant permits have been issued, these applications have been assessed as being generally consistent with the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme and Council's policies.
4. Application numbers with a PLA#, PLN#.01 or similar, are applications making amendments to previously approved planning permits.
5. The annotation 'SPEAR' (Streamlined Planning through Electronic Applications and Referrals) identifies where an application has been submitted electronically. SPEAR allows users to process planning permits and subdivision applications online.

MINUTE No.467
Moved by: Cr Jim Memeti
Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That the listed items in Attachment 1 to this report be received and noted.

CARRIED 8 / 0

3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The questions submitted for consideration at this meeting may contain opinions, assertions, or views expressed by the individuals who have submitted them. Council wishes to make clear that the tabling of these questions does not constitute an endorsement, adoption, or expression of support by the council for any opinion or view contained within them.

Cr Lana Formoso joined the meeting at 7.09pm

Question
Natalie Santucci, Dandenong North
Lyndale United is more than a soccer club. It brings families together, builds friendships, develops young people and provides a welcoming environment for people from diverse backgrounds. Despite years of discussions with Council and the development of a master plan, we are still waiting for the facility improvements our growing club desperately needs. Our club supports approximately 175 junior players, 70 female participants, a senior women's team, senior men's and reserves teams, and a Metro team. Around 15% of our junior players come from refugee backgrounds. We are proud of our contribution to multicultural inclusion, refugee participation, female sport and community connection. Yet our facilities are not keeping pace.

Our three major concerns are:
1. Playing fields – Poor drainage and playing surfaces regularly cause cancelled matches and disrupted training.
2. Lighting – Inadequate lighting means some teams are training in near darkness, compromising safety and participation.
3. Car park safety – Vehicles and pedestrians share the same access gate, creating serious safety risks for children and families

While other local sporting facilities continue receiving upgrades, Lyndale United remains waiting. We are not asking for special treatment, just fair and equitable investment.

We formally request:
– An update on the master plan.
– Details of funding allocated and estimated project costs.
– A clear timeline for the proposed upgrades.
– A commitment to prioritising Lyndale United in future funding programs.

Our club is growing, our community is thriving, but our facilities are falling behind.

Lyndale United has demonstrated its commitment to the community for decades. It is time for Council to demonstrate its commitment to us.

Response
Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening
Council thanks Lyndale United Soccer Club for sharing its concerns and recognises the important role the club plays in bringing families together. There is no doubt that the significant efforts of the club and its volunteers helps strengthen our community, and Council understands how frustrating the condition and capacity of the facilities has been for players, families and volunteers.

Lyndale United Soccer Club is based at Lyndale Secondary College, which is owned by the Department of Education. Council holds a Joint Use Agreement over the site but does not own the property, which affects how and when improvements can be delivered.

Council has remained committed to supporting the club's future at this site. It developed the Lyndale Secondary College Sports Precinct Master Plan in 2019, which remains Council's endorsed plan for the site, and has since invested in detailed design and construction documentation for the proposed redevelopment. This includes reconfiguration of two soccer pitches, subsurface drainage and irrigation, surface levelling, 100 lux LED sports lighting, fencing, pathways, player shelters and associated infrastructure.

The current estimated cost of the proposed redevelopment is approximately $4 million, including the carpark redevelopment. Council understands it is disappointing that no construction funding is allocated in Council's 2026-27 Annual Plan, meaning the project remains unfunded. Council has advocated to the Victorian Government for partnership funding and will continue to pursue relevant external funding opportunities.

As the site is owned by the Department of Education, any major capital investment, including works addressing the playing fields, lighting and vehicle-pedestrian access, must be progressed in partnership with the Department. Council will continue to work with the Department towards these shared priorities.

Council continues to support the club's use of both the Lyndale Secondary College site and Lois Twohig Reserve, has recently improved security lighting, and encouraged the club's Community Grants Program application for portable lighting. Council has also carried out pitch works over the past four years, including seasonal renovations, hollow coring to improve soil conditions and drainage, turf maintenance and targeted turf replacement in high-wear areas, particularly around goal squares. These efforts reflect Council's commitment to working alongside the club to improve the quality, safety and usability of its facilities.

A construction date cannot yet be confirmed until funding, partnership and land tenure matters are resolved, but Council will keep working with the Department of Education, the Victorian Government and the club to identify a pathway for delivery.

Question
Craig Ortland, Aspendale Gardens
Q1. Given the significant impact this proposal will have on Club Noble, its patrons, affiliated sporting clubs & community groups we support, why has meaningful consultation & partnership conversations with affected stakeholders not occurred prior to this motion, and will Council defer Item 4.2.2 until that consultation has been completed?

Q2. What evidence, including any local research, can Council provide that restricting or removing EGMs on Council-owned land will genuinely reduce gambling harm in Greater Dandenong, rather than simply displacing gambling activity to privately owned venues, and how will Council measure and publicly report whether the proposal will achieve its stated objectives?

Q3. What specific commitments will Council make to support impacted Club Noble employees (34), affiliated sporting clubs (9), & the diverse COGD community groups who benefit from Club Noble given the loss of significant revenue as a result of this proposal.

Response
Marjan Hajjari Executive Director of Strategy and Corporate Services
Thank you Craig for your questions.

Consultation for the Gambling Harm Prevention and Minimisation Policy was conducted between November 2025 to June 2026 and included 28 days of public consultation via Your Say website engagement. The policy focus on gambling harm prevention and minimisation covers five areas of Council activity, one of which is Council's relationship with the gambling industry. The Club Noble lease of Council owned property is commercial arrangement where EGMs are operated on Council owned land for the period of the agreed lease agreement. A decision on the policy that is before Council tonight to make does not affect this current arrangement under the existing lease conditions until 31 December 2033.

Council has conducted an extensive review of research, drawing from the findings of nearly 300 investigations conducted by State and Federal Governments, research institutions and others, and from data concerning gambling trends. Among this research are findings which demonstrate that high numbers of EGMs or of gambling venues in a community results in elevated levels of gambling losses, while reductions in EGM numbers lowers gambling losses, and harms. Accordingly, in its investigation of gambling, the Australian Productivity Commission concluded that: "Accessibility [to gambling venues and EGMs] stimulates demand, with the result that some gamblers are exposed to risks that were originally muted or absent".

Sporting Clubs transitioning away from an EGM revenue stream has occurred, and advice is available about alternate funding pathways; and adjustments to business models, such as placing greater reliance upon activities such as food and beverages, entertainment and social activities.

Question
Werdna Yurj, Dandenong
Why does the council on at least an annual basis rip up perfectly good garden beds and replant with new plants? What costs are associated with this waste? What happens to the perfectly good plants once they are ripped out of the ground?

Response
Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures
The display beds within Dandenong Park are replanted twice a year as part of a planned seasonal display program. These beds use annual flowering plants that are selected for either summer or winter conditions and naturally complete their life cycle within a single season. Typically, summer annuals are planted in October / November and replaced in autumn, while winter annuals are planted in April / May and replaced in spring.

While plants may still appear healthy at the time of removal, replacement is necessary given their lifecycle and to maintain a high-quality display suited to seasonal conditions. Costs associated with the program are included within operational budgets and plants removed during seasonal changeover are generally processed through Council's green waste streams.

Question
Werdna Yurj, Dandenong
Can you please explain why rubbish is collected after being reported via snap send solve along with dumped rubbish, less than 50 meters away not collected? Is it more financially beneficial to the contractor that collects the rubbish to ignore and collect at a later date? Surely this is a loophole that can be closed.

Response
Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures
Council and its contractors operate a range of waste collection vehicles for specific services, including public litter, recycling bins, booked hard waste, and reactive collection of illegally dumped rubbish.

The waste observed being collected may have been a booked hard waste collection, which is generally identified by a pink sticker. Nearby dumped rubbish may not have formed part of that scheduled collection and would instead be managed through Council's separate dumped rubbish service.

Different waste streams also have different destinations. Public litter and illegally dumped rubbish generally go to landfill, recycling is taken to a materials recovery facility for sorting and processing, and booked hard waste is taken to a transfer station for further sorting and recycling.

Accordingly, a vehicle collecting one type of waste may not be scheduled or appropriate to collect other nearby waste. This is not a financial incentive or loophole for contractors but reflects the different collection services and processing requirements.

Council appreciates reports made through Snap Send Solve and continues to work with relevant stakeholders to improve the management of illegally dumped rubbish.

Question
Gaye, Keysborough
On the online planning portal the only information shown on the front facing page Application Search results- is ID application number, lodgement date, proposal description, category. No one is going to click on every ID application number to find what property is being listed. Why has this page been fiddled with making it too hard for residents to see what is being considered by the council planning team?

Residents need transparency over these matters not information locked behind smoke and mirrors. Please get the page converted back to its original format because recently advertised addresses on Search results page did not match the addresses on the second page under Application Details which was frustrating.

Response
Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures
The planning portal was recently updated to modernise and strengthen cyber security due to the recent security issues that impacted businesses worldwide. All planning applications currently being considered by Council are still located in the portal under the planning register, which is required to be published online under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

The full list of applications is located at the "All applications" tab with advertised applications located in the "Advertised application" tab.

Question
Gaye, Keysborough
Under 4.3.4 tonight council will no doubt agree to closing the Parkmore Service centre. Agreeably the rent arrangement is hideously high however it does give council services front facing contact with residents in a venue that is easily accessible by public transport if one does not have their own transport.

Under these conditions Dandenong customer service is too hard to get too if you are not close to the area and parking is horrendous and Springvale Hub customer service is not visual in its size and positioning. I hope there will be some debate tonight about this issue as councillors realise not everyone is tech savvy, many now want to deal in cash and deal with face-to-face over the counter and council must still cater for this percentage of residents who do not have computers at home nor sophisticated mobiles with all the bells and whistles.

I hope Council will reinstate the Paddy O Donoghue customer service centre to substitute for the closing of the Parkmore Service centre and save rent as you manage POD on behalf of the Noble Park Public Hall trust and the service centre is already in position albeit sitting idle now and could be opened up immediately. It would be a win-win for the local community and council would not have to rob Peter to pay Paul.

While council always sees things differentially from a commercial perspective to residents, residents want to remind you they need easy access to council services which uses our civic spaces for our best interest after all we do pay the wages, rents and upkeep through our rates. Will council please move the service centre to POD again to save money in a budget restraint environment?

Response
Yuri Guzman Chief Customer & Information Officer
Thank you for the question. Council recognises that face-to-face customer service remains very important, particularly for residents who may have difficulty using digital channels.

Reopening the Paddy O'Donoghue customer service centre was considered as part of the Parkmore review. While the location has an existing customer service counter and public transport access, it was previously closed due to low use. The facility is also ageing and would require significant investment, and there are limitations with parking. For these reasons, it was not the preferred option.

Face-to-face customer service will continue at Dandenong and Springvale, including cash payment services. We will also focus on supporting Parkmore customers through the transition, particularly residents who may experience accessibility, language or technology barriers.

Question
Gaye, Keysborough
Just experimenting on the web page under Find your bin day to help a neighbour. You put in the address, and nothing comes up. Please stop fiddling and wasting money with something that was not broken and now is not working efficiently. This is so frustrating for residents trying to navigate council's web page. Please cancel whoever is responsible for this massive stuff up as it is making it impossible to use. Why has the council webpage and links become so inefficient and frustrating to use?

Response
Yuri Guzman Chief Customer & Information Officer
Thank you for raising this issue.

Council recently upgraded some of its online services to maintain a high level of security and ensure its systems remain supported and protected. Following these changes, an issue was identified affecting the 'Find your bin day' address search. The issue has now been resolved, and the service is functioning normally.

Council apologises for the inconvenience and frustration experienced while the service was not operating as expected. Maintaining both secure and reliable online services is important to Council, and we appreciate residents bringing issues such as this to our attention.

4 OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 2

4.1 PROCUREMENT

4.1.1 Electronic Monitoring & Mobile Security Services - Contract Extension

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures

Attachments:
1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - ProPac Business Profile [**4.1.1.1** - 1 page]

This report contains an attachment which is deemed confidential under s 3(1)(g) of the *Local Government Act* 2020. It contains private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that relates to trade secrets; or, if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **APPROVES a further extension of Contract 2021-49 Electronic Monitoring & Mobile Security Services to EBN Protective Services Pty Ltd T/A Protection Pacific Security (ABN 83 006 788 807) from 1 December 2026 to 30 November 2027;**
2. **AUTHORISES the Chief Executive Officer to execute the contract agreements, and any associated documents with the above contracts; and**
3. **NOTES that a review will be undertaken by the officers prior to any future new electronic monitoring & mobile security services contract.**

Executive Summary

1. This report outlines the process and evaluation for the contract extension for the experienced contractor for the provision of **Electronic Monitoring & Mobile Security Services** for the City of Greater Dandenong.
2. Protection Pacific Security was awarded Contract 2021-49 Electronic Monitoring & Mobile Security Services in 2021 on an initial contract period of two (2) years with three (3) contract extension options of twelve (12) months. The current (final) contract extension expires on 30 November 2026.
3. As part of a recent organisational restructure, the Building Maintenance team responsible for this contract was transferred to the City Works department to align with Council's broader maintenance services. Council is currently undertaking a review of building maintenance systems, asset data and workflows to support the procurement of a new Security services contract.
4. An additional extension of the existing contract is sought to ensure continuity of service while this review work is completed, and a new contract is tendered.

Background

5. Council's Security Services Contract (Tender No. 2021-49) provides electronic monitoring, mobile patrol and security guard services across various City of Greater Dandenong facilities. The contract was established to support the protection of Council employees, customers, buildings, assets and equipment, while maintaining the continuity of Council operations. The contract is valued at $2.5 million per annum.
6. The services include continuous monitoring of Council's access control, CCTV and electronic alarm systems through the contractor's in-house control room, together with mobile security patrols and security guard services at nominated locations.
7. The contract also provides for after-hours responses to alarms, incidents and requests for assistance, locking and unlocking of facilities, internal and external patrols, and liaison with emergency services where required.
8. The contract also includes monitoring and testing of approximately 270 alarm devices across Council facilities, including quarterly reporting of testing outcomes. It also provides for servicing of Council's CCTV and access control systems, including technical support and troubleshooting for Council's Inner Range Integriti access control platform.
9. Throughout the duration of this Contract, Protection Pacific has consistently fulfilled all contractual obligations, met key performance indicators (FKPI's), upheld superior customer service standards, and delivered optimal value for the Council.

Key Issues and Discussion

10. As part of a broader organisational restructure undertaken in late 2025, the Building Maintenance team transitioned from the Capital Works department to the City Works department. This realignment has brought building maintenance together with Council's other maintenance services, creating opportunities to improve operational efficiency, consistency and service delivery through the adoption of common workflows, works management systems, asset data, contract management practices, procurement processes, safety systems and quality assurance activities.
11. The integration of building maintenance within a unified maintenance team is also improving the management of assets that interface across buildings, civil infrastructure and open space, reducing duplication and enabling a more coordinated approach to maintenance planning and delivery.
12. To support this transition, Council is currently in the process of engaging a specialist Security Consultant to undertake a benchmarking/industry best practice assessment and assist with the development of a new Electronic Monitoring and Security Services contract.
13. It is anticipated that a new contract will be tendered early to mid 2027, with the tender evaluation and recommendation to be presented to Council with a contract commencement proposed for 1 December 2027.
14. To allow sufficient time for this work to be completed and to ensure continuity of service delivery, an additional extension of the existing contract is sought until 30 November 2027. The extension will maintain critical Security services while Council undertakes the necessary planning, system implementation and procurement activities associated with the future contract arrangement.
15. The contractor has consistently demonstrated a high standard of performance throughout the current contract. All scheduled mobile patrols, lock-ups and duress alarm monitoring have been completed within the agreed contractual timeframes, with no significant performance issues identified.

16. The contractor's control centre meets the required ASIAL standards and provides reliable CCTV and alarm monitoring services. The contractor has also demonstrated a willingness to support Council beyond the core contractual requirements, including assisting Council to secure access to CCTV software at no cost for its corporate CCTV cameras.

17. There have been no contractual issues or significant service concerns during the contract period. Service response times have been prompt, the quality and professionalism of security personnel has been exceptional, and the contractor has consistently met Council's operational requirements. Overall, contractor performance has been assessed as excellent, supporting the proposed 12-month contract extension.

Financial Implications

18. This contract has an anticipated spend in the order of $2.5 million + GST per year, which is accommodated within existing Council operating budgets for the Building Maintenance team.

Business Profile – Financial & Performance Assessment

19. Council has conducted an independent standard financial and performance assessment on Protection Pacific Security. Please see attached confidential Business Profile summary.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

20. This item does not have an impact on existing human resources.

Financial/Asset Resource Implications (consider Service Statements, Budget, Long Term Financial Strategy and Asset Plan)

Operating Budget Implications

21. The resource requirements associated with this report are $2.5 million compared to the annual budget allocation of $2.5 million for this purpose.

Asset Implications

22. This item does not affect any existing assets; however, it is critical in the delivery of essential security services of Building and Open Space assets across the municipality.

Legal/Risk Implications

23. The Electronic Monitoring & Mobile Security Services contract plays a critical role in supporting Council's statutory, regulatory and operational obligations across its facilities portfolio. The proposed 12-month extension would allow Council to continue receiving essential security monitoring, patrol, alarm response and associated security services without interruption.

24. While there is some risk associated with extending the contract for a further 12 months, including reduced competitive tension and the potential to miss market improvements since the last tender, this risk is outweighed by the opportunity to modernise the contract specification and benchmark the new arrangement against current industry best practice.

25. If the contract is not extended, Council may be exposed to operational and legal risks associated with a gap in security services. The existing arrangement provides continuous monitoring of access control, CCTV and alarm systems, mobile patrols, security guard services and response to security incidents across Council facilities.

26. In the absence of an alternative service arrangement being established before the current contract expires, Council may be unable to maintain the required level of security monitoring and response. This could increase the risk of unauthorised access, property damage, theft, vandalism or harm to Council assets, staff and members of the public.

Environmental Implications

27. Environmental implications associated with the proposed extension are considered minimal. The services are primarily security monitoring, patrols and alarm response, with limited environmental impact. The main considerations are fuel consumption and emissions associated with patrol vehicles and the ongoing use of electronic security equipment. The 12-month extension is not expected to materially increase these impacts.

Gender Impact Assessment

28. A gender impact assessment is not required.

Community Consultation

29. There was no requirement for community consultation.

Links to Community Vision, Council Plan, Strategy, Notice of Motion

30. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
    - Safe and peaceful community.
31. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2025-29:
    - A socially connected, safe and healthy city.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

32. 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:
    - Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.

Cr Isabella Do left the Chamber at 7.35pm.

MINUTE No.468
Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad
Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That Council:

1. **APPROVES a further extension of Contract 2021-49 Electronic Monitoring & Mobile Security Services to EBN Protective Services Pty Ltd T/A Protection Pacific Security (ABN 83 006 788 807) from 1 December 2026 to 30 November 2027.**
2. **AUTHORISES the Chief Executive Officer to execute the contract agreements, and any associated documents with the above contracts; and**
3. **NOTES that a review will be undertaken by the officers prior to any future new electronic monitoring & mobile security services contract.**

CARRIED 8 / 0

4.1.2 Core Systems Replacement Update

Responsible Officer: Chief Customer & Information Officer

Attachments:

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Proposed Timeline for CSR Program [**4.1.2.1** - 1 page]
2. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - CSR Risk Framework - Draft [**4.1.2.2** - 10 pages]
3. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - 2526-37 CSR - Interim Tender Evaluation Summary [**4.1.2.3** - 7 pages]
4. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Attachment 4 [**4.1.2.4** - 1 page]

This report contains an attachment which is deemed confidential under s 3(1)(a) of the *Local Government Act* 2020. It contains council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.

