



Merri-bek
City Council

PROPOSED
Minutes of the Council Meeting

Held in Bunjil (Council Chamber), Merri-bek Civic Centre,
90 Bell Street, Coburg
on Wednesday 11 December 2024

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The Mayor opened the meeting at 7.01 pm and stated the Council meeting is being held on the traditional country of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people and acknowledged them as Traditional Owners. The Mayor paid respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging, and the Elders from other communities who may be here today.

Present	Time In	Time Out
Cr Helen Davidson, Mayor	7.01 pm	9.40 pm
Cr Helen Politis, Deputy Mayor	7.01 pm	9.40 pm
Cr Nat Abboud	7.01 pm	9.40 pm
Cr Sue Bolton	7.01 pm	9.40 pm
Cr Liz Irvin	7.01 pm	9.40 pm
Cr Jay Iwasaki	7.01 pm	9.40 pm
Cr Chris Miles	7.01 pm	9.40 pm
Cr Adam Pulford	7.01 pm	9.40 pm
Cr Ella Svensson	7.01 pm	9.40 pm
Cr Katherine Theodosis	7.01 pm	9.40 pm
Cr Oscar Yildiz JP	7.01 pm	8.32 pm

OFFICERS

Chief Executive Officer – Cathy Henderson
Director Business Transformation – Sue Vujcevic
Director City Infrastructure – Anita Curnow
Director Community – Eamonn Fennessy
Director Place and Environment – Pene Winslade
Manager Governance and Strategy – Yvonne Callanan
Team Leader Governance – Naomi Ellis

APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil.

DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil.

MINUTE CONFIRMATION

Resolution

Cr Yildiz moved, Cr Abboud seconded -

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9 October 2024, the Special Meeting held on 18 November 2024 and the Council Meeting held on 20 November 2024 be confirmed.

Carried

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Cr Abboud acknowledged:

- The Coburg Night market is on this weekend.
- Cr Abboud will be available at the Harry Atkinson Centre from 10.30 am this Sunday (15 December 2024) to meet with community members and provide updates on issues that have been raised with her.

Cr Bolton acknowledged:

- The Fawkner outdoor pool and Leisure Centre formally opened on Sunday 8 December 2024.
- Isla Bell, a resident of Brunswick, sadly passed away under tragic circumstances. Her family has established a fundraising appeal in her honour.

Cr Yildiz acknowledged:

- The recent McGrath Foundation fundraiser, which Cr Yildiz attended with Victorian Member of Parliament Anthony Cianflone and Federal Member of Parliament Peter Khalil.
- The new Council and congratulated his fellow Councillors and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

PETITIONS

5.1 PETITION REQUESTING COUNCIL STOP USING HERBICIDES OR ANY OTHER CHEMICALS AND POISONS AT SHORE'S RESERVE AND ALL OTHER OPEN SPACES

A petition (D24/462611) was received containing 58 signatures requesting Council stop using herbicides or any other chemicals and poisons at Shore's Reserve and all other open space.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Receives the petition, requesting Council stop using herbicides or any other chemicals and poisons at Shore's Reserve and all other open space.
2. Refers the petition requesting Council stop using herbicides or any other chemicals and poisons at Shore's Reserve and all other open space to the Director City Infrastructure for consideration and response.

Resolution

Cr Yildiz moved, Cr Iwasaki seconded -

That Council:

1. **Receives the petition, requesting Council stop using herbicides or any other chemicals and poisons at Shore's Reserve and all other open space.**
2. **Refers the petition requesting Council stop using herbicides or any other chemicals and poisons at Shore's Reserve and all other open space to the Director City Infrastructure for consideration and response.**
3. **Receives a report to a Council meeting on the matter.**

Carried

5.2 PETITION REGARDING THE EAST FIELD AT HOSKEN RESERVE

A petition was submitted at the Council meeting containing 28 signatures regarding the east field at Hosken Reserve.

Resolution

Cr Bolton moved, Cr Pulford seconded –

That Council receives the petition regarding the east field at Hosken Reserve.

Lost

Cr Pulford called for a division.

For	Against	Abstained
Cr Svensson	Cr Yildiz	Cr Politis
Cr Pulford	Cr Davidson	Cr Abboud
Cr Miles		Cr Theodosis
Cr Bolton		
Cr Irvin		
Cr Iwasaki		
Total For (6)	Total Against (2)	Total Abstain (3)

Carried

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A summary of questions and the responses provided, and items for which community statements were made is provided below. Questions submitted in writing and not asked are taken On Notice.

Public Question Time commenced at 7.27 pm.

Report 7.2 Recommendation following Expression of Interest for Lease of James Martin Reserve (Hadfield) Hall Former Pigeon Club, Clubrooms

Council received 1 statement. It was presented to Council:

Vaissy Dasler made the following statement:

We have applied for use of this space in Hadfield on behalf of Nourishing Neighbours, our emergency food relief charity. Our current lease of a shed at the former Coburg Specialist Development School is coming to an end, and we are looking for a new home so we can continue to operate.

We are proudly 100% volunteer run and have been operating for almost 4 years. Our clients are referred by a support worker- ensuring they are well assisted and receiving all supports available.

To date, we have supplied over 700,000 kilos of food, equating to over 1.4 million meals. We gratefully received an Organisational Establishment grant from Merri-bek Council this year, which will help us upgrade equipment and help build a fit for purpose space.

We appreciate being considered for this Council site in Hadfield, as it will secure our future and ensure we can continue to help residents through difficult times.

Report 7.3 Installation of defibrillators in public areas

Council received 1 statement. It was presented to Council:

John Englart on behalf of Climate Action Merri-bek made the following statement:

I speak in support of the report on installation of defibrillators in public areas. This is an important health response to increasing temperatures and extreme heat driven by climate change. People with heart problems are more at risk in extreme heat. A recent report by The Australia Institute assessed heat vulnerability for suburbs and regions across Australia. I looked up the numbers for Merri-bek and over 22,000 people were assessed as potentially heat vulnerable.

It is also good to see Council considering the timeline for phase out of gas in our Leisure Centres. The redevelopment of the Fawkner Leisure Centre has demonstrated what needs to be done at Brunswick, Oak Park and Coburg.

Report 7.9 Contract Award: RFT 2024-54 Shore Reserve Pavilion Upgrade

Council received 1 statement. It was presented to Council:

Ian Allen made the following statement:

I am President of the West Coburg Football Club as well as the cricket club, netball club and softball club, it makes up the West Coburg Sports Club. I'm here to make a statement about the pavilion upgrade at Shore Reserve.

This has been a long journey over a period of 8 to 10 years and we are excited as a club that it looks like this upgrade will go ahead in 2025. Over that period of time there has been many pavilion design changes and while we need to understand the need for compromise due to Council budget restraints, we believe this redevelopment represents a significant opportunity to address the needs of our club. We are a culturally diverse club with a large female participation in the club and a large community involvement through Auskick, junior footballers, etc.,

As the largest sporting club in the Merri-bek municipality, we would like to revisit some planning issues we have had with the redevelopment to meet today's modern standards with gender equity, culturally inclusive and environmental responsibilities as well as functional needs for our members. In line with the Council's Zero Carbon Merri-bek initiative and looking at the recent Hosken Reserve upgrade, which is a model for a modern community base facility in the Merri-bek municipality. We would like to explore all options sustainable for our redevelopment, and that would include energy, recycling and environmental issues to make sure that we get the best facilities.

We look forward to working with council over the next nine months to deliver a sustainable and functional sports facility, and to give our members the best facility that Council can possibly give us and keep us proud of our club.

Notice of Motion 8.3 Turning roads into parks

Council received 1 question. It was presented to Council:

Andrea Bunting asked what is the minimum size of created open space for the Council to regard it as of value, to regard it as a Pocket Park and for the Council to fund it through Public Open Space Contributions?

At the request of the Mayor, Director City Infrastructure, Anita Curnow responded:

There is no minimum size for open space to be of value – a small nature strip with a seat on it provides value, all the way through to large swathes of parkland.

There is no minimum size for a Pocket Park either, but to warrant it being a named place defined as a park or reserve, the area needs to be distinguishable and perform a role of people being able to dwell there for a time, as per the definition you read out.