Purpose

To seek Council endorsement for officers to proceed to commercial and contract negotiations with the preferred tenderer for the Core Systems Replacement (CSR) Program. The proposed scope of the negotiation and resulting contract includes replacement of systems across Finance, Supply Chain Management (Procurement), Records Management, Property & Rating and Customer Management.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **NOTES the completion of evaluation activities for Tender 2526-37 Core Systems Replacement (per Confidential Attachments 1,2, 3 & 4);**
2. **ENDORSES the Tender Evaluation Panel's identification of the preferred tenderer and authorises officers to proceed to commercial and contractual negotiations with that tenderer, including completion of the remaining due diligence and validation activities (per Confidential Attachment 3);**
3. **NOTE the program scope change which will now include Customer Relationship Management System and Property and Rating modules; and**
4. **NOTES that the outcome of negotiations and a final recommendation will be presented to Council for consideration and approval before the contract is awarded.**

Executive Summary

1. Council's core business systems need to be replaced with a supported, integrated solution. This report seeks endorsement of the preferred tenderer to begin negotiations, including the option of bringing Property & Rating and Customer Management into the same contract.

Background

2. On 7 April 2026, Council considered a three-module scope for the CSR Program: Finance, Supply Chain Management (Procurement) and Records Management. Tenderers could submit either a best-of-breed offer or an end-to-end solution. Property & Rating and Customer Management were included as optional modules for market assessment only, as future-stage options.
3. Since that decision on 7 April, the position of the two optional systems has changed. Both Property & Rating and Customer Management are now operating in a high-risk situation, which has changed the case for treating them as future-stage options.
4. **Property & Rating:** the current system is outdated and has been out of vendor support since 1 January 2026. Operating an unsupported system creates significant risk. Even a routine Windows or security update could cause a compatibility problem that Council would struggle to resolve without vendor support, and there is a risk that the system cannot be updated in time to meet new legislative requirements.
5. **Customer Management:** the current vendor is moving out of the customer relationship management (CRM) market for local government, and vendor support is provided only until December 2028. Council's contract continues until June 2029, which would leave Council without vendor support for the final months of the contract.
6. Given these risks, it is considered prudent to bring Property & Rating and Customer Management into the scope of the negotiation and contract. Negotiating the broader solution now allows scope, licensing, support and delivery to be considered as one commercial arrangement, gives Council the best opportunity to secure value from the negotiation, and avoids the need for a second evaluation and negotiation process at a later date.

Tender Process

7. **Going to market:** following an Expression of Interest process in which a shortlist could not be established, Council proceeded to an open Request for Tender (Tender 2526-37 Core Systems Replacement). The tender was released to the market on 9 July 2026, the tenderer clarification period closed on 31 July 2026, and the tender closed on 6 August 2026. Tenderers could submit either a best-of-breed offer or an end-to-end solution for the approved requirements.
8. **Submissions received:** the tender attracted strong market interest, with 19 submissions received.
9. **Tender Evaluation Panel:** a multidisciplinary Tender Evaluation Panel (TEP) was formed to evaluate the submissions, with representatives from finance, records management, customer experience, property and rating, enterprise architecture, information technology and procurement. Subject matter experts supported the panel to ensure submissions were assessed against Council's operational, technical and strategic requirements. The evaluation criteria, methodology and weightings were established before tender close and applied consistently throughout the process. A formal probity briefing was delivered to the TEP on 3 August 2026, before tender close.
10. **Stage 1 – Mandatory and Commercial Compliance Assessment:** submissions were assessed against mandatory compliance requirements and commercial risk criteria. The TEP met on 17 August 2026 to consider the findings, and 14 respondents progressed to Stage 2.

11. **Stage 2 – Desktop Comparative Evaluation:** the 14 respondents were assessed against the published evaluation criteria, including functionality, relevant experience and past performance, local, social and environmental considerations, and pricing. The TEP met on 16 September 2026 to review the outcomes and confirm consensus scoring, and reconvened on 1 October 2026 to finalise the Stage 2 results and shortlisting. Three respondents were shortlisted for Stage 3.
12. **Stage 3 – Detailed Assessment and Validation:** the three shortlisted respondents took part in product demonstrations and clarification activities in October 2026. The demonstrations were attended by representatives from a broad cross-section of Council, including Finance, Procurement, Digital Technology, Customer Experience, City Development, Community Amenity and Compliance, Infrastructure Strategy and Governance. Following Stage 3, the TEP met on 26 October 2026 to consider the evaluation outcomes. Five scorers and all voting members reviewed the evidence. As a result of the outcome of the detailed assessment and validation in Stage 3, the TEP selected the preferred tenderer (per confidential attachments 3 and 4).
13. **Probity:** the entire process was conducted under the oversight of an independent Probity Adviser, who attended key TEP meetings and the supplier demonstrations/clarifications and provided probity advice throughout. The identification of a preferred tenderer is not a contract award. It remains subject to negotiation and the completion of remaining validation, due diligence and commercial activities.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

14. Over the life of the project, the Core Systems Replacement team will require an average of approximately 19 internal positions to support delivery, change management, data migration, integration and the specific requirements of each system being replaced. The report presented to Council on 7 April 2026 proposed this same number of positions for 2026/2027, and it was approved by Council.
15. Council is committed to delivering the remaining phases of the program, including phases two and three, over the next four years within this same average of 19 internal positions in each financial year. Officers will deliver all phases within a total of 19 EFT and support of the relevant SMEs across the impacted areas.

Financial/Asset Resource Implications (consider Service Statements, Budget, Long Term Financial Strategy and Asset Plan)

Operating Budget Implications

16. Core Systems Replacement proposed contract covers five modules: Finance, Supply Chain Management (Procurement), Records Management, Property & Rating and Customer Management. The total program cost has been estimated across pre-work, mobilisation and delivery through to 2030/31. The key cost components are set out in confidential attachment 4.
17. The full scope is expected to be delivered, with all modules going live, within four years. The proposed implementation timeline is attached to this report.
18. Productivity savings are expected to be realised once the new solution is live, as integrated systems, streamlined processes and reduced manual effort improve efficiency across Council. The cost estimates above do not take these savings into account.
19. The costs in Confidential Attachment 4 are estimates and will be refined through commercial and contract negotiations. The final costs will be presented to Council when the award of the contract is brought back for consideration, and will be submitted to Council as part of the 2027/28 budget process.

Asset Implications

20. Following implementation and stabilisation of the new system, the legacy systems supporting Finance, Supply Chain Management (Procurement), Records Management, Property & Rating and Customer Management will be retired. It will also free up the licencing cost and the associated maintenance and support costs of operating and retaining these systems.

Legal/Risk Implications

21. **Delivery and change risk:** this program is complex and is a high-risk program in terms of delivery and organisational change. It involves replacing core systems across five modules, migrating data from legacy systems, building integrations and changing the way staff work across the organisation. A detailed CSR Risk Management Framework, aligned with Council's Risk Management Framework, has been developed and will be presented separately to the Audit and Risk Committee.
22. **Risk of doing nothing:** the most significant risk to Council is not proceeding. The CSR Business Case found that Council's core systems are more than 20 years old, heavily customised and no longer fit for purpose, and that without transformation Council faces escalating risk in four areas: ongoing financial strain from maintaining unsustainable legacy systems; a lack of vendor support leading to substantial risk; entrenched operational inefficiency and increased regulatory exposure; and a widening gap between service delivery and community expectations. The gap analysis identified 103 functional gaps across 23 business areas, with 80% assessed as high, severe or extreme.
23. **Legislative and compliance risk:** if a legislative change affects rating, property or reporting requirements, Council cannot be confident that it could change the Property & Rating system in time to comply.
24. **Cybersecurity risk:** penetration testing in December 2025 identified critical system vulnerabilities, confirming that the ageing and unsupported technology does not meet contemporary security standards. Service stability incidents have also increased. Without replacement, Council remains exposed to data breach, loss of data and system outages, the costs of which can reach millions of dollars.
25. **Business continuity risk:** the systems at risk support Council's most critical functions, including the generation, billing and collection of rates, general ledger and financial reporting, purchasing and accounts payable, statutory planning and records management. A failure of these systems would directly affect Council's ability to raise rates revenue, pay suppliers, meet reporting obligations and process statutory applications.
26. **Service delivery and reputational risk:** fragmented systems and manual processes will continue to cause delays, errors and inconsistent customer service, and will limit Council's ability to offer modern digital services.
27. **Managing the risk through this recommendation:** these risks increase the longer the legacy systems remain in place. Endorsing the preferred tenderer and commencing negotiations allows Council to address the support, compliance and security risks while negotiating scope, price and support for all five modules as a single arrangement. The outcome of negotiations and a final recommendation will be presented to Council for consideration and approval before any contract is awarded.

Community Consultation

28. There was no requirement for community consultation.

Links to Community Vision, Council Plan, Strategy, Notice of Motion

29. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2025-29:

    A Council that demonstrates leadership, responsible use of public resources, and a commitment to investing in the community. This is achieved by replacing unsupported core systems with a sustainable, integrated solution that improves the customer experience and supports a digitally enabled future.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

30. 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.

Social Procurement

31. The preferred tenderer demonstrated a range of established social procurement and corporate social responsibility initiatives, including supplier diversity, engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-owned businesses and social enterprises, inclusive employment practices, ethical supply-chain management and partnerships supporting disadvantaged communities. The preferred tenderer also maintains established policies and initiatives supporting human rights, labour standards and responsible procurement. Social procurement formed part of the tender evaluation and was considered as part of the overall assessment of the tender and value for money.

Local Industry

32. The preferred tenderer is not locally based within the City of Greater Dandenong; however, at the time of tender submission it reported employing a few staff residing within the municipality and maintaining a substantial Victorian workforce. The preferred tenderer indicated that Victorian-based project and customer-facing personnel would be utilised where possible.
33. The tender identified estimated local content associated with labour and Victorian business operations support. Materials and plant were not applicable due to the nature of the proposed solution. Local content formed part of the tender evaluation and was considered in the overall assessment of the tender and value for money.

Cr Isabella Do returned to the Chamber at 7.37pm prior to voting.

MINUTE No.469
Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad
Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That Council:

1. **NOTES the completion of evaluation activities for Tender 2526-37 Core Systems Replacement (per Confidential Attachments 1,2, 3 & 4);**
2. **ENDORSES the Tender Evaluation Panel's identification of the preferred tenderer and authorises officers to proceed to commercial and contractual negotiations with that tenderer, including completion of the remaining due diligence and validation activities (per Confidential Attachment 3);**
3. **NOTES the program scope change which will now include Customer Relationship Management System and Property and Rating modules; and**
4. **NOTES that the outcome of negotiations and a final recommendation will be presented to Council for consideration and approval before the contract is awarded.**

CARRIED 9 / 0

4.2 POLICY AND STRATEGY

4.2.1 Q1 Quarterly Performance Report July - September 2026

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services

Attachments:
1. Q1 Quarterly Performance Report July-September 2026 [**4.2.1.1** - 76 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council NOTES the Q1 2026-27 Quarterly Performance Report (per Attachment 1), which outlines Council's progress against the performance targets outlined in the Council Plan 2025-29 for the period 1 July to 30 September 2026 and the Financial Report for the period 1 July to 30 September 2026.

Executive Summary

1. The Greater Dandenong City Council provides a performance report against organisational objectives and its financial position on a quarterly basis.
2. 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.
3. Council will be kept informed of the financial position on a quarterly basis, as is the current practice.

Background

4. Council formally adopted the Council Plan 2025-29, Annual Action Plan 2026-27 and Budget 2026-27 on Monday 15 June 2026.
5. The Council Plan 2025-29 outlines the vision and objectives of the Council. This document guides service delivery, innovation and good governance, and provides the foundation for Council's Integrated Planning Framework. The Council Plan also guides the budget, service delivery priorities and the continuous improvement of our services.
6. The Council Plan 2025-29, Annual Action Plan 2026-27, and Budget 2026-27 are made available to residents through the Customer Service Centres, libraries and on Council's website at www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

Key Issues and Discussion

7. The Quarterly Performance Report provides a summary of key highlights for the quarter against the Council Plan, Budget and the capital works program.
8. Progress against performance targets is outlined in the following components of the attachment to this report:
9. Part A – Annual Action Plan progress details the achievements for the Council Plan strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2025-29 for the period 1 July – 30 September 2026.

   Part B – The Financial Report is designed to inform Councillors of the results of operations for the 1 July – 30 September 2026. The budget information contained in this report reflects the Mid-Year Budget as adopted by Council on 15 June 2026.

10. 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

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

11. This item does not have an impact on existing human resources.

Financial/Asset Resource Implications (consider Service Statements, Budget, Long Term Financial Strategy and Asset Plan)

Operating Budget Implications

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

Asset Implications

13. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

14. There are no legal / risk implications relevant to this report.

Environmental Implications

15. There are no environmental implications relevant to this report.

Gender Impact Assessment

16. A gender impact assessment is not required.

Community Consultation

17. There was no requirement for community consultation.

Links to Community Vision, Council Plan, Strategy, Notice of Motion

18. 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.
19. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2025-29:
    - 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 places.
    - A green city committed to a sustainable future.
    - A city that supports business, entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcomes.
    - A Council that demonstrates leadership, responsible use of public resources, and a commitment to investing in the community.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

20. 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.
    - Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.

MINUTE No.470
Moved by: Cr Sophie Tan
Seconded by: Cr Rhonda Garad

That Council NOTES the Q1 2026-27 Quarterly Performance Report (per Attachment 1), which outlines Council's progress against the performance targets outlined in the Council Plan 2025-29 for the period 1 July to 30 September 2026 and the Financial Report for the period 1 July to 30 September 2026.

CARRIED 9 / 0

4.2.2 Gambling Harm Prevention and Minimisation Policy 2026

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services

Attachments:

1. Gambling Harm Prevention and Minimisation Policy 2026 [**4.2.2.1** - 11 pages]
2. Gambling Policy 2022-26 superseded version [**4.2.2.2** - 11 pages]
3. Gambling Harm Prevention and Minimisation Policy 2026 Changes [**4.2.2.3** - 7 pages]
4. FY26-27 Advocacy Pack - Gambling Excerpt [**4.2.2.4** - 1 page]
5. Benchmarking other councils [**4.2.2.5** - 1 page]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **NOTES that Greater Dandenong City Council has been advocating against gambling harm since the adoption of its first Gambling Policy in 2002; and**
2. **ADOPTS the Gambling Harm Prevention and Minimisation Policy 2026 per Attachment 1.**

Executive Summary

1. The current Gambling Policy expired August 2026.
2. This policy is classed as a discretionary policy within Council's integrated planning framework.
3. The revised policy refines and updates its advocacy goals, gives further emphasis to the rise of sports betting and on-line gambling, adjusts its guidance about Council's interaction with gambling operators, and clarifies the criteria which directs Council's responses to EGM gambling applications. Attachment 3 provides the Table of Changes between the outgoing policy (Attachment 2) and the reviewed Policy.
4. A significant addition to the Policy is clause at Section 5.4, which states that Council will not grant or renew leases to any organisation that operates EGMs, or to establish a new EGM venue, on Council-owned or managed land or facilities.
5. This clause has direct implications for Noble Park Football Social Club (Club Noble), which operates 50 EGMs on Council-owned land under a lease that expires on 31 December 2033. If the clause is adopted, the Club would need to divest its EGMs to renew its lease beyond 2033. Options for Councillors' consideration in relation to this clause are outlined in this report.

Background

6. Electronic gambling machines (EGMs or 'pokies') account for nearly half of legal gambling losses and most gambling-related problems in our community.
7. Currently 928 EGMs operate at venues within Greater Dandenong, among the highest number among Victorian municipalities.

8. 2025/26, losses to EGMs in Greater Dandenong reached $146.7 million, equivalent to $401,923 per day and the second highest level of EGM losses per adult in Victoria.
9. Increasing access to the internet and smartphones, coupled with extensive promotion of gambling, have provided people with the means to gamble on a wide variety of events, at any time or place.
10. These developments have fuelled a steep rise in the popularity of sports betting and other online gambling, particularly among teenagers and young adults.
11. The impacts of gambling losses among local residents and families include personal distress; financial hardship and poverty; family conflict, violence and breakup; decreased attendance and productivity at work; crime; and homelessness.
12. These consequences may be worsened by relatively low incomes among many residents and soaring costs of food, utilities and housing.
13. Council has been engaged in advocacy for gambling reform since at least 2002 with the adoption of its first gambling policy.
14. To strengthen its advocacy Council became a founding member of the Alliance for Gambling Reform, soon after is inception in 2015. Council continues to support the Alliance as a key leadership Council.
15. On four occasions Council has opposed local gambling applications for more EGMs with oral testimony before the Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission (VGCCC), resulting in refusal of three of these applications by the Commission.
16. Attachment 4 details Council current gambling advocacy asks for FY26-27.
17. The revision of the Gambling Policy is intended to strengthen Council's advocacy for changes to the regulation of gambling and to refine its other efforts to lessen the impact of gambling upon our community.

Key Issues and Discussion

18. The Policy updates the 2022 Policy (Attachment 2) following a review of how the current policy has operated, current gambling conditions, legislation and trends, other council policies, and consultation with residents, community groups, agencies and Council staff.
19. The Policy covers five areas of Council activity:
    a. Advocacy for gambling reform;
    b. Monitoring and reporting of gambling trends;
    c. Community consultation and education;
    d. Council's relationship with the gambling industry; and
    e. Council responses to applications for EGMs or gambling venues.

Advocacy

20. State and Federal gambling reform offers the best prospect of substantial and lasting relief from gambling harm. Since 2015, Council has been a founding and financial member of the Alliance for Gambling Reform, supporting its campaigns, sharing data on gambling trends and reinforcing its messages with local parliamentarians.
21. The policy removes advocacy goals superseded by recent government reforms and retains others, such as lower caps on EGM numbers and a pre-commitment scheme.
22. It gives greater emphasis to online gambling, adding new goals to ban online and broadcast gambling advertising and online gambling inducements.

Monitoring and reporting of gambling trends

23. Council will continue to monitor and share information on gambling trends with Councillors, residents, local agencies, the Alliance for Gambling Reform and other councils, to guide its actions and advocacy. This section is largely unchanged from the 2022 Policy.

Community consultation and education

24. Council will continue to inform residents about gambling harm and available support through its media and communication channels, working with Gambler's Help Southern, local agencies and the Alliance for Gambling Reform. It will also support social, hobby, learning and sporting activities as alternatives to gambling.
25. A new measure will restrict public access to gambling sites from Council computers and similar equipment, where feasible.

Council's relationship with the gambling industry

26. These clauses ensure Council's dealings with gambling operators align with its efforts to reduce gambling harm and avoid any perception of undue industry influence on Council business.
27. Council will not provide or accept financial or in-kind support from EGM gambling venues, except in clearly defined circumstances, and will not promote community grants or projects offered by these venues.

EGM applications

28. Council does not control the approval of new gaming venues or additional EGMs, but it may oppose applications before the Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission (VGCCC) where it considers the impact would be detrimental to the community.
29. The Policy condenses and clarifies the criteria Council uses to assess each application on its merits and evidence, without significantly changing their intent or practical application.

Impact of Policy on Noble Park Football Club

30. A new clause at Section 5.4 paragraph 2 states that "Council will not grant or renew leases to any organisation that operates EGMs, or to establish a new EGM venue, on Council-owned, or managed, land or facilities". This has direct implications for Noble Park Football Social Club (Club Noble).