Any park as described in the Open Space Strategy could qualify for Public Open Space Contributions. This would not include seating placed on a nature strip.

Report 7.6 Governance Report - December 2024 - Cyclical Report

Council received 3 questions. One submitter did not attend and their question was taken on notice. The following 2 questions were presented to Council:

Question 1

Marion Attwater asked if all Councillors should be appointed to the Community Planning Reference Group and not just the Mayor and 4 Councillors, in accordance with section 28 (1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*?

At the request of the Mayor, Director Business Transformation, Sue Vujcevic responded:

The purpose of the Community Planning Councillor Reference Group is broadly to provide an oversight role on engagement processes for key plans and documents, therefore all Councillors are not required for this reference group and section 28 (1) does not require all Councillors to be part of a reference group.

All Councillors, will of course, contribute to setting the strategic direction of Council, including through adoption of the next Council Plan.

Question 2

Marion Attwater asked if the terms of reference for all the advisory committees, reference groups, internal committees, external committees and joint working groups should be included in the meeting agenda so that Councillors can check what they are being appointed to, and where can a member of the public find information on the purpose and operation of portfolios?

The Mayor responded:

Councillors have been fully briefed on the appointments to committees and external bodies, and have had the opportunity to ask questions of Council officers. There is no requirement that the terms of reference be included in the meeting, which are available on Council's website. Information in relation to external bodies like the municipal Association of Victoria, is available on respective websites.

The appointment of Portfolio Councillors has been a very long-standing practice and explained in our Annual Report. Those roles are appointed by the Council to take the lead in areas of interest that they hold.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS - QUESTIONS

Public litter and bins

Aaron Scheibner asked what is being done to address the public litter, specifically along bike tracks, main roads, train tracks as well as rubbish bins constantly being full?

At the request of the Mayor, Director City Infrastructure, Anita Curnow responded:

Most public litter bins are collected 7 days a week, some are in areas that are used less frequently and are collected 2 to 3 times a week. Bins are collected early in the morning before shopping strips are open to make it clean before trading.

Along bike tracks and main roads Council provides regular street sweeping services, there are different frequencies of street sweeping depending on the bike track or main road in question. We do have very regular street sweeping in our activity centres.

Bike path maintenance to improve the safety for cyclists and pedestrians

Aaron Scheibner asked about bike track maintenance and what is being done to improve the safety of these for cyclists and pedestrians?

7.53 pm Cr Miles left the meeting

At the request of the Mayor, Director City Infrastructure, Anita Curnow responded:

Council has ongoing programs of inspecting bike paths and roads that are used by bikes as well, to ensure that they meet Council's Road Management Plan requirements. As a part of that, Council also receives information from the community where they have identified issues to be addressed.

7.54 pm Cr Miles returned to the meeting

The Coburg Health and Community Services Precinct

Andy Barras asked about the Coburg Health and Community Services Precinct, following the sale of the land to Coburg Health Hub in August 2022, and whether the project is still being delivered?

At the request of the Mayor, Director Place and Environment, Pene Winslade responded:

Council made the decision to proceed with the proposal for a health and community services precinct in 2021, to respond to identified and growing gaps in local services. Since the adoption of a masterplan in 2022, a lot of work has been happening behind the scenes. The project has made significant progress and is currently on track to deliver the full precinct.

The development proposal was lodged with planning in July this year, and Council's Town Planning team is currently working through all of the issues you would expect with a large scale proposal of this type. Once all the necessary information is provided, Council will give public notice of the application, as part of the normal planning process, after which an officer assessment will be completed and reported for decision to a future Planning and Related Matters Council meeting.

The details of the contract between the developer and Council are confidential but I can confirm that Council negotiated that the land would return to Council if the project did not proceed for any reason.

Public Question Time Extension

Resolution

Cr Abboud moved, Cr Bolton seconded -

That Public Question Time be extended by 30 minutes at 7.57 pm.

Carried

Fawkner Merri Creek Parklands Vision

John Englart asked if there are any plans to install 2 new soccer fields at Moomba Park or replace the Sports Pavilion and what are the needs and vision for the area?