31. The Club holds a 27-year lease, executed on 28 August 2006, over Council-owned land at 46-56 Moodemere Street, Noble Park, which expires on 31 December 2033. It operates 50 EGMs, with 2025/26 gambling losses of $6,638,138.
32. Under the lease rent clauses (Annexure C of Attachment 5), the market rent of $250,000 per annum is discounted by 90% to a base of $25,000 in recognition of the Club's community contributions, with a further 1% discount when specific conditions are met. The Club currently pays $21,558 per annum.
33. If the clause is adopted, Club Noble would need to divest all 50 EGMs to renew its lease beyond 2033. This allows seven years for the Club to move to a different revenue model, as most other clubs in Greater Dandenong have done.
34. Attachment 5 provides a summary of approaches of twelve other Victorian councils in relation to the existence, or prospect of, future EGM gambling venues situated on their land. Responses indicate that prohibiting new leases for additional gambling venues on council land is current for Brimbank, Casey, Greater Bendigo, Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong, Melton, and Mornington Peninsula councils.
35. Options for Councillors' consideration in relation to this clause are set out below. The officer recommendation is that the policy is adopted retaining the new clause at Section 5.4 paragraph 2. i.e. Option 1.

Option 1: Retain clause (Recommended)	**No new or renewed leases to organisations operating EGMs on Council land. Club Noble would need to divest its 50 EGMs to renew its lease beyond 2033.**	**Strongest alignment with Council's harm prevention objectives. Provides a clear position and a seven-year transition period.**	**Potential loss of rental income and community contributions.**
Option 2: Apply to new leases only	Prohibit new EGM venues and leases on Council land, while allowing existing leases to be renewed.	Consistent with the approach of other Victorian councils. Minimises disruption to Club Noble and community groups it supports.	EGM gambling would continue on Council land beyond 2033. May be seen as inconsistent with Council's advocacy position on gambling harm.
Option 3: Conditional renewal	Allow renewal of existing leases subject to conditions, such as a staged reduction in EGM numbers and enhanced harm minimisation measures.	Balances harm reduction with community benefit. Provides a negotiated pathway for transition.	More complex to negotiate, monitor and enforce. Requires legal and property advice on lease terms.
Option 4: Defer the clause	Adopt the Policy without Section 5.4 paragraph 2, and consider the lease position following engagement with Club Noble and affected stakeholders.	Allows more engagement with the Club and reduces risk of challenge.	Delays a clear Council position. Matter would need to return to Council for decision.

36. The table below (EGM Venue Level Losses) compares Club Noble's 2025-26 EGM losses with other venues in the municipality.

EGM Venue Level Losses

Name	Type	Expenditure 2025/26	EGMs in June 2026
Aces Sporting Club	Club	$2,978,731	77
Albion Hotel	Hotel	$1,977,780	24
Dandenong Club	Club	$10,688,148	103
Dandenong Rsl	Club	$9,309,126	63
Dandenong Workers Social Club	Club	$2,182,330	77
Greyhounds Entertainment	Club	$17,167,312	93
Highways Sandown	Club	$21,789,279	90
Keysborough Hotel	Hotel	$25,854,319	89
Noble Park Football Social Club	Club	$6,638,148	50
Noble Park Rsl	Club	$4,550,720	35
Players Hotel	Hotel	$3,468,377	25
Sandown Park Hotel	Hotel	$15,429,674	76
Springvale RSL Club	Club	$7,031,200	55
Waltzing Matilda Hotel	Hotel	$17,636,678	71

Ave Losses per venue	Number of venues	Total Expenditure	Number of EGMs
$10,478,702	**14**	**$146,701,821**	**928**

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

37. This item does not have an impact on existing human resources.

Financial/Asset Resource Implications (consider Service Statements, Budget, Long Term Financial Strategy and Asset Plan)

Operating Budget Implications

38. There are no implications for the current operating budget. However, if the Section 5.4 clause is adopted and Club Noble's lease is not renewed when it expires on 31 December 2033, Council would forgo rental income of $21,558 per annum.

39. Demand for Council's community grants may also increase if local groups currently supported by Club Noble's donations seek alternative funding. These potential impacts will be considered in future budget and Long Term Financial Plan processes.

Asset Implications

40. The Policy does not affect the current use of any Council asset. However, Section 5.4 has implications for the Council-owned property at 46–56 Moodemere Street, Noble Park, which is leased to Club Noble until 31 December 2033. If the Club continues to operate EGMs, the lease would not be renewed and Council would need to determine the future use of the site, including options to re-lease, repurpose or retain it for community use. This will be considered through Council's Asset Plan and property portfolio planning well ahead of the lease expiry.

Legal/Risk Implications

41. It should be noted that there is mixed risk associated with the inclusion of the stipulation not to grant or renew leases as per information detailed about Club Noble.

42. There are no legal implications relevant to this report. This policy is a discretionary policy and does not contravene any existing legislation or regulation. It is intended to strengthen Council's advocacy for changes to the regulation of gambling and seek to lessen the impact of gambling harm upon this community.

Environmental Implications

43. There are no environmental implications relevant to this report.

Gender Impact Assessment

44. The Gender Impact Assessment identified several gender-related considerations, including the predominance of young men among participants in sports betting; the impact of gambling problems for families, including in aggravating family violence; and the appeal of EGM gambling venues for some women, owing to the relative comfort and security that is often provided at such premises.

Community Consultation

Purpose	Consultation sought insights into the relevance of clauses in the policy relating to advocacy, community education, monitoring of trends and responses to EGM gambling applications.
Engagement period	November 2025 to June 2026
Level of Influence:	Consult
Engagement Activities:	Meetings and conversations with: • Your Say • Residents, through several of Council's consultative committees • Local community agency staff, including SICMAA and the Interfaith Network • Staff in organisations involved in advocacy for gambling. reform at a statewide level, including the Alliance for Gambling Reform and the Victorian Local Governance • Internal stakeholders

Communication reach and engagement numbers:	Approximately eight key *external* stakeholders were interviewed Discussions were also held with *internal* stakeholders in the Grants, Youth Services, Sport and Recreation, Growth and Investment units, as well as staff in the fields of health planning and from libraries. Opportunities to provide feedback were also provided to Council's Positive Ageing, Disability and LGBTIQA+ advisory groups.
Summary of feedback:	Principal concerns included: Advocacy for: * Increased funding for Gambler's Help and financial counselling services. * Implementation of a pre-commitment scheme, as pledged by the State Government. * Reduced opening hours of EGM venues. * Fewer gambling advertisements on TV or online. * A reduction in the caps, or limits, upon the number of EGMs in Greater Dandenong and other disadvantaged communities. * Stronger regulation by government of overseas gambling sites, which present opportunities for people to gamble on international sporting events. Emphasis should be given to the role of gambling problems in contributing to family violence • Council should not provide grants to gambling operators or to support their social programs, except under specific circumstances. Neither should it withhold grants though, from community organisations that have accepted funds from gambling operators. • Council should encourage sports clubs to deter sports gambling among their membership; and gambling advertising should continue to be prohibited at Council-owned sporting venues. • The policy should recognise the exposure and vulnerability of young people to sports betting advertising. • Council may support healthy recreational and social alternatives to gambling, including safe spaces for women, such as the Libraries after Dark program and other activities offered throughout the municipality.

Links to Community Vision, Council Plan, Strategy, Notice of Motion

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

- Safe and peaceful community.

46. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2025-29:

- A socially connected, safe and healthy city.
- A Council that demonstrates leadership, responsible use of public resources, and a commitment to investing in the community.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

47. 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.
- Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.

MINUTE No.471
Moved by: Cr Sophie Tan
Seconded by: Cr Jim Memeti

That the item be deferred to a future Council Meeting so that Council officers can conduct further consultation with the community.

CARRIED 5 / 4

For - Cr Phillip Danh, Cr Jim Memeti, Cr Sean O'Reilly, Cr Sophie Tan and Cr Melinda Yim

Against - Cr Isabella Do, Cr Lana Formoso, Cr Rhonda Garad and Cr Alice Phuong Le

4.2.3 Adoption of Positive Ageing Strategy

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Community Strengthening

Attachments:
1. Positive Ageing Strategy 2026-2030 Consultation Report [**4.2.3.1** - 12 pages]
2. draft Positive Ageing Strategy 2026-30 [**4.2.3.2** - 25 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **NOTES the community feedback received on the Draft Positive Ageing Strategy 2026-2030; and**
2. **APPROVES the Positive Ageing Strategy 2026-2030, provided at Attachment 1, for implementation.**

Executive Summary

1. At its meeting on 17 August 2026, Council endorsed the Draft Positive Ageing Strategy 2026-2030 for public consultation from 18 August to 15 September 2026.
2. Community engagement demonstrated strong support for the draft Strategy. Following analysis of the feedback, only minor changes were required to reflect the community's input.
3. Council is now asked to approve the revised Positive Ageing Strategy 2026-2030, provided at Attachment 1, for implementation.
4. The Positive Ageing Strategy 2026-2030 Consultation Report (Attachment 2) provides the evidence supporting the recommended approval by summarising the consultation process, the key themes raised by the community and the minor changes made to the draft Strategy.

Background

5. The Positive Ageing Strategy outlines how Council supports older people to live well, stay independent, and remain connected to their community.
6. The draft Strategy has been developed through extensive consultation with older people, service providers, community networks and the broader community, using a range of engagement methods, with ongoing and significant input from the Positive Ageing Advisory Committee. It also draws on feedback from earlier consultations, including the Council Plan deliberative engagement process and the 2023 Aged and Disability Services Review, to help identify priorities and shape the final strategy.
7. At the Monday 17 August Council Meeting, Councillors approved the Draft Positive Ageing Strategy 2026-2030 to commence a four-week public consultation from Tuesday 18 August 2026.

8. Council invited community input to test and strengthen the proposed priorities and actions. Consultation activities included an online Have Your Say survey, community drop-in sessions, targeted conversations with seniors groups, and promotion through stakeholder networks and partner organisations. Community engagement reached 297 people through direct emails and networks, 131 unique visitors accessed the Have Your Say webpage, and 55 individual feedback comments were received. A total of 32 survey responses were submitted, with 31 respondents indicating support or strong support for the draft Strategy.
9. Council made the following minor updates in response to community feedback:
    - Updating the consultation findings to reflect both stages of the consultation.
    - Updating the statistics to include recently released figures.
    - Minor revision to the actions and measurable outcomes based on community input.
10. This Strategy replaces the Positive Ageing Strategy 2017–2025 and continues Council's commitment to helping older people live well, stay connected and remain active members of the community.
11. The Positive Ageing Strategy 2026-2030 (Attachment 1) is presented to Council for approval.

Key Issues and Discussion

12. The Positive Ageing Strategy is a Key Priority within Council's Integrated Planning Framework.
13. The Strategy supports Greater Dandenong City Council's Community Vision 2040 by outlining how Council will enhance wellbeing, inclusion and participation for older people. In doing so, it promotes a community that is welcoming, healthy and age friendly for everyone.
14. The draft Strategy is built around four key themes:

    Social Connections and Participation

    a. Older people are connected, valued and actively participating in community life;

    Transport and Access

    b. Older people can access services, activities and community spaces safely and independently;

    Safety, Health and Wellbeing

    c. Older people feel safe, supported and empowered to maintain their health, independence and quality of life; and

    Information and Communication

    d. Older people are informed, digitally included and actively engaged in shaping their community.
15. Previous Positive Ageing Strategies at the City of Greater Dandenong have focused on improving older people's health, wellbeing, independence and social inclusion, while responding to priorities such as transport, access to services, social connection and communication. They have delivered initiatives that help older residents remain active and connected. The new Strategy will build on this work by strengthening age-friendly environments, expanding opportunities for participation and responding to emerging needs within the ageing community.
16. This third Positive Ageing Strategy is the next step in Council's ongoing commitment to older people.

17. Government aged care policy and programs may change over the four-year life of the Strategy. The Strategy's Guiding Principles provide a consistent framework for Council to review and adjust actions in response to those changes while maintaining the Strategy's intended direction.
18. Where Council has limited control or influence, the Strategy emphasises its advocacy role in working to achieve improved outcomes.
19. The actions in the draft Strategy will be delivered by existing staff across Council and incorporated into current business and strategic plans. No additional resources are required beyond Council's annually adopted budget.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

20. Following endorsement of the Strategy, Council will review existing workforce priorities to ensure they align with its deliverables.

Financial/Asset Resource Implications (consider Service Statements, Budget, Long Term Financial Strategy and Asset Plan)

Operating Budget Implications

21. Following endorsement of the Strategy, Council will refocus existing operational budgets to align with its deliverables. Any new initiatives will be considered through Council's annual budget process.

Asset Implications

22. This report has no direct impact on existing assets. Future asset development relevant to the Strategy should be guided by its principles and applicable legislation.

Legal/Risk Implications

23. There are no legal / risk implications relevant to this report.

Environmental Implications

24. There are no environmental implications relevant to this report.

Gender Impact Assessment

25. The Gender Impact Assessment for the Positive Ageing Strategy acknowledges that older women may experience ageing differently to men, including higher rates of financial disadvantage, social isolation, caring responsibilities, housing insecurity and barriers to accessing services and community participation. These experiences can be further influenced by factors such as cultural background, language, disability, health, and migration experiences. The assessment finds that the Strategy supports positive gender outcomes through actions that promote social connection, access to information, inclusive engagement, healthy ageing, transport accessibility and partnerships with organisations that support older people. It also highlights the importance of ensuring the diverse perspectives of older women and other underrepresented groups continue to inform the implementation and evaluation of the Strategy.

Community Consultation Summary

Purpose	Seek community feedback to ensure the draft Positive Ageing Strategy reflects the priorities, experiences and aspirations of older people, and confirms support for the proposed actions over the next four years.

Engagement period	18 August to 15 September 2026
Level of Influence:	Based on IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum: Consult
Engagement Activities:	• Have Your Say survey promoted through Council channels, Council facilities, email lists and community networks • Drop-in sessions at local hub locations for older people, families and carers • Consultation with the Positive Ageing Advisory Committee
Communication reach and engagement numbers:	• The Positive Ageing Strategy consultation attracted 131 unique visitors to the Have Your Say page, generated 151 page views and resulted in 46 strategy downloads. • Community engagement reached 297 people through direct emails and networks, with 32 online submissions and 55 individual feedback comments received. • Engagement activities included five face-to-face community drop-in sessions across the municipality. • Feedback was gathered through online submissions, face-to-face conversations and targeted engagement with the Positive Ageing Advisory Committee, Seniors clubs and Seniors Leadership network. • Consultation materials were also accessed in several languages other than English, including Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), Arabic, Greek, Punjabi, Vietnamese and Shinala.
Summary of feedback:	Feedback demonstrated overwhelming support for the proposed direction of the Strategy, with 31 of 32 survey respondents indicating that they supported or strongly supported the proposed priorities. Community consultation showed strong support for the draft Positive Ageing Strategy and confidence in Council's approach to creating an age-friendly community. The priority areas reflected the importance of staying healthy, independent, connected and informed as people age. Feedback strongly endorsed actions that increase opportunities for social, recreational and intergenerational activities, support physical activity and healthy ageing, improve transport options, provide accessible information and promote digital inclusion, with community priorities aligning closely with the actions already proposed in the draft Strategy. Further information is available in Positive Ageing Strategy 2026-2030 Consultation Report (Attachment 2).

Links to Community Vision, Council Plan, Strategy, Notice of Motion

26. 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.
- Mind, body and spirit.

27. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2025-29:

- 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 places.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

28. 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.
- Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities 2006.
- Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.

MINUTE No.472
Moved by: Cr Melinda Yim
Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That Council:

1. **NOTES the community feedback received on the Draft Positive Ageing Strategy 2026-2030; and**
2. **APPROVES the Positive Ageing Strategy 2026-2030, provided at Attachment 1, for implementation.**

CARRIED 9 / 0

4.2.4 Draft Economy & Place Strategy 2027-2037 - Endorsement for Consultation

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures

Attachments:
1. EP S- V 9.5 [**4.2.4.1** - 79 pages]
2. Draft EPS strategy on a page [**4.2.4.2** - 2 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **NOTES the draft Economy and Place Strategy 2027-37 (Attachment 1) which has been informed by consultations with business stakeholders and the broader community;**
2. **ENDORSES the release of the draft Economy and Place Strategy 2027-37 (Attachment 1) for a 28-day public consultation period commencing in February 2027; and**
3. **NOTES that the following the conclusion of public consultation, a summary report and final amended Economy and Place Strategy will be presented to Council for formal adoption.**

Executive Summary

1. The draft Greater Dandenong Economy and Place Strategy 2027-37 and Stage 1 Implementation Plan have been developed to provide a 10-year framework for economic development, investment attraction, employment, activity centres and placemaking.
2. The draft Strategy has been shaped and informed by evidence, extensive internal and external engagement, and a comprehensive analysis of economic, demographic and place-based trends. The Strategy seeks to address the identified "capture gap", where Greater Dandenong generates significant economic output but retains a lower share of employment, spending and investment benefits locally.
3. The draft Strategy is now ready for Phase 2 Community Engagement scheduled for February 2027. The final Strategy is planned to be presented for formal Council adoption in May 2027.

Background

4. A unified economy and place strategy has been developed integrating economic development, employment, investment attraction and placemaking priorities. This Strategy is a Key Priority Strategy within Council's Integrated Planning Framework.
5. The draft Economy and Place Strategy (Strategy) has been developed following:
    - Preparation of an Economy and Place Profile;
    - Activity centre and placemaking analysis;
    - Comprehensive internal and external stakeholder engagement; and
    - Review of local, regional and state policy settings.
6. The Strategy establishes a 10-year vision (2027-37) and a five-year stage 1 implementation plan (2027-28 to 2031-32) - Attachment 1.

7. The Strategy is structured around three pillars:
    - Pillar 1: Business, Industry and Jobs;
    - Pillar 2: Thriving Centres and Destinations; and
    - Pillar 3: Investment, Reputation and Growth
8. The Strategy is about making different choices, not doing more work. It is a prioritisation framework for how Council directs effort, advocacy, partnerships and investment over the next 10 years, as we cannot achieve different outcomes simply by refining the same approach.

Key Issues and Discussion

9. Strategic importance:
    - Provides a whole-of-Council framework for delivering economic development and placemaking outcomes over the next decade.
    - Creates clear priorities for investment attraction, employment pathways, activity centre revitalisation, visitation and business growth.
    - Establishes measurable outcomes and a governance framework for monitoring delivery and performance.
10. Strategic alignment:
    - Aligns with the Community Vision 2040.
    - Supports delivery of Council Plan 2025-29 objectives relating to:
        - Business and employment;
        - Vibrant centres and places; and
        - Investment and economic growth.
    - Aligns with national, state and regional (Greater South East Melbourne) strategies and priorities.
11. Implementation Plan:
12. Includes 29 initiatives organised into a staged five-year delivery program across three strategic pillars.
13. Establishes a set of (12) priority delivery packages that will guide implementation effort, resource allocation, partnership development and advocacy activity during Stage 1 implementation.
    - Priority delivery packages focus on:
        - Strengthening business growth, industry competitiveness and employment pathways.
        - Supporting the future readiness and productivity of the Southern State Significant Industrial Precinct.
        - Reimaging activity centres, with an early focus on Central Dandenong and continuing delivery of SRAP.
        - Improving business confidence, activity centre presentation and responses to issues affecting perceptions of safety and visitation.
        - Increasing visitation, local spending and place activation.
        - Establishing a coordinated approach to investment attraction, precinct development and city promotion.

- The Implementation Plan provides a clear framework for prioritising Council effort within existing resources and identifying future funding and partnership opportunities.
- Delivery will be staged over five years and reviewed periodically to respond to organisational capacity, funding opportunities and changing priorities.