At the request of the Mayor, Director Community, Eamonn Fennessy responded:

To clarify, Council is delighted to have received \$1.45 million for funding from the Federal Government for sports and community facility improvements at Moomba Park, Fawkner.

This funding will help replace the existing pavilion on the west side of the sports ground completely, build fit for purpose all gender change rooms and social rooms within the facility, along with a new kitchen. These new facilities will be shared and available for the wider local community and for sports clubs.

The existing outdated social rooms on the south side of the sports ground will be demolished and a new public toilet installed near the playground. This site was the most requested site for a new publicly accessible toilet in the recent 'Lifting the lid on public toilets' engagement with the community in the whole of Merri-bek.

The project funding does not include two new soccer fields, however the demolition of the social rooms and new toilet location means Council could in future reconfigure the existing sports ground to support two soccer fields.

Council will now re-approach the community, sports clubs and community groups to build the new concept design and conduct wider community engagement.

The grant funding does not include the expansion and the reconstruction of existing sporting fields. This will not include synthetic sporting fields.

Debris in kerb and channels in Brunswick

Alison Turvey made the following statement:

I am concerned about the debris in the kerb and channels anywhere in Brunswick. I have many concerns actually but one I'd like to raise tonight is about the gutters.

There is no flow in most of the gutters around Brunswick and the water sits about halfway across the road, especially in Frith Street until it evaporates and now coming into summer we have a lot of mozzies. I think it needs to be raised, a lot of the curbing is not up to standard in what I would say is my standard, my father was a stonework specialist, they are not level.

You cannot sue the Council if you have a nasty fall. In my opinion if works done, the people that do the repair should take photos to show to the Council, if you are satisfied that it is all level. Just so that we can avoid any issues and even for appearance, we want to enhance the area, not how it looks with all the graffiti and uneven footpaths. I had a trip myself, I have seen many people trip in the street.

The other issue is that most streets have like a garden bed in the gutters. I could pick parsley in the gutter recently and many other plants. I do think that they need to get someone that will come and manually move all the soil and everything away from the gutters, then the sweeper can come and just take it.

Where I live there are so many cars, the sweeper can't really do the job. He's been about three times in the last week and hadn't put in an appearance for some years until recently.

I do think that it is a big issue that because the gardens are there in the gutter, the water won't flow as well. If you go to Staley street it flows but nowhere else. I'd like everyone just view it and have a look, you will see that I'm right. Brunswick has flooded three times since 1973.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS - QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Council received a further 2 questions relating to:

- Cost per Council meeting for Councillor and staff meals
- Mayoral vehicle

As the submitters were not present, their questions were taken on notice.

Public Question Time concluded at 8.04 pm.

COUNCIL REPORTS

7.1 ENGAGEMENT APPROACH FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING

Executive Summary

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires Council to review the Community Vision, 10-year Asset Plan and 10-year Financial Plan (the key Plans). The Act requires that these key plans be reviewed in accordance with Council's deliberative engagement practices.

The Act also requires Council to prepare and adopt 4-year Council Plan in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices.

This report proposes an engagement approach for the review and preparation of these key plans through four distinct stages that meet Council's legislative requirements and Council's Community Engagement Policy 2024.

In summary, a four-stage approach is proposed to be led by the Mayor, supported by a Community Planning Councillor Reference Group, which is proposed to be established via a separate Council resolution to support the engagement program relating to the review of the key plans. The four stages are:

- Stage 1 Community Context Report (Analysis of several key engagement processes undertaken over the past four years).
- Stage 2 Deliberative engagement, by a randomly selected group of community members, with the additional recommended option of a Youth Panel.
- Stage 3 Councillor Engagement (to set new Strategic Direction for their new Council Plan).
- Stage 4 Public Exhibition.

A communications campaign will support this process to encourage and maximise community participation, with information provided on Council's dedicated online digital engagement platform, Conversations Merri-bek and made accessible via other communications channels.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Endorses the proposed deliberative engagement approach to review the 10-Year Community Vision, 10-year Asset Plan and 10-year Financial Plan, and prepare a 4-year Council Plan (incorporating the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan) for adoption by 31 October 2025, in line with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
2. Establishes a deliberative Youth Panel to work alongside the adult Community Panel as part of the broader Community Panel structure for the review of the Community Vision.
3. Notes the Mayor and the Community Planning Councillor Reference Group will continue to work on and refine the engagement plan, including methodology and timelines.

Resolution

Cr Bolton moved, Cr Pulford seconded -

That Council:

1. Endorses the proposed deliberative engagement approach to review the 10-Year Community Vision, 10-year Asset Plan and 10-year Financial Plan, and prepare a 4-year Council Plan (incorporating the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan) for adoption by 31 October 2025, in line with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020.
2. Establishes a deliberative Youth Panel to work alongside the adult Community Panel as part of the broader Community Panel structure for the review of the Community Vision.
3. Exhibits the draft 10-year Community Vision, long-term Asset Plan, long-term Financial Plan and 4-year Council Plan (incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan) for public viewing and feedback for a minimum of 20 business days.
4. Notes the Mayor and the Community Planning Councillor Reference Group will continue to work on and refine the engagement plan, including methodology and timelines.

Carried unanimously

8.06 pm Cr Svensson left the meeting after the vote on 7.1.

7.2 RECOMMENDATION FOLLOWING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR LEASE OF JAMES MARTIN RESERVE (HADFIELD) HALL FORMER PIGEON CLUB, CLUBROOMS

Executive Summary

This report seeks to award the preferred community organisation, Nourishing Neighbours, as the proponent to operate and manage the James Martin Reserve Hall as per Council's Lease agreement.

An Expression of Interest was released on Monday 12 August 2024, with an original closing date of Friday 6 September 2024, which was extended to Wednesday 18 September and then again till 30 September specifically to allow current tenant - the 'Pigeon Club' – opportunity to respond.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Notes the Expression of Interest process and evaluation recommendations.
2. Notes that it is not required to undertake a statutory process under section 115 of the *Local Government Act 2020* for this lease.
3. Endorses Nourishing Neighbours, a not-for-profit organisation, as the successful proponent to operate and manage the community facility at James Martin Reserve Hall (Former Pigeon Club).
4. Notes the terms of the lease will be for three years, with an additional further three-year option at \$800.00 per annum rent.
5. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to negotiate and formalise the community lease at James Martin Reserve Hall.

6. Notes that the 'Pigeon Club' will be notified that their current arrangements as advised in their Lease agreement and EOI process will cease and that they will be required to vacate the building by no later than the 15 March 2025.

Resolution

Cr Yildiz moved, Cr Abboud seconded -

That Council:

1. **Notes the Expression of Interest process and evaluation recommendations.**
2. **Notes that it is not required to undertake a statutory process under section 115 of the Local Government Act 2020 for this lease.**
3. **Endorses Nourishing Neighbours, a not-for-profit organisation, as the successful proponent to operate and manage the community facility at James Martin Reserve Hall (Former Pigeon Club).**
4. **Notes the terms of the lease will be for three years, with an additional further three-year option at \$800.00 per annum rent.**
5. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to negotiate and formalise the community lease at James Martin Reserve Hall.**
6. **Notes that the 'Pigeon Club' will be notified that their current arrangements as advised in their Lease agreement and EOI process will cease and that they will be required to vacate the building by no later than the 15 March 2025.**

Carried unanimously

7.3 INSTALLATION OF DEFIBRILLATORS IN PUBLIC AREAS

Executive Summary

The installation of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in public open spaces in Merri-bek City Council has the potential to significantly enhance public safety and health outcomes, particularly in emergency situations involving cardiac arrest. The benefits of increased survival rates, improved accessibility to life-saving equipment, and enhanced community engagement far outweigh the costs when considering the potential to save lives.

The extension of installing AEDs in public open spaces along with maintaining existing AEDs in Council owned buildings, will ensure adequate coverage. Consideration for this report has been given to the costs of initial investment, maintenance, training, and potential risks of vandalism.