14. Resource implications:
    - The Strategy has been developed with a focus on implementation through existing resources where possible. Some initiatives will require future business cases, external funding opportunities and budget consideration through annual planning processes.
    - Adoption of the Strategy does not commit Council to future expenditure or capital works. These will remain subject to future Council decision-making and budget processes.
15. Stakeholder engagement:
    - Development of the draft Strategy included engagement with:
        - Businesses and industry representatives.
        - Employment, education and training providers.
        - Government agencies.
        - Residents/community, young people, Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
        - Councillors and Council officers.
    - Phase 2 public exhibition/community engagement will provide further opportunity for feedback before final adoption of the Strategy.
16. Key risks:
    - External funding and advocacy outcomes may affect delivery of some initiatives.
    - Some initiatives rely on support from State Government, industry and regional partners.
    - Resourcing pressures and competing organisational priorities may impact implementation timeframes.
    - Economic conditions may influence investment and business confidence outcomes.
17. Baseline data collection and performance measurement will be critical to establishing long-term success measures. A tailored process will be created to collect data and support reporting. Six Key City Measures with provisional Baseline and Targets are outlined in the strategy, these will be supported by further measures confirmed for each initiative during the detailed scoping and delivery phases.
18. Proposed next steps:
19. Phase 2 community and stakeholder consultation (February 2027 – 28 days);
20. Final Strategy for Council adoption (planned for May 2027); and
    - Implementation from July 2027.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

21. This item is intended to not have an impact on existing human resources. Extensive consultation has been undertaken across the organisation to inform the draft Strategy and Stage 1 Implementation Plan.

22. The Strategy has been developed with these constraints in mind and is intended to be delivered primarily through existing resources, with a strong focus on prioritisation, staging and collaboration across Council and external partners.

Financial/Asset Resource Implications (consider Service Statements, Budget, Long Term Financial Strategy and Asset Plan)

Operating Budget Implications

23. There are no financial implications associated with this report. Adoption of the Strategy does not commit Council to additional operating expenditure. The draft Strategy and Stage 1 Implementation Plan are intended to be delivered primarily through existing operational resources and service delivery activities. Some initiatives may require future funding consideration, business cases or external grant funding to support implementation. Any additional operating budget requirements arising from specific projects or initiatives will be considered through the annual business planning and budget process and subject to future Council approval.

Asset Implications

24. This item does not directly affect any existing assets however some initiatives identified within the Stage 1 Implementation Plan may inform future public realm, infrastructure, activity centre and precinct improvement projects. Any future asset creation, renewal or upgrade requirements will be subject to separate project development, business cases, funding consideration and Council approval through established planning and capital works processes.

Legal/Risk Implications

25. There are no legal implications relevant to this report. The Strategy establishes a strategic direction and implementation framework but does not in itself authorise expenditure, capital works, statutory planning decisions or contractual commitments. Such matters will continue to be considered through separate Council approvals and established governance processes.

26. Key risks identified through strategy development include organisational capacity constraints, competing corporate priorities, reliance on external funding and partner organisations, and the ability to maintain focus on agreed priorities over the life of the Strategy. These risks are reflected in the staged implementation approach, governance framework and proposed review of Stage 1 implementation.

Environmental Implications

27. There are no environmental implications relevant to this report. The draft Strategy aligns and supports Council's broader sustainability objectives through initiatives relating to sustainable industry, climate resilience, the circular economy, public realm improvements, active transport and placemaking.

Gender Impact Assessment

28. A gender impact assessment has been undertaken and incorporated into the draft Strategy. The assessment considered gendered impacts of the Strategy, ensuring that projects, programs, and services will meet the different needs of women, men, and gender-diverse people, aligning with Council’s goals of advancing gender equality and addressing gender gaps.

Community Consultation

Purpose	**Phase 1** – Complete Informed and shaped the draft Strategy
Engagement period	Community consultation: August-September 2025 Internal consultation: 2 rounds over 2025 and 2026

Level of Influence:	Based on IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum: inform/consult
Engagement Activities	Activities included: Surveys, workshops, stakeholder interviews and targeted industry and government discussions to reach and engage with diverse range of stakeholders. Engagement promotion included: • 15,000 flyer drop within and surrounding activity centres • Social media promotion and advertising • Council website • Council magazine • Talking Business newsletter • Interview invites • Promotion through networks and databases • Hardcopy survey drop across activity centres and key retail strips
Summary of feedback	Phase 1 community consultation involved more than 250 participants, including residents, businesses, industry representatives, young people, government agencies and Councillors. Key themes identified through consultation included: o Stronger support for local businesses, entrepreneurship and industry growth. o Improved pathways to employment, skills and training, particularly for young people and priority cohorts. o Increased investment attraction and advocacy for infrastructure and development opportunities. o More vibrant, attractive and accessible activity centres. o Greater activation, cultural experiences and visitor attractions. o Improved perceptions of safety, cleanliness and place presentation. o Recognition and promotion of Greater Dandenong's cultural diversity, identity and economic strengths. Two rounds of internal consultation were undertaken along with assessment against current and in-development strategies and business plans, feedback on draft documents and divisional roadshows. Internal and external feedback directly informed the development of the draft Strategy's three pillars and stage 1 implementation plan.
Purpose	**Phase 2** - Draft Strategy Public Exhibition Test the draft Strategy and implementation priorities through public exhibition and targeted stakeholder engagement.
Engagement period	February 2027 (28 days)

Level of Influence	Based on IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum: inform/consult
Engagement Activities	Will include: • Yoursay survey – test the strategy reflects phase 1 feedback, overall support for vision/direction • Targeted business/stakeholder workshops • Pop-up information sessions at key locations • Engaging and in-language information including plan-on-a-page (attachment 2), stakeholder personas Engagement opportunities will be promoted extensively through Council's promotion and communication channels and networks.

Links to Community Vision, Council Plan, Strategy, Notice of Motion

29. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
    - Education, training, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities.
30. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2025-29:
    - A city of accessible, vibrant centres and places.
    - A city that supports business, entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcomes.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

31. 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.
32. The Local Government Act 2020 provides a legislative basis for Council to undertake strategic economic development planning. In accordance with Council's role under Section 8 to promote the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district. The Strategy also supports implementation of Council's Community Vision and Council Plan and assists Council in exercising its general powers under the Act to achieve long-term public benefit.

MINUTE No.473
Moved by: Cr Sophie Tan
Seconded by: Cr Rhonda Garad

That Council:

1. **NOTES the draft Economy and Place Strategy 2027-37 (Attachment 1) which has been informed by consultations with business stakeholders and the broader community;**
2. **ENDORSES the release of the draft Economy and Place Strategy 2027-37 (Attachment 1) for a 28-day public consultation period commencing in February 2027; and**
3. **NOTES that the following the conclusion of public consultation, a summary report and final amended Economy and Place Strategy will be presented to Council for formal adoption.**

CARRIED 9 / 0

4.2.5 Response to Notice of Motion No. 24 - Review of Funding Arrangements for Historical Societies

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Community Strengthening
Attachments: **Nil**

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **ACKNOWLEDGES the significant contribution of the Dandenong and District Historical Society, the Springvale and District Historical Society and their volunteers in collecting, preserving and sharing the history of Greater Dandenong;**
2. **NOTES the current funding methods, operational support and in-kind contributions provided by Council to the Dandenong and District Historical Society and the Springvale and District Historical Society;**
3. **NOTES that at their respective 2026 Annual General Meetings, the Dandenong and District Historical Society and the Springvale and District Historical Society resolved to amalgamate into one entity;**
4. **NOTES the findings of the review of historical society funding arrangements, including the current challenges facing local historical societies; the comparative local government approaches identified through officer research; and the options outlined in this report to improve long-term organisational sustainability; and**
5. **ENDORSES funding of $7,500 per annum for each historical society (or combined $15,000 per annum for the equivalent amalgamated entity) through a two-year Service Agreement, funded through Council's existing grants program.**

Executive Summary

1. In response to Notice of Motion No. 24, officers reviewed current support provided to local historical societies and examined sector practices. The Dandenong and District Historical Society and the Springvale and District Historical Society are volunteer-led custodians of Greater Dandenong's history, and Council has a long-standing partnership with both organisations. Council currently provides support with an estimated value of $9,678 per annum, plus subsidised office space. This report proposes continuing that support and providing additional baseline funding of $7,500 per annum for each historical society through a two year Service Agreement to strengthen organisational sustainability.

Background

2. At its meeting on 20 July 2026, Council adopted Notice of Motion No. 24 requesting a review of funding arrangements for local historical societies.

3. The City of Greater Dandenong is home to two volunteer-run historical societies: the Dandenong and District Historical Society (DDHS) and the Springvale and District Historical Society (SDHS). These organisations play an important role in collecting, preserving and interpreting the municipality's social, cultural and community history. Through the management of collections, archival records, publications and public engagement activities, both societies contribute significantly to the preservation of local heritage and community identity. In one of Australia's most culturally diverse municipalities, the societies are also well placed to capture the stories of the many communities who have made Greater Dandenong their home.
4. The Notice of Motion, raised on 20 July 2026, sought to acknowledge the vital role that local historical societies and their dedicated volunteers play in preserving, protecting, and promoting the rich cultural heritage and history of the City of Greater Dandenong.
5. Council also noted that stable financial support is essential for the ongoing sustainability of these community-run organisations, allowing them to manage collections, facilitate research, and engage the public without the constant uncertainty of ad-hoc grant cycles.
6. It requests that officers investigate the current funding arrangements and Council
7. support provided to historical societies operating within the municipality and a report be presented to Council within three (3) months outlining:
    - A summary of the current funding methods (including grants, operational support, and in-kind contributions) provided by Council to these groups;
    - Options and a proposed framework for establishing a secure, ongoing "baseline
    - funding" model to support the core operational and administrative functions of local historical societies;
    - The comparative funding models used by neighbouring or comparable local government areas to support their historical societies; and
    - The estimated financial implications of implementing a baseline funding model for consideration in future Council budget processes.

Key Issues and Discussion

Current Council Funding Methods

8. Council currently provides a range of in-kind support to the historical societies, including subsidised accommodation at rental rates well below commercial rates, utilities, operation of the Shared Archive, heritage staff support, exhibition assistance, promotion and grant support. This support represents a significant ongoing contribution and should be acknowledged when considering future requests for assistance.

Current Support	Estimated In-kind Value/Cash Support
Subsidised office accommodation (DDHS at 39A Clow Street & SDHS at Springvale Community Hub)	In-kind value not available at time of report*
Utilities and rates at no cost (DDHS at 39A Clow Street & SDHS at Springvale Community Hub)	Electricity, water, rates, and associated outgoings provided by Council. Estimated value: $1,500 p.a.
Free use of Heritage Hill for annual general meetings	4 hours × $52.50 = $210 per meeting. Two meetings per year = $420 per annum.

Shared Archive support including utilities, cleaning and facility management (Collection Store – 66 Hammond Road, Dandenong)	• Approximately $3,000 per annum for electricity and water services (approximately $31,000 since 2016). • Cleaning and pest management services provided through Council facility contracts. • Access to Council stationery and kitchen supplies (tea, coffee, milk and sugar). • Archive facility management and coordination support. • Estimated value: $3,000 p.a.
Provision of computers and technical assistance for digitisation activities at the Shared Archive (Collection Store – 66 Hammond Road, Dandenong)	Estimated value: $1,500 p.a.
Furniture storage assistance (John Ryan Removals, Dandenong South)	Since 28 February 2019, approximately $430 p.a. (total Council contribution of $3,003).
Ongoing staff support	Heritage advice, archive coordination, collection management support, assistance and advice, grant support and promotional support. Estimated value: $2,828 p.a.
Total estimated amount	**$9,678 p.a. (excluding office accommodation subsidisation)***

*Possible commercial rental estimate based on current market rental evaluations by an independent agent or valuer not available at time of report.

9. Council's support extends beyond office accommodation and the shared Hammond Road Archive facility to include utilities, archive operations, equipment, staff assistance and other in-kind services. Together, these contributions reduce the societies' operating costs and support the preservation of local heritage.

Comparative Local Government Funding Models

10. Benchmarking indicates that the level of support currently provided by Council is generally consistent with assistance provided by other comparable local government authorities. Across Victoria, local historical societies are typically volunteer-led incorporated associations that rely on a combination of membership fees, fundraising, donations, grants, sponsorship, publication sales and fee-for-service activities to support their operations.

11. Benchmarking undertaken with Yarra Ranges Council, Glen Eira City Council and Kingston City Council as part of this review indicates that historical societies generate income from a combination of:

- Membership subscriptions
- Donations and bequests
- Fundraising activities
- Research and reproduction services
- Publication sales
- Grants and philanthropic funding
- Community programs and venue hire opportunities.

12. In addition to self-generated income, historical societies can access a range of external funding opportunities through local government, state government, national heritage and philanthropic grant programs. Officer research indicates that local government support is mostly provided through subsidised accommodation in the form of reduced rent and utility subsidies, access to community facilities, collection storage, grant opportunities and specialist heritage advice. Recurrent operational funding is not common across the sector.
13. The review identified several challenges to long-term organisational sustainability: declining volunteer numbers, increased governance and compliance obligations, collection management requirements, digitisation demands and rising operating costs.
14. Benchmarking also indicated that most other comparable councils supported historical societies through a combination of in-kind assistance, grant programs and heritage services, rather than direct recurrent operational funding. Where direct funding is provided, it is generally linked to specific projects, partnership agreements or identified community outcomes.

Current Challenges

15. While Council currently provides support, both organisations continue to experience challenges associated with long-term organisational sustainability. The challenges include financial sustainability, organisational capacity and governance, and technology and collections management.

Financial Sustainability

16. Financial information provided by the societies indicates that annual operating expenditure exceeds annual income.

Historical Society	Income	Expenses
DDHS	$3,423	$7,629
SDHS	$810	$3,612

17. The figures indicate that both organisations currently operate with expenditure exceeding annual income, with a combined annual operating shortfall of approximately $7,008 (DDHS $4,206; SDHS $2,802). While Council's in-kind contributions substantially reduce operating costs, the societies, like many volunteer-led heritage organisations across the sector, have limited opportunities to generate sufficient independent revenue to support long-term sustainability.

Organisational Capacity and Governance

18. Like many volunteer-led organisations, both societies face challenges associated with declining volunteer numbers and increasing governance and compliance obligations.
19. Maintaining separate committees, governance structures, financial reporting obligations and grant application processes places increasing pressure on a limited volunteer base. The societies also have limited capacity to undertake strategic planning, business development and income diversification activities that support long-term sustainability.
20. Both historical societies have acknowledged these challenges and, through discussions at their Annual General Meetings (AGMs) and recent Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee meetings, have raised the possibility of bringing the two organisations together as a single Greater Dandenong Historical Society.
21. At their respective AGMs in October 2026, both historical societies resolved to amalgamate into one entity. This decision will strengthen organisational sustainability and build the capacity of local historical societies to preserve and promote Greater Dandenong's heritage.

22. The administrative process to amalgamate the historical societies has commenced through Consumer Affairs Victoria, and is likely to take up to six-months to finalise.

Technology and Collections Management

23. The societies rely on ageing technology and limited technical capability to support collection management and digitisation activities.

24. Historical collections increasingly require digitisation and electronic management to meet preservation and public access expectations. Opportunities exist to strengthen partnerships with Council, educational institutions and heritage organisations to improve collection management, preservation and digitisation outcomes.

Options for Future Baseline Funding Model Support

25. The review found that Council currently provides substantial in-kind support to local historical societies through accommodation, utilities, storage, archive support, technology assistance and access to Council funding programs. The estimated value of this support is approximately $9,678 per annum, plus subsidisation of office space. The review indicates that additional funding alone is unlikely to resolve the longer-term challenges facing the historical societies and it should be targeted to strengthen organisational capacity, succession planning and financial sustainability.

26. Three options have been identified for Council's consideration.

Option 1: Maintain Current In-Kind Support (Status Quo)

27. Council continues its existing operational and in-kind support arrangements, including accommodation, utilities, storage, archive services, technology support and access to Council's community grants programs. The estimated value of current Council support is approximately $9,678 per annum.

28. **Benefits**

- No additional Council budget allocation is required.
- Maintains existing support arrangements and relationships.
- Continues Council's longstanding support for volunteer-led heritage organisations.
- Minimises financial impact on Council while preserving current service levels.

29. **Risks and Funding Implications**

- Does not directly address longer-term challenges such as volunteer succession, governance capacity and increasing operating costs.
- Historical societies may continue to face sustainability pressures associated with volunteer recruitment, membership and limited revenue opportunities.
- Should a society be unable to continue operating independently in the future, Council may need to consider what role, if any, it could play in supporting the ongoing care and accessibility of heritage collections and services.
- Future support requirements may arise that exceed the current level of Council assistance.

Option 2: Baseline Funding model through a Multi-Year Service Agreement (Recommended Option)

30. Council continues existing in-kind support and enters into a Multi-Year Service Agreement with the Dandenong and District Historical Society (DDHS) and Springvale and District Historical Society (SDHS).

31. Targeted additional support would be provided through a Multi-Year Service Agreement with mutually agreed objectives designed to strengthen organisational sustainability, capacity and resilience.

32. Funding would be capped at a combined maximum of $15,000 per annum ($7,500 per organisation per annum) and provided through an agreed Service Agreement rather than an annual grant process. This amount would cover the societies' combined operating shortfall of approximately $7,008 per annum, with the balance directed to agreed capacity-building priorities. Should the societies choose to merge into a single Greater Dandenong Historical Society, the agreement and funding would transfer to the consolidated organisation.
33. An initial two-year agreement would be established, followed by a review of performance, deliverables and organisational sustainability outcomes. Subject to satisfactory outcomes, Council could enter into a further three-year agreement, aligning with Council planning cycles. This approach mirrors the staged service agreement model adopted by Council for Neighbourhood Houses and Community Centres.
34. The service agreement would set out a proportionate mix of core operational support and achievable improvement activities, recognising the volunteer capacity of each society. Each agreement would focus on a small number of agreed priorities drawn from the potential outcomes listed below, with simple annual reporting.

    - Development and implementation of succession planning initiatives.
    - Strengthened governance, compliance and organisational capacity.
    - Increased volunteer recruitment, retention and training.
    - Digitisation and improved accessibility of local history collections.
    - Increased community engagement through exhibitions, publications, events and educational programs.
    - Development of partnerships with schools, community groups and heritage organisations.
    - Identification and pursuit of external grants and alternative revenue opportunities.
    - Annual reporting against agreed deliverables and outcomes.

35. **Benefits**

- Provides funding certainty and supports longer-term planning.
- Enables Council and the societies to agree on clear priorities, outcomes and performance measures.
- Supports organisational sustainability without requiring annual competitive grant applications.
- Strengthens governance, volunteer development and succession planning.
- Encourages strategic rather than short-term project delivery.
- Improves accountability through agreed reporting and review mechanisms.
- Supports the preservation and accessibility of Greater Dandenong's local history and heritage collections.
- May reduce the risk of organisational failure and the subsequent transfer of collection management responsibilities to Council.

36. **Risks and Funding Implications**

Creates an ongoing Council funding commitment of $15,000 per annum in addition to existing in-kind support:

- Funding would need to be allocated from within the community grants program, reducing the total funds available to support the other funding streams within the community Grants Program.
- Multi-year funding may be perceived as preferential treatment compared with community organisations that access support through competitive grants processes.

- Achievement of sustainability outcomes remains dependent on volunteer capacity and organisational commitment.
- Additional officer resources may be required to negotiate, monitor and review service agreements.
- There is a risk that funded activities improve short-term viability but do not fully resolve long-term succession or governance challenges.

Option 3: Collection Safeguarding and Transition Arrangements (Contingency Only – Not Recommended as a Support Model)

37. This option is a contingency measure only and is not recommended as a preferred support model. It would be considered only where a historical society determines it can no longer continue operating independently. Elements of this option, such as early collection significance assessment and clarification of collection ownership, could be undertaken alongside Option 1 or Option 2 as a prudent risk-management measure.

38. Council would work collaboratively with the organisation to explore appropriate future arrangements for the management and accessibility of significant heritage collections, research services and community history resources. As a first step, Council would undertake a feasibility assessment to understand the implications of any potential future transition of collections or heritage services to Council. This would include consideration of collection ownership, governance arrangements, legal obligations, storage and asset management requirements, resourcing needs and long-term management responsibilities.

39. **Estimated Initial Cost**

- Approximately $15,000 - $20,000 for specialist advice, collection assessments, legal review and feasibility planning.
- Additional costs may arise from collection auditing, cataloguing, conservation, relocation, storage, digitisation and staffing requirements.