Investigating the inclusion of Merri-bek in a 'Heart Safe Community' initiative aims to improve survival rates for people suffering cardiac arrest across Victoria by teaching community members how to perform CPR and use an AED when needed. Exploring a further partnership with local community organisations such as Neighbourhood Houses to participate would strengthen the community's confidence in dealing with sudden and emergency cardiac arrests.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Invests in a municipal wide 'Heart Safe Community' program which includes the ongoing maintenance of existing Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in Council owned buildings, the installation of new AEDs in identified relevant public open spaces, and exploring a broader community campaign to build community confidence to respond to immediate cardiac arrest emergencies.
2. Refers the currently un-budgeted amount of \$62,500 for the above to the 2025/26 budget for further consideration.

Resolution

Cr Pulford moved, Cr Iwasaki seconded -

That Council:

1. **Invests in a municipal wide 'Heart Safe Community' program which includes the ongoing maintenance of existing Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in Council owned buildings and the installation of new AEDs in identified relevant public open spaces, exploring a broader community campaign to build community confidence to respond to immediate cardiac arrest emergencies, including contacting Community First Responders Australia (CFRA), St John's 'Defib in your Street' and similar organisations who enable community led access to and training in defibrillator use.**
2. **Refers the currently un-budgeted amount of \$62,500 for the above to the 2025/26 budget for further consideration.**

8.12 pm Cr Svensson returned to the meeting during the debate.

Carried unanimously

7.4 YEAR 4 COUNCIL ACTION PLAN 2024-25 - FIRST QUARTER PERFORMANCE REPORT

Executive Summary

The First Quarter Performance Report (provided as Attachment 1) provides an overview of Council's performance through the delivery of the Council Plan 2021-25, specifically the Year 4 Council Action Plan 2024-25.

The status of the 64 actions is as follows:

- 1% (1 action) closed (achieved)
- 96% (61 actions) in progress (on track)
- 3% (2 actions) yet to begin (action not started).

The Year 4 Council Action Plan in the first quarter shows that over 96% of actions are on track for completion in the delivering the final year action plan for the overarching 2021-25 Council Plan.

This report also includes updates on those actions that were not achieved in the 2023-24 Council Action Plan, and as resolved by Council on 14 August 2024, to continue reporting on these actions until their completion as outlined in section three of this report.

This report further highlights the overall progress of delivering initiatives as outlined in the Council Plan 2021-25.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Notes the Year 4 Council Action Plan 2024-25 – First Quarter Performance Report (provided as Attachment 1) and the achievements to date in delivering against the Council Plan 2021-25
2. Notes one action from the Council Action Plan 2023-24 has been delivered and there is one remaining action 'not achieved'.

Resolution

Cr Bolton moved, Cr Yildiz seconded -

That Council:

1. **Notes the Year 4 Council Action Plan 2024-25 – First Quarter Performance Report (provided as Attachment 1) and the achievements to date in delivering against the Council Plan 2021-25.**
2. **Notes one action from the Council Action Plan 2023-24 has been delivered and there is one remaining action 'not achieved'.**

Carried

7.5 2024-25 FIRST QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT

The First Quarter Financial Report gives an overview of Council's performance through delivery of the budget. It compares the actual revenue and expenditure with the budgeted revenue and expenditure year to date (YTD) and assesses the financial performance in the first quarter to determine a forecast outcome for 30 June 2025.

A detailed financial review was undertaken across the organisation at the end of September 2024 to form the 2024-25 First Quarter Financial Review (Q1 Forecast). This process provided Council the opportunity to review its YTD performance and reallocate available financial resources to maximise the delivery on its strategic objectives. The results of this review are included in this report as the Q1 Forecast.

For the three months ended 30 September 2024, Council has achieved an operating surplus result of \$159.9 million which is \$3.9 million (3%) more than the YTD budget of \$156.0 million. It is important to note that the operating surplus does not convert to immediately available cash to Council. Surplus funds are used to fund important community infrastructure projects like the Fawkner Leisure Centre redevelopment or the Cultural and Community Hub at 33 Saxon Street, Brunswick.

As described above, significant amounts of surplus are restricted by legislation and must be used for future infrastructure investment.

Council's forecast adjusted underlying surplus of \$19.3 million is \$0.7 million more than the adopted budget of \$18.6 million. This result is important as it measures Council's ability to generate a surplus in the ordinary course of business – excluding non-recurrent capital grants, non-monetary asset contributions, and other contributions to fund capital expenditure from net results.

The increase in the adjusted underlying surplus in the Q1 forecast suggests an improvement in the operating position.

The forecast unrestricted result of \$0.01 million remains the same as the adopted budget.

Council has spent \$19.8 million on capital expenditure as at the end of September which is \$3.8 million (16%) less than the YTD budget of \$23.6 million, with \$72.9 (91%) of the adopted full year budget remaining.

After a detailed review of the capital works program, there is a forecast increase of \$21.4 million from the adopted budget of \$92.7 to \$114.1 million. This is due to \$16.4 million of additional capital carry forwards from 2023-24, 15 projects requiring additional funding of \$3.4 million and \$2.5 million of projects brought forward from future years offset by \$4.9 million of carry forwards into 2025-26 and \$2.8 million of savings.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Notes the 2024-25 First Quarter Financial Report for the period ending 30 September 2024, including operating performance and capital performance at Attachment 1.
2. Notes the status of the capital works program for 2024-25.
3. Notes the increase to the full-year forecast for operating income of \$12.7 million and the increase to operating expenditure of \$4.9 million arising from the 2024-25 First Quarter Financial Review.
4. Endorses the full-year capital expenditure forecast of \$114.1 million, arising from the 2024-25 First Quarter Financial Review.
5. Carries forward the following capital project funding to the 2025-26 Capital Works Program:
 - a) Grant funded projects to be carried forward if the funding is secured and received this financial year:
 - Brunswick Early Years Hub - \$2,100,000
 - b) Rates funded projects:
 - Dunstan Reserve Childcare - \$2,000,000
 - Kendall/Harding Footbridge over Merri Creek - \$800,000
6. Brings forward the following capital project funding to the 2024-25 Capital Works Program:
 - South Street from Jensen to West, Road Reconstruction - \$952,380
 - Yungera Street from Wyuna to Mutton, Road Reconstruction - \$744,244
 - Fawkner Leisure Centre Redevelopment - \$642,000
 - Kerbside Waste Reform - \$103,510
 - Charles Mutton Reserve - \$50,000.
7. Approves funding for new projects in the 2024-25 Capital Works Program:
 - Property Purchase (fully reserve funded) \$3,245,000
 - Coburg North Sport Hub Upgrades (transferred from operating) - \$1,780,152
 - Sylvester Street Oak Park Land Slide - \$750,000
 - Pedestrian Improvements (fully grant funded) - \$598,140
 - Blackspot Project East Street and North Street, Hadfield (fully grant funded) - \$88,464
 - Edgars Creek Corridor Connection Project (fully grant funded) - \$77,302
 - Shade Sail Installation – Anne Sgro Children’s Centre (86% grant funded) - \$48,295
 - Immunisation Room – Minor Capital - \$18,000
 - Oxygen Youth Centre – Accessible Door Installation - \$12,000.
8. Approves additional funding for existing projects in the 2024-25 Capital Works Program:
 - Hosken Reserve Stage 4 Open Space and Civil Work (fully reserve funded) - \$1,678,799