40. **Benefits**

- Provides a pathway to safeguard significant local heritage collections should a society no longer be able to operate independently.
- Supports continued community access to local history resources and services.
- Enables informed decision-making regarding future collection management responsibilities.
- Allows for an orderly transition process that recognises volunteer knowledge and contribution.

41. **Risks and Funding Implications**

- Requires an initial investment of approximately $15,000 - $20,000, with potentially significant ongoing operational costs.
- Reputational risk for Council within the community if adequate support is not provided with the perception that Council has failed to protect local heritage.
- Council may incur substantial future costs associated with collection management, storage, conservation, digitisation and public access.
- Council may not have sufficient capacity, storage facilities or specialist resources to assume responsibility for all collections.
- Complex ownership, governance and legal considerations may arise.
- Additional ongoing budget allocations may be required above the current level of Council support.

Comparative Assessment of Options

Criteria	Option 1: Maintain Current Support	Option 2: Baseline funding model Multi-Year Service Agreement (Recommended)	Option 3: Explore Transition Arrangements
Council Investment	Current in-kind support only (approximately $9,678 p.a.)	Current in-kind support plus $15,000 p.a. through a multi-year a service agreement (a combined total for two societies)	Initial assessment cost of $15,000-$20,000 plus potentially significant ongoing costs
Focus	Maintain existing arrangements	Organisational sustainability, service outcomes and long-term planning certainty	Collection protection where organisations can no longer operate
Impact on Organisational Sustainability	Low to Moderate	High	Not applicable as a sustainability measure
Impact on Council Budget	Low in the short term; potentially high if collections transfer to Council	Low to Moderate ($15,000 p.a. from the existing grants pool)	High
Risk of Future Collection Transfer to Council	High	Significantly reduced	Collection transfer may occur
Funding Certainty for Historical Societies	Low	High (multi-year agreement with review points)	Low
Community-Led Service Delivery	Maintained	Maintained and strengthened through agreed service outcomes	May reduce over time
Accountability and Performance Monitoring	Minimal	Formal service agreement, agreed deliverables and periodic review	Determined through any future transition process
Alignment with Future Delivery Model	Moderate	Strong – establishes a sustainable partnership model	Contingency option only

Recommendation

42. **Option 2: Baseline funding through a Multi-Year Service Agreement** is recommended.

43. This option provides a baseline funding model that supports organisational sustainability, service outcomes and long-term planning certainty. It recognises the unique role of the historical societies as custodians of community heritage while maintaining accountability through agreed service outcomes and periodic review.

44. This option offers greater stability than the competitive Large Grants Program, while avoiding the significant financial and operational risks of Council assuming direct responsibility for historical society collections.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

45. The recommended option can be managed within existing resources. Officer time will be required to negotiate, monitor and review the service agreements.

Financial/Asset Resource Implications (consider Service Statements, Budget, Long Term Financial Strategy and Asset Plan)

Operating Budget Implications

46. Implementation of the recommended option would require an allocation of $15,000 per annum, in addition to existing in-kind support, to fund a multi-year service agreement with the two historical societies. Funding would be allocated through the existing community grants pool funding allocation.

Asset Implications

47. Future asset utilisation will be assessed as part of Council's overall review of its assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

48. There are no significant legal implications arising from this report. Should Council endorse the recommended option, funding would be provided through a multi-year service agreement.

Environmental Implications

49. There are no environmental implications relevant to this report.

Gender Impact Assessment

50. A gender impact assessment is not required.

Community Consultation

51. Formal community consultation was not required. Officers engaged directly with both historical societies, which provided financial information to inform this review, and future governance options have been discussed through the societies' Annual General Meetings and the Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee.

Links to Community Vision, Council Plan, Strategy, Notice of Motion

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

- Art and culture.

53. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2025-29:

    - A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts.

54. This report relates to Notice of Motion No. 24.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

55. 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:

    - Not Applicable

MINUTE No.474
Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly
Seconded by: Cr Rhonda Garad

That Council:

1. **ACKNOWLEDGES the significant contribution of the Dandenong and District Historical Society, the Springvale and District Historical Society and their volunteers in collecting, preserving and sharing the history of Greater Dandenong;**
2. **NOTES the current funding methods, operational support and in-kind contributions provided by Council to the Dandenong and District Historical Society and the Springvale and District Historical Society;**
3. **NOTES that at their respective 2026 Annual General Meetings, the Dandenong and District Historical Society and the Springvale and District Historical Society resolved to amalgamate into one entity;**
4. **NOTES the findings of the review of historical society funding arrangements, including the current challenges facing local historical societies; the comparative local government approaches identified through officer research; and the options outlined in this report to improve long-term organisational sustainability; and**
5. **ENDORSES funding of $7,500 per annum for each historical society (or combined $15,000 per annum for the equivalent amalgamated entity) through a two-year Service Agreement, funded through Council's existing grants program.**

CARRIED 9 / 0

4.3 OTHER

4.3.1 Re-appointment of Director - Dandenong Market Pty Ltd (DMPL)

Cr Jim Memeti disclosed a material conflict of interest (s 128) in this item, as he is the Director of a company that owns a stall at Dandenong Market. Cr Jim Memeti left the Chamber prior to discussion and voting on this item.

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures
Attachments: **Nil**

Officer Recommendation

That Council APPROVES to re-appoint Mr Jim Cooper as a Non-Executive Director of Dandenong Market Pty Ltd for a further three (3) years commencing 23 January 2027 and concluding on 22 January 2030.

Executive Summary

1. This report recommends that Council approves to re-appoint Mr Jim Cooper as a Non-Executive Director of Dandenong Market Pty Ltd for a further three (3) year term commencing 30 January 2027.

Background

2. Dandenong Market Pty Ltd (DMPL) was established in September 2012 as a means of Council establishing a skills-based Board to drive the strategic direction and operations of the Dandenong Market. Since then, the Board has provided an extremely valuable service to Council and the Market has continued to evolve and develop including initiatives such as the introduction of Sunday trading, night markets and a full program of festival and events.
3. The Market is an extremely valuable asset not only to the City of Greater Dandenong, but also the region, and acts as an important community networking vehicle that brings together people from all different backgrounds in the one (1) location. It also remains a reliable source of fresh produce and goods at a very reasonable price.
4. DMPL consists of five (5) Directors which were appointed by Council under the terms of the DMPL Constitution (which requires Director appointments to be made by the Shareholder (Council)). Mr Jim Cooper joined the Board under a formal resolution on 22 January 2024.

Key Issues and Discussion

5. It is proposed that Council reappoints Mr Jim Cooper as Non-Executive Director of Dandenong Market Pty Ltd for a further three (3) years commencing 30 January 2027 which will take him up to six (6) years of continuous service.
6. Under the Constitution that governs Dandenong Market Pty Ltd (DMPL), Clause 9.1 provides that the number of company directors shall be not less than two (2) nor more than five (5). It further provides that the Shareholder (Council) may, by resolution, appoint a person as a Director for a term of up to three (3) years.

7. It also allows for a Director who has reached the end of the term of their appointment to be eligible for re-appointment, provided that their total continuous term of appointment as a Director is not more than nine (9) years.
8. DMPL currently operates with five (5) Director positions. The purpose of this report is to recommend the reappointment of one (1) Director for a further three (3) years under the rules of the DMPL Constitution.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

9. This item does not have an impact on existing human resources.

Financial/Asset Resource Implications (consider Service Statements, Budget, Long Term Financial Strategy and Asset Plan)

Operating Budget Implications

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

Asset Implications

11. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

12. There are no legal / risk implications relevant to this report.

Environmental Implications

13. There are no environmental implications relevant to this report.

Gender Impact Assessment

14. A gender impact assessment is not required.

Community Consultation

15. As this is a reappointment for the position of Director, it has only been discussed with the Chairperson of DMPL and the General Manager Dandenong Market.

Links to Community Vision, Council Plan, Strategy, Notice of Motion

16. 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.
17. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2025-29:
    - 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 places.
    - A green city committed to a sustainable future.

- A city that supports business, entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcomes.
- A Council that demonstrates leadership, responsible use of public resources, and a commitment to investing in the community.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

18. 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.
    - *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities* 2006.
    - Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.

Cr Jim Memeti left the Chamber at 8.03pm.

MINUTE No.475
Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly
Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That Council APPROVES to re-appoint Mr Jim Cooper as a Non-Executive Director of Dandenong Market Pty Ltd for a further three (3) years commencing 23 January 2027 and concluding on 22 January 2030.

CARRIED 8 / 0

Cr Jim Memeti returned to the Chamber at 8.05pm.

4.3.2 Medium Grants Program 2026 Round 2

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Community Strengthening

Attachments:

1. Recommended Applications - Community Development [**4.3.2.1** - 3 pages]
2. Recommended Applications - Climate Change Action [**4.3.2.2** - 1 page]
3. Recommended Applications - Arts, Festivals and Events [**4.3.2.3** - 3 pages]
4. Recommended Applications - Individual Artist [**4.3.2.4** - 2 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **APPROVES the awarding of Community Development Grants to recommended recipients as outlined in Attachment 1 of this report;**
2. **APPROVES the awarding of Climate Change Action Grants to recommended recipients as outlined in Attachment 2 of this report;**
3. **APPROVES the awarding of Arts, Festivals and Events Grants to recommended recipients as outlined in Attachment 3 of this report; and**
4. **APPROVES the awarding of Individual Artist Grants to recommended recipients as outlined in Attachment 4 of this report.**

Executive Summary

1. Through the Medium Grants Program Council offers not-for-profit community groups, organisations and individual artists the opportunity to apply for one-off grants to support delivery of projects, programs and events that benefit the Greater Dandenong community.
2. This report outlines the assessment of applications submitted to four (4) grant categories under the Medium Grants Program 2026 Round 2:
   - Community Development.
   - Climate Change Action.
   - Arts, Festivals and Events.
   - Individual Artist.
3. All applications have been checked for eligibility by Council officers and assessed by an independent Community Grants Assessment Panel. The Panel recommendations are presented in this report.

Background

4. The Community Funding Program and Policy Review was conducted from April to December 2023. As a result, Council adopted a new consolidated Community Grants Program Policy that includes strategic, governance and operational improvements and responds to emerging community needs.
5. The Medium Grants Program has two funding rounds each year.

6. This report considers Round 2 applications for 2026.

Key Issues and Discussion

Eligibility Check

7. Applications to the Medium Grants Program undergo an eligibility check by Council officers to confirm that applicants are:
    - Incorporated non-profit organisations (unless auspice);
    - Meeting key compliance requirements of Consumer Affairs Victoria; and
    - Have met past grants acquittal reporting requirements of Council.
8. Eligible applications progress to assessment. Ineligible applications do not proceed, and officers will advise applicants of this outcome once this report is endorsed.

Community Grants Assessment Panels

9. Community Grants Assessment Panels include community representatives and Council officers with broad experience and diverse knowledge.
10. Panel members are guided by a Terms of Reference and a signed Code of Conduct. Each member completed an induction and was supported by Council officers throughout training and assessment.
11. For each grant category, panel members completed an initial online assessment. These scores were then consolidated and discussed at a panel meeting to inform the final recommendations.

Round 2 of the 2026 Medium Grants Program

12. Round Two of the 2026 Medium Grants Program was opened online on 14 July 2026 and closed on 11 August 2026.
13. This round was highly promoted via electronic and printed material, through Council networks and social media.
14. Grant information and grant writing workshops were offered in person and online. Applicants could also access face-to-face and remote support from Council officers to help develop their applications.

Category 1 – Community Development Grants

15. This grant category offers single year grants of up to $10,000 for projects that build community capacity, foster social inclusion, create healthy partnerships, prevent family violence, advance gender equity, and promote community harmony and participation.
16. A total of 51 applications were submitted to the Community Development Grants category. Nine (9) applications were ruled ineligible, and one (1) application was withdrawn.
17. This left a total of 41 applications to be assessed seeking total funding of $366,753.
18. Community Grants Assessment Panel members individually assessed applications online from 18 September to 4 October 2026. The Panel met on 7 October 2026 to discuss the consolidated assessments and make final recommendations. It is recommended that **twelve (12) applications** be funded for a total of **$90,748.**
19. A list of all applications recommended for funding through the Community Development Grants category is provided in Attachment 1.

Category 2 – Climate Change Action Grants

20. This grant category offers single year grants of up to $10,000 for projects that deliver climate-related or other positive environmental outcomes and support Council's commitment to addressing climate change. Funding for this category was increased from $5,000 to $10,000 to encourage greater participation and improve application numbers.
21. A total of four (4) applications were submitted to the Climate Change Action Grants category. All applications were deemed eligible, with a total funding requested of $33,866.
22. Community Grants Assessment Panel members individually assessed applications online from 18 September to 4 October 2026. The Panel met on 7 October 2026 to discuss the consolidated assessments and make final recommendations. It is recommended that **one (1) application** be funded for a total of **$6,454.**
23. A list of all applications recommended for funding through the Climate Change Action Grants category is provided in Attachment 2.

Category 3 – Arts, Festivals and Events Grants

24. This grant category offers single year grants of up to $10,000 for projects that promote community connection, cross cultural exchange, and appreciation of cultural diversity. Arts, festivals, and events play an integral part in building and supporting broad community involvement and social cohesion.
25. A total of 35 applications were submitted to the Arts, Festivals and Events Grants category. Five (5) applications were ruled ineligible.
26. This left a total of 30 applications to be assessed seeking total funding of $263,341.
27. Community Grants Assessment Panel members individually assessed applications online from 18 September to 4 October 2026. The Panel met on 8 October 2026 to discuss the consolidated assessments and make final recommendations. It is recommended that **eight (8) applications** be funded for a total of **$54,268.**
28. A list of all applications recommended for funding through the Arts, Festivals and Events Grants category is provided in Attachment 3.

Category 4 – Individual Artist Grants

29. This grant category offers single year grants of up to $5,000 to individuals for community-based arts and cultural projects that build relationships with community and create art that responds to community needs.
30. A total of nine (9) applications were submitted to the Individual Artist Grants category. One (1) application was ruled ineligible.
31. This left a total of eight (8) applications to be assessed seeking total funding of $39,383.
32. Community Grants Assessment Panel members individually assessed applications online from 18 September to 4 October 2026. The Panel met on 8 October 2026 to discuss the consolidated assessments and make final recommendations. It is recommended that **four (4) applications** be funded for a total of **$18,883.**
33. A list of all applications recommended for funding through the Individual Artist Grants category is provided in Attachment 4.

Support for Unsuccessful Applicants

34. All unsuccessful applicants will be contacted by officers and offered feedback and assistance to support them to apply to the next round of the Medium Grants Program.

Grant Acquittal Reports

35. Grant recipients' progress toward outcomes is monitored throughout the life of the program. Recipients must also submit an acquittal report within one month of completing the project. The report outlines the activities delivered, outcomes achieved and how the funds were spent.

36. Failure to submit the required acquittal or deliver the agreed outcomes may make the recipient ineligible for future grant funding.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

37. This item does not have an impact on existing human resources.

Financial/Asset Resource Implications (consider Service Statements, Budget, Long Term Financial Strategy and Asset Plan)

Operating Budget Implications

The financial implications associated with this report are a one-off cost of **$170,353** ($90,748 + $6,454 + $54,268 + 18,883) with no ongoing costs in future year budgets. This cost compares to the amount included in the Annual Budget of **$367,392** to Account **2982.2400.1181.** It is noted that **$197,038** was allocated through Round 1 with the remaining budget available for Round 2 allocations.

Asset Implications

38. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

39. There are no legal / risk implications relevant to this report.

Environmental Implications

40. There are no environmental implications relevant to this report.

Gender Impact Assessment

41. A gender impact assessment is not required.

Community Consultation

42. Council's Community Grants Program is extensively promoted through electronic and printed materials, Council networks and social media. Grant information and grant writing workshops were offered both in person and online. Community groups could also access face-to-face and remote support from Council officers to help develop their applications.

43. During the assessment process, Council officers consulted with staff across the organisation to seek information and advice on the merits of the funding applications.

44. Officers carried out comprehensive eligibility checks, including review of compliance documents, financial reports, past grant acquittal history and other relevant matters.

45. All eligible applications were assessed by Community Grants Assessment Panels, which include community representatives and Council officers with broad experience and diverse knowledge.

46. The Community Grants Assessment Panels' recommendations for eligible applications are presented for endorsement.

Links to Community Vision, Council Plan, Strategy, Notice of Motion

47. 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.
48. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2025-29:
    - 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 places.
    - A green city committed to a sustainable future.
    - A city that supports business, entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcomes.
    - A Council that demonstrates leadership, responsible use of public resources, and a commitment to investing in the community.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

49. 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.
    - Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.

MINUTE No.476
Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad
Seconded by: Cr Lana Formoso

That Council:

1. **APPROVES the awarding of Community Development Grants to recommended recipients as outlined in Attachment 1 of this report;**
2. **APPROVES the awarding of Climate Change Action Grants to recommended recipients as outlined in Attachment 2 of this report;**
3. **APPROVES the awarding of Arts, Festivals and Events Grants to recommended recipients as outlined in Attachment 3 of this report; and**
4. **APPROVES the awarding of Individual Artist Grants to recommended recipients as outlined in Attachment 4 of this report.**

CARRIED 9 / 0

4.3.3 Taylors Road Landfill - Proposed New Landfill Cell

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures

Attachments:
1. EPA Development Licence Application (Cell 21) - Taylors Road Landfill Submission [**4.3.3.1** - 3 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council NOTES the officer submission objecting to the proposed new landfill cell (Cell 21) at the Taylors Road Landfill, 890 Taylors Road, Dandenong South that was subject to the recent EPA community consultation for a Development Licence Application.

Executive Summary

1. This report provides an overview of the Development Licence Application submitted to the EPA by the owner of the Taylors Road Landfill, Veolia, for the proposed new landfill cell (Cell 21) at this site.
2. It also advises that Council officers have made a submission (**Attachment 1**) to the EPA objecting to the proposed new landfill cell (Cell 21).

Background

3. The site at 890 Taylors Road, Dandenong South was originally used as a sandpit. In 1990, the Shire of Cranbourne issued a planning permit to use the site as a landfill accepting domestic garbage, solid commercial refuse and solid industrial waste.
4. The planning permit contained the following condition to ensure the waste deposited was in accordance with above:
    - *Wastes to be deposited shall only consist of domestic garbage, solid commercial refuse and solid industrial wastes and shall not include soluble chemical wastes, hazardous wastes or liquid wastes*
5. The planning permit also contained conditions requiring the closing, capping and rehabilitation of the site when it is filled.
6. The EPA Works Approval for the site permitted the depositing of Priority Industrial Waste (PIW), contrary to the above condition of the planning permit.
7. The former Shire of Cranbourne was succeeded by the Greater Dandenong City Council in 1994 as the responsible authority for this site.
8. In 2006, Council sought a VCAT Order to prevent hazardous waste (PIW) from being deposited at the site, in accordance with the conditions of the planning permit. VCAT did not support the requested Order, and rather amended the planning permit to allow hazardous wastes (PIW) to be deposited at the site.
9. Following this, the Minister for Planning amended the planning scheme to make themselves the responsible authority for this site, meaning Council was no longer responsible for determining planning matters for the site.
10. Veolia is the current owner and operator of the site. Veolia took over the site in 2022.
11. The landfill cells have been designed to accommodate hazardous waste (PIW), and the site is the only landfill in Victoria that accepts this type of waste.

12. The site continues to accept hazardous waste (PIW), however the amount of waste deposited in the landfill has reduced considerably from the early 2000's, which has resulted in a significant slowing in the filling of the landfill.
13. In recent years, several new uses have been established on the site, which have a focus on recycling and reusing contaminated materials, rather than depositing them in landfill, in line with the state government and EPA policy targeting zero waste to landfill.
14. On several occasions since 2007, Council has adopted a position of advocating for the closure of this facility at the earliest possible opportunity and has opposed any expansion of the operations on site that delay the closing, capping and rehabilitation of the facility.
15. Veolia have now submitted a Development Licence Application to the EPA for a new landfill PIW cell at the site, being Cell 21. The EPA undertook a community consultation process from 8 October to 4 November 2026 to seek feedback on the proposal.
16. Due to the short consultation timeframe, it was not possible to get a formal Council position on the proposal through a Council meeting resolution. As such, to ensure a submission was made, Council officers discussed the matter with Councillors at a briefing session, and then made an officer submission.

Key Issues and Discussion

What is being proposed?

17. Veolia, as the owner of the site have submitted a Development Licence Application to the EPA construct a new PIW landfill cell at the subject site, which will be known as Cell 21.

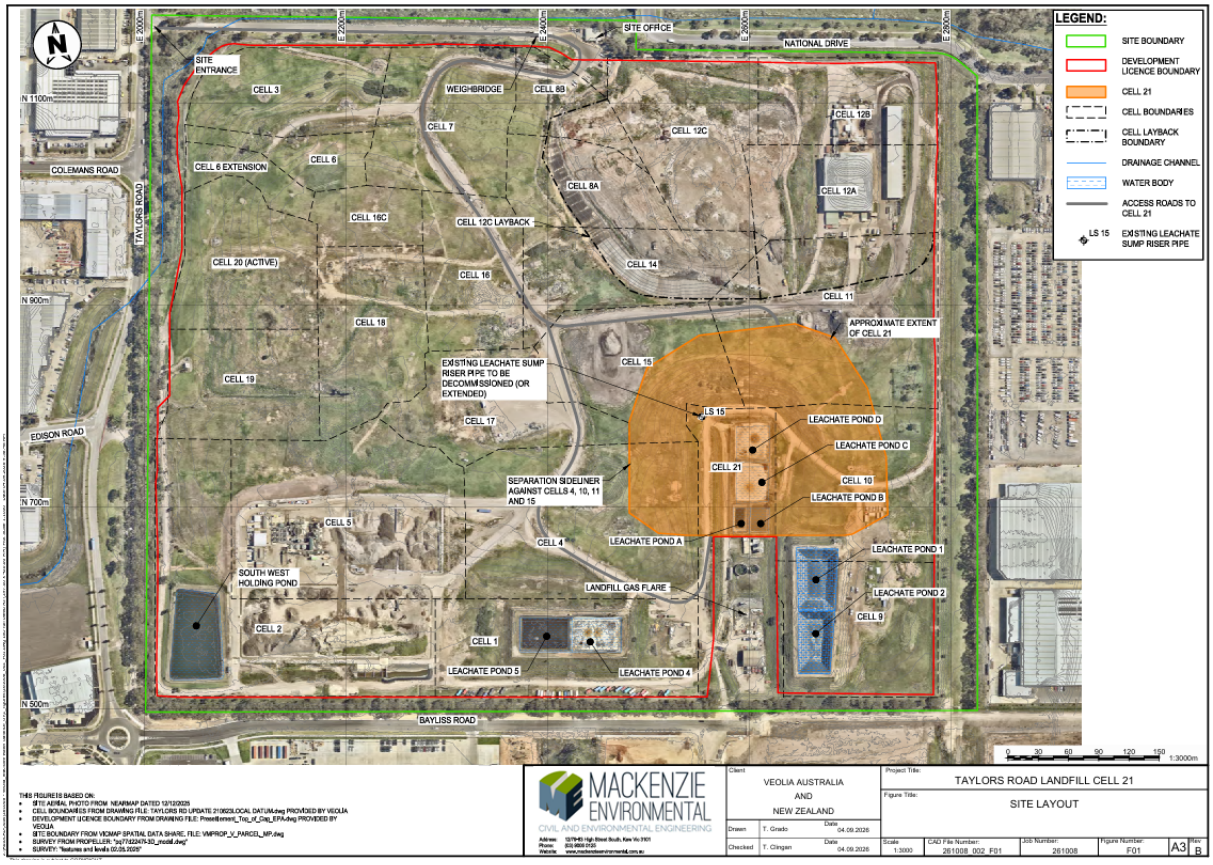


Figure 1: Site plan showing proposed location of Cell 21

18. Cell 21 is proposed to be constructed within the existing licenced landfill footprint, and is proposed to have an airspace area of 260,000 cubic metres, being approximately 2% of the total waste mass disposed of at the landfill over its operating life.

19. The cell is proposed to be located in the south-east of the site in the location of the existing leachate ponds A, B and C, which are to be decommissioned (see Figure 1). Following the closure of these leachate ponds, leachate would then be discharged to ponds 1, 2 and 4.
20. It is anticipated that Cell 21 would have a lifespan of approximately 12.5 years and be filled in three stages. However, if waste disposal volumes continue to reduce, the lifespan will most likely be extended.
21. Construction is proposed to occur over three stages from 2027 to 2039, and the cell will then have a 30-year aftercare period.

Why is it being proposed?

22. The Taylors Road landfill is the only landfill in Victoria that accepts Category B PIW, and the current PIW landfill cell, Cell 12, only has a few years of space remaining.
23. Cell 21 is proposed to ensure there continues to be a location to deposit PIW in Victoria for the next decade or so. Prior to the finalisation of filling of this cell (if approved), a broader state government led process to identify a new Victorian PIW landfill site will be required to be undertaken.

What does the officer submission include?

24. Given the significance of this facility in Greater Dandenong, and Council's long-term position regarding the closure of the site, it was important that Council made a submission in response to this proposal.
25. The Council officer submission is provided in Attachment 1, with a summary of the submission as follows:
    - Council has a long adopted position of advocating for the closure of the landfill at the earliest opportunity.
    - Council officers **object** to the proposal on this basis, as the proposed landfill cell will extend the life of the landfill.
    - The existing Operating Licence for the site contains a condition limiting the amount of reportable priority waste (hazardous waste) disposed of at the site to not more than 35% of all waste deposited across the entire site. The application appears to be silent on this matter. Council officers seek confirmation of the current percentage of reportable priority waste deposited, and the anticipated total percentage once Cell 21 is full. This amount must not exceed the 35% limit.
    - Council officers request further information regarding on-site stormwater management to ensure it will not have an adverse impact on the site or surrounding area.
    - Council officers advocate for the State Government to urgently start planning for and implementing a new PIW landfill site outside of Greater Dandenong. Even if this proposal is approved, this site has a limited lifespan and as such an alternative site must be established to manage the disposal of hazardous waste in Victoria. This site must not be in Greater Dandenong.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

26. This item does not have a significant impact on existing human resources.

Financial/Asset Resource Implications (consider Service Statements, Budget, Long Term Financial Strategy and Asset Plan)

Operating Budget Implications

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

Asset Implications

28. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

29. There are no legal or risk implications.

Environmental Implications

30. Provided the proposal is undertaken in accordance with relevant legislation and requirements, there should be no significant environmental implications relevant to this report.

Gender Impact Assessment

31. A gender impact assessment is not required.

Community Consultation

32. The EPA undertook a community consultation process for this Development Licence Application from 8 October to 4 November 2026. Council officers made a submission to this proposal during the community consultation period.

Links to Community Vision, Council Plan, Strategy, Notice of Motion

33. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
    - Sustainable environment.
34. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2025-29:
    - A socially connected, safe and healthy city.
    - A green city committed to a sustainable future.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

35. 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:
    - Not Applicable

MINUTE No.477
Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad
Seconded by: Cr Melinda Yim

That Council NOTES the officer submission objecting to the proposed new landfill cell (Cell 21) at the Taylors Road Landfill, 890 Taylors Road, Dandenong South that was subject to the recent EPA community consultation for a Development Licence Application.

CARRIED 9 / 0

4.3.4 Parkmore Customer Service Centre

Responsible Officer: Chief Customer & Information Officer

Attachments:

1. **Cost Analysis**
2. **Parkmore post-research report**

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **NOTES the findings of the customer research re: Parkmore Customer Service Centre, presented to the 07 September 2026 Councillor Briefing Session; and**
2. **ENDORSES Option E – being the cessation of customer service operations at the Parkmore Customer Service Centre, as outlined in this report.**

Executive Summary

1. The lease for Council's Customer Service Centre at Parkmore Shopping Centre expires in March 2027.
2. Following the 07 September Councillor Briefing Session, customer research has been undertaken across Councils three Customer Service Centres to better understand customer use of the Parkmore location and provide additional evidence to support Councils decision making. The research findings are attached to this report (refer **Attachment 2**).
3. The research confirms an ongoing need for accessible face-to-face customer service; however, it does not demonstrate a need to maintain three separate Customer Service Centre locations.
4. Findings indicate that Parkmore visitation is primarily driven by convenience and transactional activity, with opportunities identified to transition some customer demand to alternative service channels.
5. Most surveyed Parkmore customers did not identify specific accessibility, language or technology barriers. A holistic transition approach will be required to support customers through any change to the current service model.
6. On balance, the findings support consolidating Council's face-to-face service delivery through Dandenong and Springvale and ceasing operations at Parkmore, enabling available funds to be redirected towards maturing CX capability.

Background

7. In 2025, Parkmore recorded 18,123 transactions, making it Council's highest-volume customer service location. This represented a substantially higher level of face-to-face activity than Springvale, which recorded 7,397 transactions, and Dandenong, which recorded 6,194 transactions.

8. The transaction volumes demonstrate continued demand for face-to-face customer service; however, a significant proportion of activity at Parkmore relates to payments. Many of these payments can continue to be made within Parkmore Shopping Centre through Australia Post, located directly across from the current Customer Service Centre. This provides a viable alternative for customers who wish to continue making payments in person at Parkmore at no additional cost.

9. **Parkmore Customer Service Centre:**

- Is currently located at Shop L01 A07 within Parkmore Shopping Centre.
- The current annual gross rent in year 5 of the lease is approximately $278,242.
- The lease increases by 4% each year.
- Annual operating costs (electricity, water, etc.) at the centre are approximately $19,816.
- The service centre is staffed by two (2) Customer Service Officers and one (1) Senior Customer Service Officer.
- The current annual cost of human resources at this centre is approximately $306,224.
- The current total annual cost of servicing this centre is $604,282.

Key Issues and Discussion

10. Five options were considered against the following key factors:
    a. continuity and accessibility of customer service;
    b. impact on customers and staff;
    c. alignment with customer demand;
    d. capital and recurrent financial implications;
    e. implementation timeframes;
    f. operational and service continuity risks; and
    g. flexibility to respond to future changes in customer service delivery.

Based on these considerations, Option E is considered to provide the strongest overall balance between customer access, service continuity, financial sustainability and future flexibility.

11. **Option A - Continue at current Parkmore Shopping Centre location**

- This option maintains continuity at the existing, established location and results in minimal immediate disruption to customers and staff. However, it would retain the current accommodation footprint and associated costs, including annual lease increases of 4%; and
- The option may also require end-of-lease refurbishment expenditure. The current budget provision is $80,000, although the final cost may exceed this amount.

12. **Option B - New Location within Parkmore Shopping Centre**

- Option B retains the existing Parkmore tenancy (L01 A07) until March 2028 and subsequently relocates the Customer Service Centre to a smaller tenancy within Parkmore Shopping Centre. The current lease for L01 A07 would be varied to align with the planned vacating of tenancy L01R08, enabling a staged transition that maintains continuity of service while supporting a future reduction in accommodation costs;
- This option maintains Council's presence within its highest-volume customer service location while providing additional time to analyse customer demand, transaction types, service channel trends, accessibility requirements and future space needs;
- Relocation would require a complete fit-out of the new tenancy, currently estimated at $200,000, together with an estimated $50,000 to return the existing tenancy to the required condition. These costs may be partially offset by financial support from GPT, subject to negotiation; and
- The option provides continuity for customers and staff, minimises the immediate risk of service disruption and creates an opportunity to reduce longer-term accommodation costs through a smaller footprint. The alignment of lease arrangements between the existing and future tenancies also provides a clear and practical pathway for transition, reducing operational risk and avoiding unnecessary interruption to customer services.

13. **Option C - Relocate Service to Keysborough Community Hub**

- Option C relocates customer service delivery to the Keysborough Community Hub, enabling the service to operate from an integrated Council facility with available car parking;
- Implementation would require changes to the existing layout and may displace library and venue support employees from their current work areas. The option would also require consideration of the effect of relocation on customers who currently access services at Parkmore;
- The proposed model may reduce the customer service staffing requirement from three employees to two and could include consideration of a cashless service model. Any staffing or service changes would require further operational assessment, workforce consultation and customer impact analysis; and
- While the option may provide accommodation efficiencies, the potential effects on existing facility users, employees and Parkmore customers mean that it is not preferred at this stage.

14. **Option D - Re-open customer service centre at Paddy O'Donoghue**

- Option D would re-establish customer service delivery at Paddy O'Donoghue, where an existing customer service counter remains in place;
- The location provides strong public transport connectivity and an opportunity to integrate customer service with other Council services. However, the facility is ageing and would require significant investment as part of the planned facility uplift;
- The centre was previously closed because of low utilisation, and reduced car parking availability may affect accessibility for some customers. Further demand and customer impact analysis would therefore be necessary before this option could be supported; and
- Given the previous low usage, required capital investment and accessibility considerations, Option D is not preferred.

15. **Option E – Cease to operate Parkmore Customer Service Centre**

- Option E would close the Parkmore Customer Service Centre and consolidate face-to-face services at the Dandenong Civic Centre and Springvale Community Hub;
- This option would involve minimal accommodation-related capital expenditure and will enable Council to optimise employee coverage across the remaining locations. However, it would remove Council's face-to-face presence from its highest-volume customer service location;
- Customer research indicates that Parkmore visitation is largely driven by convenience and transactional activity. A significant proportion of visits relate to payments, many of which can continue to be made at Australia Post within Parkmore Shopping Centre. The research also identified opportunities to support some customers to transition to alternative service channels;
- On balance, Option E is preferred. While closure would require a planned transition for customers, face-to-face Council services would remain available at Dandenong and Springvale. Savings will free up funding that could be redirected towards Customer Experience capability and Council's future service delivery model through the budget process.

16. **Customer Transition and Support**

- Should Council approve Option E, a planned transition will be undertaken ahead of the Parkmore Customer Service Centre closure to support customers to understand and access alternative service options.
- The transition approach will include:
  - early and targeted communication with Parkmore customers about the closure, timing and alternative ways to access Council services;
  - information and support to access face-to-face services at the Dandenong Civic Centre and Springvale Community Hub;
  - clear information about alternative payment options, including payments that can continue to be made through Australia Post within Parkmore Shopping Centre;
  - practical assistance for customers who can use online or other service channels but may require initial guidance or support to do so; and
  - targeted support for customers identified as experiencing accessibility, language or technology barriers.
- Customer demand and feedback will be monitored through the transition period to identify emerging issues and allow additional support to be provided where required.

17. A cost analysis of each option is attached (refer **Attachment 1**).

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

18. The recommended Option E does not require an immediate change to approved staffing levels. Existing staffing arrangements will continue to support the broader Customer Experience function and enable greater coverage and flexibility during peak periods.

19. Workforce arrangements will be reviewed as part of transition planning, taking into account customer demand, service volumes and employee coverage across Council's remaining face-to-face service locations.
20. If the future service model results in changes to employee roles, staffing levels, work location or operating arrangements, Council will undertake appropriate workforce planning and consultation in accordance with its policies and industrial obligation.

Financial/Asset Resource Implications (consider Service Statements, Budget, Long Term Financial Strategy and Asset Plan)

Operating Budget Implications

21. The recommended option will remove the ongoing operating costs associated with maintaining a Customer Service Centre at Parkmore following the expiry of the current lease.
22. Available funding can be redirected towards investment in Customer Experience and Councils future service delivery model through the budget process.

Asset Implications

23. This item increases/decreases the use of council assets. The ongoing maintenance costs have been assessed and included in operating and resource costings.
24. The current capital provision of $80,000 for works associated with the existing tenancy will be reviewed in light of the decision to cease operations at Parkmore and any costs associated with exiting the tenancy.

Legal/Risk Implications

25. The principal legal and risk considerations associated with the recommended option include:

    a. the outcome of lease exit negotiations with GPT;

    b. responsibility for make-good costs;

    c. any additional costs associated with exiting the tenancy;

    d. disruption to customer services during the transition;

    e. accessibility and safety requirements;

    f. changes in customer channel preferences before March 2028; and

    g. reputational risk if changes are not communicated effectively to customers and the community.

26. These risks will be managed through legal review of the lease documentation, detailed cost planning, appropriate procurement, project governance, accessibility assessment, transition planning, customer communication and ongoing monitoring of service demand.
27. Final lease exit arrangements will be reviewed in accordance with Council's legal, financial and delegated authority requirements before execution

Environmental Implications

28. The recommended option does not have significant immediate environmental implications.

Gender Impact Assessment

29. A gender impact assessment is not required.

Community Consultation

30. Customer research was conducted to determine any impact on our customers and any other associated risks related to the closure of the Parkmore Service Centre.
31. Given the nature of transactions conducted at Parkmore and the easy availability of alternative options at the location, closure will not create a major change to service access. As a result, community consultation has not been undertaken.

Links to Community Vision, Council Plan, Strategy, Notice of Motion

32. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
    - The recommendation supports the Community Vision 2040 by maintaining accessible and responsive Council services within an established community activity centre. It also supports responsible stewardship of public resources by balancing community access with the need to manage accommodation and operating costs sustainably.
33. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2025-29:
    - A Council that demonstrates leadership, responsible use of public resources, and a commitment to investing in the community.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

34. 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:
    - Not Applicable.

MINUTE No.478
Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly
Seconded by: Cr Melinda Yim

That Council:

1. **NOTES the findings of the customer research re: Parkmore Customer Service Centre, presented to the 07 September 2026 Councillor Briefing Session;**
2. **ENDORSES Option C – finalising customer service delivery at Parkmore Shopping Centre upon the expiry of the current lease in March 2027;**
3. **REQUESTS a limited feasibility report on delivering customer service and/or other options from the Keysborough Community Hub – covering facility suitability, expected customer demand and impacts on existing Hub services – be presented to a future Council meeting to inform a final decision.**

CARRIED 9 / 0

4.3.5 Secretariat options for the Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services

Attachments:
1. Shaping the future of the Mayoral Taskforce -summary of consultation findings [**4.3.5.1** - 4 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **APPROVES retaining its Executive membership for the Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum; and**
2. **APPROVES one of the following Secretariat arrangements for the Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum, noting that Taskforce members will be advised of Council's decision at the December Taskforce meeting:**
    - **Option a. - Council fully withdraws from its Secretariat role and advises Taskforce members to put in place alternative governance and delivery arrangements, with an appropriate transition period (Officer Recommendation).**
    - **Option b. - Council supports the establishment of a shared Secretariat model, with Secretariat responsibilities distributed across multiple member councils, the lead council to be determined by Taskforce members, and Council contributing between 0.2EFT and 0.5EFT of officer resourcing.**
    - **Option c. - Council continues its current Secretariat role under the existing Terms of Reference (1.0EFT in total, with 0.5EFT offset by member fees), subject to other member councils contributing sufficient funds to sustain this arrangement on a full cost-recovery basis.**

Executive Summary

1. Council's tight fiscal forecast for the FY2026-27 (and following years) provides an opportunity to divert strategic advocacy efforts away from national immigration policy reform to priorities that provide more immediate tangible local outcome re infrastructure or other advocacy asks.
2. At the Council Meeting on 18 May 2026, Council approved exploring options to redirect Secretariat role of the Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum (Taskforce) to other Taskforce member councils or other relevant peak body entity.
3. This report provides a summary of findings from a formal consultation conducted with Taskforce Executive member councils with regards to the future advocacy direction and operational structure of the Taskforce. (Refer to Attachment 1)
4. This report briefs Council on the available options for resourcing the Secretariat role to deliver ongoing advocacy for the Back Your Neighbour campaign.

Background

Back Your Neighbour Campaign

5. The Back Your Neighbour Campaign is a joint advocacy initiative led by over 40 local governments and 90 refugee support organisations, aiming to influence Federal policies affecting people with unresolved immigration status. It calls for fair pathways to permanency, valid bridging visas with work rights, and improved access to essential services.
6. The campaign uses values-based messaging focused on compassion, inclusion, and nation building. Advocacy tactics include direct lobbying, council motions, community mobilisation, coalition building, and digital media campaigns. Refugees and asylum seekers play a key role as storytellers to humanise the issues.
7. Key stakeholders include federal MPs and ministers, local councils, community organisations, and allies such as unions, faith groups, and academics. The campaign is staged across preparation, mobilisation, advocacy, and follow-up phases.
8. In June 2026, the Taskforce held a delegation to meet with Federal members of Parliament during the ALGA National General Assembly in Canberra. A Back Your Neighbour exhibition booth facilitated recruitment efforts at the Assembly, and CGD's mayor (as Chair of the Taskforce) hosted a morning tea for interested councillor delegates from across Australia.
9. In recent months, over 6,000 legacy cases (bridging visa E holders living in the community since 2012) nationally have been offered a pathway to permanency by the Federal Government. As of March 2026, there are 249 BVE holders in the City of Greater Dandenong.
10. Greater Dandenong's Council Plan 2025-29 and Advocacy Priorities 2026-27 identifies a strategic priority to 'Advocate for and assist People Seeking Asylum and Refugees living in the community'.

Secretariat Background

11. Greater Dandenong City Council is an Executive and founding member Council of the Taskforce, with Mayor of the Day designated as Chair of the Taskforce. Council has provided Secretariat support since its inception in 2018.
12. Up until mid-2023 Secretariat officer support was limited and absorbed within the existing Business Unit budget. Periods of non-activity were common and where specific advocacy efforts were required, consultancy firms were engaged on a contract basis. This was paid for by one off contributions from Executive member councils.
13. At the 21 April 2023 Taskforce meeting members agreed to a three-tier level membership structure and committed to a regular contribution model to allow for the appointment of a full 1.0EFT Secretariat officer support.
14. As per the agreed TOR CGD's Council's contribution was 0.5EFT with the other 0.5EFT being offset by the other members' monetary contributions. Table 1 below details income contributions and expense disbursal for FY22-23 through to FY25-26.
15. Higher disbursals for FY25-26 reflect the additional advocacy activities conducted in Canberra and Sydney in September 2025, in addition to the 2026 ALGA NGA activities.

Table 1	FY22-23	FY23-24	FY24-25	FY25-26
Member contribution Income	**17,050**	**58,000**	**68,000**	**67,000**

Activities expenditure	Actuals	Actuals	Actuals	Actuals
1017. Travel Expenses	0	177	431	960
1075. Training / Conf	11	5,474	3,128	23,845
2000. Consultants	20,875	1,500	0	0
2002. Professional Services	0	0	30	0
2410. Contributions	3604	0	100	150
3020. Print / Stat	0	100	26	0
3040. Subscriptions	1,018	16,067	17,950	18,549
3795. Events	0	5,163	4,183	3,880
Total activities expenditure	**25,508**	**28,481**	**25,848**	**47,384**
Member offset for officer support 0.5EFT (+oncosts B6 incremental)		**55,654**	**60,462**	**65,466**
CGD 0.5EFT officer contribution		**55,654**	**60,462**	**65,466**
Total cost for Advocacy		**139,789**	**146,772**	**178,316**
Net cost to CGD		**81,789**	**78,772**	**111,316**

16. At the Council Meeting on 18 May 2026, Council approved exploring options to redirect Secretariat support of the Taskforce to other member councils or other relevant peak body entity.

Member Consultation

17. At the Taskforce meeting on 9 July 2026, the Taskforce resolved to temporarily pause active advocacy while it undertakes consultation with Executive Member Councils and reviews its advocacy priorities, Terms of Reference and operational structure.

18. Throughout September 2026, a series of consultation meetings were held with Executive member Councillors and officers. Participants provided feedback on the relevance, purpose, advocacy asks and sustainability of the Taskforce.

19. Meetings were also held with officer representatives from select Executive member councils most likely interested to support Secretariat functions of the Taskforce. These councils expressed that further internal discussions and approvals would be required with their respective councils should this be pursued.

20. The consultation highlighted that member Councils suggested multiple options to address the Taskforce's operational challenges but there was no clear direction where consensus was reached.

21. Attachment 1 provides the summary of feedback obtained. This feedback report will be provided at the December Taskforce meeting to aid members' deliberations on the Taskforce's relevance, purpose, advocacy asks and sustainability.

Key Issues and Discussion

Declining Taskforce Membership Income

22. The Taskforce currently comprises 10 Executive members, 15 General members and 24 Supporter members. Executive members contribute an annual membership fee of $4,000, while General members contribute $1,000. FY26-27 Invoices have been issued according to their membership status.

23. Since July 2026, several councils have downgraded their membership level, citing the increasingly challenging fiscal environment facing local government. Some members are still considering their membership status and will advise once their new mayor has been elected.

24. As at 15 October the FY26-27 projected income from member contributions is $51,000 (Ex GST). By comparison, income for FY25-26 was $67,000 (Ex GST). This reflects a projected $16,000 shortfall from the previous year's income.

Resource options and considerations

25. To strengthen the resources available to the Taskforce, some Executive members who were consulted proposed a range of options for consideration. These include:

    - Increasing membership fees for Executive and/or General member councils and introducing a membership fee for currently non-paying Supporter members.
    - Setting fees for lower-tier members at 50 per cent of the higher-tier membership fee, or
    - Maintaining a simplified two-tier membership structure rather than the current three-tier model.

26. Several respondents raised concerns that fee increases could be counterproductive and potentially result in a decline in membership.

27. Two councils indicated that they were likely to soon downgrade their level of membership, highlighting the significant influence of financial considerations in the current local government fiscal climate.

28. Three member councils expressed preliminary support for exploring shared Secretariat arrangements. However, they emphasised the continuing importance of a centralised host council to provide overall leadership, coordination and governance oversight, while designated administrative functions could be distributed across participating councils.

29. Feedback also highlighted the need for further internal consideration within councils, together with an appropriate transition period, before any changes to the Taskforce's governance or operational arrangements could be implemented.

Implications for CGD Council

30. Having performed the Taskforce's Secretariat role for eight years, with the last three with dedicated officer support at 1.0EFT with a nominal 0.5EFT offset, Greater Dandenong City Council has borne a significant operational cost for the Taskforce's Back Your Neighbour Advocacy Campaign.

31. The Back Your Neighbour Campaign, in concert with other advocacy efforts by peak bodies such as the Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA) and Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC), has seen good progress on the pathway to permanency advocacy ask. However, progress on ensuring valid bridging visas with work rights, and improved access to essential services for people seeking asylum has not seen significant change.

32. The national policy environment has shifted, which may limit opportunities for significant policy reform in the near term. This signals that future BYN advocacy for significant change to immigration policy positions will be challenging, particularly in the lead up to the next federal election.

33. Given the change in current immigration debate and Council's own tight fiscal forecast for FY 2026-27, there is an opportunity to refocus CGD's strategic advocacy efforts towards priorities that provide a more immediate benefit for Greater Dandenong's local community.

34. For example, all, or part of the current 1.0EFT Band 6 officer Taskforce resourcing could be re-allocated towards Council's other advocacy priority areas, such as, Social and Affordable Housing, Transport or other infrastructure projects.

Alternative Secretariat role

35. Should Council wish to withdraw its officer commitment for the Secretariat role, Taskforce members would be advised at its scheduled December meeting and provided sufficient time to identify and assess alternative delivery models for 2027, and make a decision on the Taskforce's ongoing viability, in its current format.

36. The current Terms of Reference allows for another Executive member council to take on lead secretariat responsibilities, and under the current terms, the position of Taskforce Chair is transferred to the council assuming this function.

37. CGD Council can remain an executive member of the Taskforce with payment of the relevant annual fee, currently $4,000 per annum.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

38. This item does have an impact on existing human resources. Ongoing Taskforce membership and providing Secretariat support does reduce the opportunity to reassign this resource to other local strategic advocacy efforts that may bear more tangible benefits for the Greater Dandenong community.

39. Option b. the alternate shared Secretariat model (with CGD agreeing to a variable 0.2-0.5EFT commitment) could be absorbed within the current budget arrangements, however a commitment by other councils of commensurate officer allocation would need to occur to make the model viable.

40. Option c. the existing 1.0EFT Secretariat model (with 0.5EFT offset) would need a substantial increase in member contributions to make it viable. It cannot be absorbed within existing Unit budgets without sufficient external funding support through membership fees.

Financial/Asset Resource Implications (consider Service Statements, Budget, Long Term Financial Strategy and Asset Plan)

Operating Budget Implications

41. As indicated, the financial implications associated with this report involve annual net costs to CGD associated with all options.

- Option a - **$4,000** The lowest direct net expense for CGD, Executive membership only option, equivalent of $4,000 based on current TOR. Minimum EFT engagement.
- Option b – **range $30,907 to $71,266** Based on shared Secretariat model with CGD Council committed to 0.2-0.5EFT.
- Option c – **$113,534** Where CGD continues current Secretariat commitment. 1.0EFT with 0.5EFT nominal offset. Most expensive option and dependent on ongoing membership fees to cover offset and additional advocacy activities (costed at a projected $30,000). Figure assumes project member contribution of $51,000. Costs to CGD would be higher if more members reduce or decline to renew their membership.

Asset Implications

42. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

43. There are no legal risk implications with this report. Membership of the Taskforce is voluntary, and councils have no obligation to continue membership.

44. There is reputational risk associated with this report. Given Council's historic leadership role of the Taskforce and its Secretariat, a decision to reduce resource allocation and involvement in the Secretariat could potentially be perceived negatively by other member Councils, and peak body organisations such as, Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA) and other affiliates of the Taskforce.

45. The officer recommendation for Council to retain its Executive membership status mitigate this reputational risk.

Environmental Implications

46. There are no environmental implications relevant to this report.

Gender Impact Assessment

47. A gender impact assessment is not required.

Community Consultation

48. Throughout September 2026, a series of consultation meetings were held with Executive member Councillors and officers. Key areas of support regarding advocacy priorities for the Back Your Neighbour campaign, endorsed by the majority of those consulted, included:
    - Securing fair and timely pathways to permanency for people experiencing protracted and unresolved visa status.
    - Access to Medicare and work rights for people seeking asylum and those on temporary visas.
    - Timely renewal and processing of temporary visas to reduce uncertainty and hardship.
    - Expansion of Australia's humanitarian intake.
    - Improved recognition of overseas qualifications and skills for refugees and humanitarian entrants.
49. Collectively, this feedback reflects a strong commitment to promoting inclusion, stability and opportunities for people from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds, while addressing barriers to participation in community and economic life.

Links to Community Vision, Council Plan, Strategy, Notice of Motion

50. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
    - Safe and peaceful community.
    - Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.
51. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2025-29:
    - A socially connected, safe and healthy city.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

52. 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:
    - Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.

Cr Isabella Do left the chamber at 8.38pm.

Cr Isabella Do returned to the chamber at 8.41pm prior to voting.

MINUTE No.479
Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad
Seconded by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

That Council:

1. **APPROVES retaining its Executive membership for the Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum; and**
2. **APPROVES the following Secretariat arrangement for the Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum, noting that Taskforce members will be advised of Council's decision at the December Taskforce meeting:**
    - **Option a. - Council fully withdraws from its Secretariat role and advises Taskforce members to put in place alternative governance and delivery arrangements, with an appropriate transition period.**

CARRIED 5 / 4

For - Cr Phillip Danh, Cr Lana Formoso, Cr Rhonda Garad, Cr Jim Memeti and Cr Sean O'Reilly

Against - Cr Isabella Do, Cr Alice Phuong Le, Cr Sophie Tan and Cr Melinda Yim

4.3.6 ARC Committee Chair Biannual Report

Responsible Officer: Manager Governance, Legal & Risk

Attachments:
1. ARC_Biannual_Activity_Report_October_2026 [**4.3.6.1** - 3 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council NOTES the Greater Dandenong City Council's Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report dated October 2026 (Attachment 1), which describes the activities of the Committee (including its findings and recommendations) for meetings held in March, June and September 2026.

Executive Summary

1. Under the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) is required to table a report on its activities to Council twice per year. This bi-annual report covers the Committee's work for the meetings held on 5 March, 4 June and 11 September 2026 and aligns with the Committee's Annual Work Plan in terms of the cyclical nature of its work.
2. The ARC must provide a copy of each report to the Chief Executive Officer for tabling at the next Council meeting.
3. The Chair of the ARC will attend the Councillor Briefing session held on 26 October 2026 to provide Councillors with an update and opportunity to ask questions and discuss matters of interest/relevance.

Background

4. Section 54(5) of the *Local Government Act* 2020 ('the Act') requires that the ARC tables a bi-annual report to Council.
5. The ARC plays an important role in providing oversight of Greater Dandenong City Council's governance, risk management, internal control practices, and internal and external audit functions. This oversight mechanism also serves to provide confidence in the integrity of these practices.
6. Section 53(1) of the Act stipulates that a Council must establish an ARC. The Greater Dandenong City Council's ARC comprises two Councillors and three independent members. The ARC meets at least four times per year.
7. This report covers the Committee's work for the meetings held on 5 March, 4 June and 11 September 2026 and aligns with the Committee's Annual Work Plan in terms of the cyclical nature of its work.
8. The report outlines the key activities carried out by the Committee during the period.

Key Issues and Discussion

10. The report recommends that Council notes the ARC Performance Report.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

11. There are no human resource implications arising from the recommendation contained in this report. The activities of the Audit and Risk Committee are undertaken within existing staffing and resource arrangements.

Conflicts of Interest Disclosure

12. The Chair of the ARC and Council officers who prepared this report have no general or material conflict of interest to declare.

Operating Budget Implications

13. There are no financial and resource implications associated with this report.

14. The sitting fees payable to independent members of the ARC are provided for within the Governance Department's operational budget.

Legal/Risk Implications

15. Pursuant to Sections 54(4) and (5) of the Act, the ARC is required to prepare a biannual ARC report describing the Committee's activities and provide a copy of both reports to the Chief Executive Officer for tabling at the next Council meeting.

Links to Community Vision, Council Plan, Strategy, Notice of Motion

16. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan

17. 2025-29:

- A Council that demonstrates leadership, responsible use of public resources and a commitment to investing in the community.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

18. 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.

MINUTE No.480
Moved by: Cr Sophie Tan
Seconded by: Cr Lana Formoso

That Council NOTES the Greater Dandenong City Council's Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report dated October 2026 (Attachment 1), which describes the activities of the Committee (including its findings and recommendations) for meetings held in March, June and September 2026.

CARRIED 9 / 0

4.3.7 Report on Matters Discussed at Councillor Briefing Sessions and Pre Council Meetings

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services
Attachments: **Nil**

Officer Recommendation

That Council RECEIVES and NOTES:

1. **The information contained in this report; and**
2. **The information discussed at the below listed Councillor Briefing Sessions that were declared confidential under section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 in Items 2, 3, 8 and 13 below remain confidential until further advisement unless that information forms the subject of a subsequent Council report.**

Executive Summary

1. As part of Council's ongoing efforts to improve transparency in Council processes, matters discussed at Councillor Briefing Sessions & Pre-Council Meetings (other than those matters designated to be of a confidential nature) are reported on at Council meetings.
2. The matters listed in this report were presented to Councillor Briefing Sessions & Pre-Council Meetings during the period 12 October 2026 – 26 October 2026.

Background

3. The Executive Team and associated staff at Greater Dandenong City Council host Councillor Briefing Sessions and Pre-Council Meeting on a regular basis (weekly) to inform Councillors about the work officers are undertaking, share information, obtain feedback and discuss strategies and options for current and future work.
4. To ensure transparency in this process matters discussed at Councillor Briefing Sessions and Pre-Council Meetings (other than those matters designated to be confidential under the Local *Government Act* 2020) are reported on at Council meetings. This report represents matters discussed at the Councillor Briefing Sessions & Pre-Council Meetings during the period 12 October 2026 – 26 October 2026.

Matters Presented for Discussion

Item		Councillor Briefing Session/Pre-Council Meeting
1	***Draft Community Safety Strategy*** Council noted the Draft Community Safety Strategy 2027-30, which provides a coordinated, evidence-based approach to improving community safety outcomes and perceptions of safety across Greater Dandenong. Informed by extensive community and stakeholder engagement involving more than 4,000 interactions, the Strategy focuses on three key areas: Safe People, Safe Places and Safety Partnerships, and includes 19 actions to be delivered through collaboration with Victoria Police, government agencies and community partners. It was agreed that the Draft Strategy will be released for public consultation.	***Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 12 October 2026***
2	***DNA Contract Award & Procurement Update*** ***CONFIDENTIAL under s 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.***	***Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 12 October 2026***
3	***Core System Tender Process*** ***CONFIDENTIAL under s 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.***	***Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 12 October 2026***
4	***Community Consultation Process for 2027-2028 Budget and Annual Plan*** Council noted the draft proposed 2027-28 Budget and Annual Action Plan community consultation process. The process includes early engagement on community priorities, a Community Feedback Session for direct presentations to Councillors and final consultation on the draft documents. A mix of online and in-person engagement methods is proposed to maximise participation and ensure community input informs Council's budget priorities and service delivery decisions. The proposal aligns with Council's legislative obligations, Community Vision 2040 and Council Plan 2025-29, It was agreed that the draft documents will be released for public consultation.	***Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 12 October 2026***

5	***Councillor Representation for 2026/27*** Governance Officers sought confirmation of Councillor representation on committees, community organisations and associations, peak industry bodies and regional organisations prior to the annual meeting of Council.	***Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 12 October 2026***
6	***General Discussions*** Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items: a. Update on Uplifting and Improvements to Customer Service Experience Portal and noted October is Cyber Security month; b. Library Services update; c. Reminder Waste and Cleanliness in Springvale community forum; d. Update on property and rating data – 58% increase in uptake digital rates notices and 21% payments being made digitally; e. Update on Multi Employee Bargaining arrangements; and f. Councillors nominating for the positions of Mayor or Deputy Mayor at the upcoming Annual Council Meeting are requested to provide a 3-minute video outlining their reasons for seeking the role and the contribution they would make if elected. Agenda items for the Council Meeting 19 October 2026.	***Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 12 October 2026***
7	***General Discussions*** Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items: a. Update on Emergency Service Forum; b. Waste Forum Springvale; c. Update on Cyber Security Month; d. Update on Community Consultation for the 2027/28 Budget; e. Update on advocacy activities - State Election Candidates Survey and Website Profile; and f. Update on advocacy activities - State Election Candidates Survey and Website Profile. Agenda items for the Council Meeting 19 October 2026.	***Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 19 October 2026***
8	***Update on Nationwide PHP Vulnerabilities*** ***CONFIDENTIAL under s 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.***	***Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 26 October 2026***
9	***ARC Committee Chair – Biannual Report*** Michael Shatter ARC Chair Presented the Committees Biannual Report outlining the key activities of the committee for the period 1 February 2026 – 30 September 2026.	***Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 26 October 2026***

10	***Springvale Parking Overlay Removal*** Councillors were updated on the State Governments proposal to undertake a planning scheme amendment to delete the Springvale Activity Centre-Core Retail West Precinct Parking Overlay in the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme as it no longer achieves the objective it was originally gazetted for in 2010.	***Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 26 October 2026***
11	***Taylors Road Landfill – Proposed New Landfill Cell*** Councillors were provided with an overview of the Development Licence Application submitted to the EPA by the owner of the Taylors Road Landfill for the purpose of a proposed new landfill cell (Cell 21). Officers are recommending that Council submit an objection to the development that focuses on its long-adopted position of advocating for the closure of this landfill at the earliest opportunity.	***Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 26 October 2026***
12	***Economy & Place Strategy Final Draft for Endorsement (phase 2 engagement)*** Councillors were provided an overview of the Greater Dandenong Economy and Place Strategy in preparation for Community Consultation. The Strategy establishes a 10 year vision and a 5 year stage 1 implementation plan on how Council will direct effort, advocacy, partnerships and investment.	***Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 26 October 2026***
13	***Native Title Update*** ***CONFIDENTIAL under s 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.***	***Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 26 October 2026***
	Councillor Personal Development Councillors were briefed on the forthcoming Model Governance Rules arising from the Local Government Legislation Amendment (Stronger Communities) Act 2026 and discussed a review of Council's current Governance Rules to assess alignment with the requirements and controls contained within the Model Governance Rules.	***Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 26 October 2026***
15	***General Discussion*** Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following item: a. Council has been formally notified by the ASU that a stop-work meeting will be held in November. Councillors will continue to be updated on negotiations as they progress. Agenda items for the Council Meeting 26 October 2026.	***Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 26 October 2026***

Apologies

5. Councillor Sophie Tan, Councillor Loi Truong and Councillor Melinda Yim submitted apologies for the Councillor Briefing Session on 12 October 2026.
6. Councillor Melinda Yim submitted an apology for the Pre-Council Meeting on 19 October 2026.
7. Councillor Melinda Yim and Councillor Lana Formoso submitted apologies for the Councillor Briefing Session on 26 October 2026.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

8. Section 9 of the *Local Government Act* 2020 (LGA2020) states that a Council must in the performance of its role give effect to the overarching governance principles.
9. Reporting on matters discussed at Councillor Briefing Sessions and Pre-Council Meetings gives effect to the overarching governance principles (in particular, section 9(i) of the *Local Government Act* 2020) in that the transparency of Council actions and information is ensured.

MINUTE No.481
Moved by: Cr Lana Formoso
Seconded by: Cr Rhonda Garad

That Council RECEIVES and NOTES:

1. **The information contained in this report; and**
2. **The information discussed at the below listed Councillor Briefing Sessions that were declared confidential under section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 in Items 2, 3, 8 and 13 below remain confidential until further advisement unless that information forms the subject of a subsequent Council report.**

CARRIED 9 / 0

4.3.8 List of Registered Correspondence to Mayor and Councillors

Responsible Officer: Manager Governance, Integrity, Legal & Risk

Attachments:
1. List of Registered Correspondence to Mayor and Councillors [**4.3.8.1** - 2 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That the listed items for the period 5 October 2026 to 31 October 2026 provided in Attachment 1 to this report be received and noted.

Executive Summary

1. Consistent with Council resolutions regarding registered incoming correspondence addressed to the Mayor and Councillors, Attachment 1 to this report provides a list of this correspondence for the period 5 October 2026 to 31 October 2026.

MINUTE No.482
Moved by: Cr Jim Memeti
Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That the listed items for the period 5 October 2026 to 31 October 2026 provided in Attachment 1 to this report be received and noted.

CARRIED 9 / 0

5 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

Question
Cr Sean O'Reilly
Council recently held the Springvale Cleanliness Forum, where residents and traders raised concerns about cleanliness in the Springvale Activity Centre. I assure the community that councillors and officers are continuing to follow up on the actions discussed at that forum.

I sent several questions to the Executive Director for City Futures. The key question is: when will Council have an objective and key results measure, or another suitable measure, for overall cleanliness? If we want to improve cleanliness, we need a baseline and a consistent way to measure progress across our activity centres.

Response
Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures
Council officers are collecting baseline data. We will use that data to develop key performance indicators and expect to finalise the measures in December 2026.

Question
Cr Rhonda Garad
The closure of the VicRoads centre in Dandenong is a significant loss for the city, although the decision is outside Council's control. How many direct and indirect jobs will be lost when services move to Pakenham? Did Council undertake advocacy to encourage VicRoads to remain in Dandenong? Has Council assessed how the closure will disadvantage local residents, particularly people who may have difficulty travelling to Pakenham to obtain a licence or access other services?

I understand approximately 25 direct full-time equivalent positions may be affected, in addition to indirect jobs. The increased travel distance will particularly affect disadvantaged residents. Any further information would be appreciated.

Response
Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures
I cannot answer those questions at this stage. The matter will be taken on notice and an update will be provided to councillors.

Comment
Cr Melinda Yim
Every two or three years, I grow my hair and donate it. This year I am donating through Sustainable Salons, which accepts coloured hair and is a major donor of ponytails used to create medical wigs for people experiencing alopecia, cancer treatment or other medically induced hair loss. Sustainable Salons accept human-hair ponytails at least 20 centimetres long, including coloured hair and extensions made from 100 per cent human hair. Donors can download a form from the Sustainable Salons website and post it with the ponytail donation or find a participating salon that can arrange the haircut and donation.

Question
Cr Melinda Yim
The Dandenong Lapidary and Gem Club has experienced problems with the electrical supply in its Council building. When will the issue be resolved and why has there been a delay?

Response
Marjan Hajjari, Executive Director Strategy and Corporate Services
If the matter relates to the property and its electrical system, it is a property matter. I will take the question on notice and follow up with the relevant officer and the club.

Comment
Cr Alice Phuong Le (Deputy Mayor)
This is my first Council meeting as Deputy Mayor. I thank my fellow councillors for the opportunity to serve in this position.

Question
Cr Alice Phuong Le (Deputy Mayor)
Residents in Springvale have complained about rubbish around shops. If a resident reports rubbish and provides a photograph and the time it was taken, how long does it usually take for a Council team to attend and remove it? I will email photographs and details to the relevant officer.

Response
Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures
I do not have that information with me. I will refer the question to the relevant teams and provide a response.

Comment
Cr Alice Phuong Le (Deputy Mayor)
On Friday 13 November to 15 November 2026 the fifth anniversary Congress of Our Lady of La Vang took place, a large event that brought together the Catholic and Vietnamese communities and was attended by representatives from many areas.

I also attended a children's fundraising event and other community celebrations, including a 44th anniversary event involving the Filipino and Vietnamese communities. These events demonstrated strong community participation and cultural connection.

Question
Cr Lana Formoso
Council's yellow recycling bins are very large and collection trucks appear to damage them regularly. I have had six or seven bins damaged and have been waiting more than a month for a replacement. Does Council plan to review the bin size or collection arrangements? How many bins are damaged, what does replacement or repair cost and are damaged bins recycled or refurbished?

Response
Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures
Council does not currently plan to change the 240-litre bins. We service approximately 54,000 bins across the municipality. Several hundred may require repair, but I will review the number damaged and the overall cost. I will also provide information about what happens to damaged bins.

Question
Cr Lana Formoso
Residents have reported worsening conditions on local roads, including severe potholes and longer repair times. Is the road-auditing process unchanged? Has Council recorded an increase in potholes and what is the current response time for repairs submitted through Council's reporting system?

Community feedback indicates that repairs are taking longer than usual. Particular concerns have been raised about Eleanor Street, Jacksons Road and roads near schools. I ask that officers inspect those areas.

Response
Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures
Council's road-auditing system remains robust and inspections occur regularly. We have not identified an overall increase in potholes. Residents should report concerns through Council's online reporting channel or Customer Service.

Council generally attends to potholes within two weeks. More serious defects may be addressed within one or two days, depending on severity. Officers understand that potholes are important to the community and continue to prioritise road maintenance.

Question
Cr Lana Formoso
I share the frustration and disappointment expressed by Lyndale United Soccer Club members about the support and funding available for their facilities. The club makes an important contribution to participation, community connection and, in particular, female participation in sport.

At the previous meeting, I asked the Chief Executive Officer to arrange a roundtable discussion with the local member and relevant state representatives. I wanted that meeting to occur before the State election, but it did not. An email dated 2 September 2026 indicated that a meeting would be arranged as soon as possible and that the then Mayor was advocating with local members of Parliament.

What advocacy specifically occurred for Lyndale United Soccer Club, why did the proposed meeting not occur, and when will the club receive facilities that meet the community's needs?

Response
Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening
Council made several attempts to arrange the meeting, and the club also undertook advocacy. Council cannot control the diaries of external representatives. We will continue trying, although a meeting cannot occur during the caretaker period before the election.

Councillors determine funding allocations and approve the budget. Officers will continue preparing the Master Plan so it is shovel-ready, ensuring cost estimates are accurate for Council consideration and exploring opportunities with the Department of Education, including a possible extension of the joint-use agreement.

Response
Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer
The Mayor and I met the Minister for Community Sport, Ros Spence, at Parliament House several weeks ago. We discussed projects in Council's advocacy package, including Lyndale United Soccer Club. The Minister acknowledged the projects, noted that funding was limited and advised Council to apply through available funding programs.

Comment
Cr Sophie Tan
Council undertook substantial advocacy during the year through the 'A Great Future for Greater Dandenong' campaign and sought meetings with members of Parliament. Lyndale United Soccer Club was included in the advocacy material and was raised as part of that work.

Comment
Cr Lana Formoso
Advocacy for this club has been pursued since 2019. The prolonged delay is unacceptable and explains the club's frustration. Club members may continue attending Council meetings until tangible progress is achieved.

Cr Lana Formoso left the meeting at 9.07pm

Comment
Cr Jim Memeti
On Monday 26 October, I attended the Legacy and Leadership Dinner with Greater Dandenong's Living Treasures and Australia Day Award recipients. It was an opportunity to recognise their contribution over the past year.

I also congratulate the Dandenong Agricultural and Pastoral Society on the 155th Dandenong Show. The improved weather provided a good opportunity for families to attend and I hope attendance increased after several years of declining numbers.

Question
Cr Jim Memeti
The large Capital Alliance development site at the corner of Foster Street and Thomas Street, Dandenong has now been cleared and a planning permit has been issued. Has Council met with the developer and when is construction expected to begin? I do not want the land to remain vacant for several years.

Given the scale and importance of this central Dandenong site, I ask that Capital Alliance brief councillors directly on the project's status and its construction plans for 2027.

Response
Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures
Council met with Capital Alliance earlier this month to obtain an update. The required permits are in place, and the developer intends to begin construction early in 2027. Officers will keep councillors informed as further information becomes available.

Comment
Cr Sophie Tan
Since the last Council Meeting I have attended the following community events:

On Thursday 22 October 2026, I attended the MAV Victorian Councillor Service Award Dinner.

On Sunday 25 October 2026, I attended the Noble Park Family Fund Day, where families enjoyed indoor activities despite the weather, and Pesta Deepavali hosted by the Malaysian Melbourne Indian Cultural Centre. Thank you to the staff, sponsors and volunteers.

On Monday 26 October 2026, I presented the Dow Court and Merle Parade commemorative street sign to the Dow and Michelle family, honouring Patricia (Pat) Dow and Merle Mitchell AM. The roads were named following the Level Crossing Removal Project and are lasting tributes to two remarkable women.

On Tuesday 27 October 2026, I attended the launch of “Sleeptime: A Dandenong Lullaby”, available in seven languages, and thank everyone who made it possible. That evening, I welcomed Living Treasures, Australia Day Award and King’s Birthday Honours recipients, community leaders and volunteers to the Legacy and Leadership Dinner to recognise their contributions.

On Wednesday 28 October 2026, I attended the Children’s Forum 2026, where 12 primary schools shared their ideas, and presented certificates and flowers to centenarians Ms Tran and Mrs Viola for their 100th birthdays.

On Thursday 29 October 2026, I attended the Seniors Festival Afternoon Dance, with more than 300 seniors.

On Friday 30 October 2026, I attended the Halloween Spooktacular, organised by our Amplify Youth Committee, a Victorian Government initiative that empowers young people to run alcohol, vape, smoke and drug-free events.

On Sunday 1 November 2026, I attended the Diwali Festival hosted by Bright Events Australia, which drew a thousand people to Dandenong Park.

On Wednesday 4 November 2026, at my last citizenship ceremonies as Mayor, we welcomed 300 new citizens, bringing my term’s total to 4,218. Thank you to Council staff for their work behind the scenes.

On Friday 6 November 2026, I attended the International Day of People with Disability Exhibition Launch at the Noble Park Community Centre.

On Saturday 7 November 2026, I attended the launch of the Recycled Sound Reimagined Hearing Aid Bank, hosted by the Rotary Club of Springvale City, and the Drum Theatre’s 20th anniversary, attended by 300 people. Over twenty years, the Drum has hosted acclaimed Australian and international performers, supported local artists and groups, and reflected Greater Dandenong’s diversity.

On Sunday 8 November 2026, I attended the Cambodia Independence Day celebration hosted by the Cambodian Association of Victoria, now in its second year, the State Annual Remembrance Service hosted by RSL Victoria, and the Diwali celebrations hosted by ISKCON Melbourne.

On Wednesday 11 November 2026, I attended Remembrance Day hosted by Dandenong/Cranbourne RSL, then presented certificates of appreciation to volunteer community organisations, thanking them for their generosity and commitment.

On Saturday 14 November 2026, I attended the Khmer Fine Art of Victoria dance performance hosted by the Cambodian Association of Victoria.

Question
Cr Sophie Tan
A resident has raised parking concerns in Modena Street, Noble Park, because early voting is about to begin. Will Council monitor parking near that location and other pre-poll centres?

Response
Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures
Officers have identified the pre-poll centres across Greater Dandenong. Council will undertake parking monitoring and enforcement during the early-voting period.

Comment
Cr Isabella Do
On Thursday 22 October 2026, I also attended the Municipal Association of Victoria Local Government Working Group on Gambling, where participants discussed reducing gambling harm and improving outcomes for Victorian communities.

On Tuesday 27 October 2026, the Legacy and Leadership Dinner at Keysborough Community Hub recognised past and present community leaders and demonstrated how effectively the hub can be transformed into an event space.

The civic reception for volunteer-led community organisations appropriately recognised volunteers whose work sustains many local initiatives. Other celebrations included Diwali at Dandenong Market on Sunday 1 November 2026, and a Deepavali Festival of Lights at Tatterson Pavilion, hosted by the Melbourne Malaysian Indian Cultural Club. I thank Shaun T and the volunteer team who delivered that event.

On Friday 6 November 2026, at the International Day of People with Disability exhibition launch at Noble Park Community Centre, it was inspiring to see the artworks on display. I encourage residents to visit and support the programs and workshops of the Noble Park Community Centre.

On Saturday 7 November 2026, I also attended the Drum Theatre's 20th anniversary celebration. The Drum is open to the public from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm on weekdays and hosts performances, exhibitions and events throughout the year.

Over recent weeks, I attended community events that demonstrated Greater Dandenong's diversity, generosity and community spirit. On Friday 13 November to 15 November 2026 the fifth Congress of Our Lady of La Vang took place, which brought together members of the Vietnamese Catholic community in a large celebration of faith and connection.

On Saturday 14 November 2026, I attended McHappy Day in Keysborough and thank the shift manager, Will, and everyone who organised the event in support of a worthy cause.

I attended a drama festival at Bunjil Place Performing Arts Centre, where children celebrated culture, creativity and storytelling. I thank Ramya, the volunteers and parents whose regular training and support enabled the young participants to deliver performances of a very high standard.

I encourage residents and visitors to see the Biscuit Tin Project exhibition at Mitchell Hall in Springvale Community Hub. It shares the experiences and contributions of older women and promotes respect, inclusion and connection.

I am also hosting a Community Bug Hunt this Saturday 21 November 2026 from 11.00 am to 2.00 pm at the Keysborough Community Hub barbecue area in Tatterson Park. The event will proceed despite the possibility of a morning shower.

Comment
Cr Phillip Danh (Mayor)
Since being elected Mayor last Thursday, I have begun laying the foundation for the year ahead by meeting residents and local traders and arranging meetings with community leaders and organisations.

Over the next 12 months, my focus will be on Council delivering core services, creating opportunities for residents to succeed, and remaining accessible and responsive to community needs. I look forward to working with councillors, Council staff and the community to deliver practical outcomes that improve people's day-to-day lives. The events I attended during the previous month were as follows:

On Wednesday 28 October, I attended the SEL Board Meeting.

On Friday 30 October, I attended the Halloween Spooktacular event.

On Sunday 8 November, I attended the Cambodian Independence Day Celebration hosted by the Cambodian Association of Victoria.

On Wednesday 11 November, I attended the Noble Park RSL Remembrance Day Ceremony and also attended a Civic Reception held to recognise and thank volunteer-led community organisations supporting individuals and families experiencing hardship across Greater Dandenong through practical assistance, compassion and community care.

On Saturday 14 November, I attended the Dandenong Show and SICMAA's 44th Anniversary Celebration and Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Jacqui Weatherhill, Chief Executive Officer tabled questions taken on notice/requiring further action at the previous Council meeting. A copy of this is provided below.

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
19/10/26 CQT1	Cr Lana Formoso	**Inclusion of Church in Interfaith Tours** Is the St Stephen The Archdeacon Serbian Orthodox Church linked with the Interfaith Network tours. If not, can it be included.	Executive Director Community Strengthening		**Initial response 19/10/2026:** Email me the details and I'll follow up. **Further response 23/10/2026:** The CEO of the Interfaith Network has confirmed that St Stephen Orthodox Church is included on the list of sites considered for its Places of Worship tours. **COMPLETED**
19/10/26 CQT2	Cr Alice Phuong Le	**Update from Springvale Waste and Street Cleanliness Forum** I would like an update on actions arising from the Springvale waste and street cleanliness forum.	Executive Director City Futures		**Initial response 19/10/2026:** We will take the question on notice and provide a response. **Further Response 04/11/2026** A draft action plan has been circulated to councilors for their feedback. **COMPLETED**
19/10/26 CQT3	Cr Alice Phuong Le	**Springvale Needle Exchange Removal** When is the Springvale Monash Health Needle Exchange Vending machine being removed	Executive Director Community Strengthening		**Initial response 19/10/2026:** Please also send the details to me by email. **Further response sent to all Councillors on 30/10/2026:** I wanted to provide an update regarding the Syringe Dispensing Unit (SDU) currently located at the Monash Health Community Springvale Clinic, 55 Buckingham Avenue, Springvale. The Department of Health (DOH) has advised this week that the Springvale SDU is to be decommissioned, with its removal expected imminently. As it stands, no alternative location has been identified. As an interim measure, an outreach service model will be established in Springvale, supplemented by Monash Health's continued Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) services through the Springvale clinic. The Springvale SDU currently dispenses more than 20,000 syringes each month. While the interim arrangements will maintain access to harm minimisation services, Council officers are concerned that they may not fully meet current

					levels of demand, particularly given the loss of 24-hour access. Consequently, there is potential for increased demand at the Dandenong SDU as service users seek alternative points of access. Given the current utilisation of the Springvale SDU, Council officers consider this to be a key risk that will require ongoing monitoring following the closure. Officers acknowledge the importance of balancing community safety and amenity with access to evidence-based harm minimisation services that support positive public health outcomes. We will continue to work closely with the Department of Health and Monash Health to monitor the impacts of the closure and discuss options for a suitable longer-term location that appropriately balances service accessibility with community safety and amenity. Separately, the Department of Health has also indicated its intention to participate in the Victoria Police-led Community Safety Committee recently discussed with Councillors, to strengthen coordination and engagement between the Department of Health, Council, Monash Health, Victoria Police and other relevant agencies on local issues. We will keep you updated as further information comes to hand. **COMPLETED**

7 URGENT BUSINESS

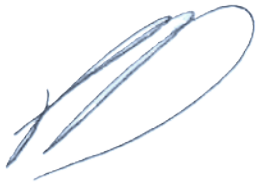
No business may be admitted as urgent business unless it:

a) relates to or arises out of a matter which has arisen since distribution of the Agenda; and

b) cannot safely or conveniently be deferred until the next ordinary meeting and unless agreed to by a majority of those Councillors present at the meeting.

8 CLOSE OF BUSINESS

The Meeting closed at 9.23pm.



Signature