- Park Close to Home Frith Street (50% grant funded, 50% reserve funded) - \$650,136
 - Dunstan Reserve Stormwater Harvesting (fully grant funded) - \$375,000
 - Snell Grove – Public Toilet, Oak Park – \$155,000
 - Raeburn Reserve – Lights - \$142,150
 - Shore Reserve – Public Reserve – Reynard Street – \$142,000
 - Fawkner Community Hall – CB Smith Reserve - \$120,000
 - Lake Reserve Toilets – Adjoining Tool Shed - \$40,000
 - Temple Park Public Toilet Renewal – 24 Gray Street - \$30,000
 - Coburg Olympic Pool – Pool Plant and Building Works - \$20,000
 - Commercial Tenancy Maintenance Obligations - \$20,000
 - Hadfield Depot Internal Break Out Area Works - \$20,000
 - Oak Park Kindergarten - \$20,000
 - Parker Reserve – Pavilion South - \$10,172
 - Municipal Art Collection: Various - \$8,200.
9. Notes savings realised from existing projects in the 2024-25 Capital Works Program:
- Hosken Reserve Stage 3 Football Pitches - \$512,836
 - Gym Equipment Replacement Program Fawkner Leisure Centre - \$374,900
 - McPherson Street from Dead End to Reynard - \$320,628
 - Carnarvon Street from Blyth to Dorothy, Road Reconstruction - \$172,028
 - Pascoe Vale Community Centre – Children's Area Refurbishment - \$164,266
 - Kent Road from Bawden to Derby, Road Reconstruction - \$158,183
 - Park Renewal – Evans Reserve - \$154,000
 - Bain Avenue from Plaisted to Boundary, Road Reconstruction - \$151,458
 - Paisley Court from Bluebell Kerb Line to Dead End, Road Reconstruction - \$126,978
 - Beccles Street from Anderson Kerb Line to Lowson Kerb Line - \$122,212
 - Carnarvon Street from Dorothy to Stewart, Road Reconstruction - \$110,000
 - Lonsdale Street from Ohea to Murray, Road Reconstruction - \$102,559
 - Chris Court from Devereaux to Dead End, Road Reconstruction - \$59,660
 - Allard Park Sportsfield Redevelopment - \$47,362
 - Carbon Management Strategy: Various - \$20,000
 - De Carle Street: The Grove to Rennie – Coburg - \$7,509
 - De Carle Street: The Avenue to The Grove – Coburg - \$5,492.

Resolution

Cr Abboud moved, Cr Miles seconded -

That Council:

- 1. Notes the 2024-25 First Quarter Financial Report for the period ending 30 September 2024, including operating performance and capital performance at Attachment 1.**
- 2. Notes the status of the capital works program for 2024-25.**
- 3. Notes the increase to the full-year forecast for operating income of \$12.7 million and the increase to operating expenditure of \$4.9 million arising from the 2024-25 First Quarter Financial Review.**
- 4. Endorses the full-year capital expenditure forecast of \$114.1 million, arising from the 2024-25 First Quarter Financial Review.**

5. Carries forward the following capital project funding to the 2025-26 Capital Works Program:
 - a) Grant funded projects to be carried forward if the funding is secured and received this financial year:
 - Brunswick Early Years Hub - \$2,100,000
 - b) Rates funded projects:
 - Dunstan Reserve Childcare - \$2,000,000
 - Kendall/Harding Footbridge over Merri Creek - \$800,000
6. Brings forward the following capital project funding to the 2024-25 Capital Works Program:
 - South Street from Jensen to West, Road Reconstruction - \$952,380
 - Yungera Street from Wyuna to Mutton, Road Reconstruction - \$744,244
 - Fawkner Leisure Centre Redevelopment - \$642,000
 - Kerbside Waste Reform - \$103,510
 - Charles Mutton Reserve - \$50,000.
7. Approves funding for new projects in the 2024-25 Capital Works Program:
 - Property Purchase (fully reserve funded) \$3,245,000
 - Coburg North Sport Hub Upgrades (transferred from operating) - \$1,780,152
 - Sylvester Street Oak Park Land Slide - \$750,000
 - Pedestrian Improvements (fully grant funded) - \$598,140
 - Blackspot Project East Street and North Street, Hadfield (fully grant funded) - \$88,464
 - Edgars Creek Corridor Connection Project (fully grant funded) - \$77,302
 - Shade Sail Installation – Anne Sgro Children’s Centre (86% grant funded) - \$48,295
 - Immunisation Room – Minor Capital - \$18,000
 - Oxygen Youth Centre – Accessible Door Installation - \$12,000.
8. Approves additional funding for existing projects in the 2024-25 Capital Works Program:
 - Hosken Reserve Stage 4 Open Space and Civil Work (fully reserve funded) - \$1,678,799
 - Park Close to Home Frith Street (50% grant funded, 50% reserve funded) - \$650,136
 - Dunstan Reserve Stormwater Harvesting (fully grant funded) - \$375,000
 - Snell Grove – Public Toilet, Oak Park – \$155,000
 - Raeburn Reserve – Lights - \$142,150
 - Shore Reserve – Public Reserve – Reynard Street – \$142,000
 - Fawkner Community Hall – CB Smith Reserve - \$120,000
 - Lake Reserve Toilets – Adjoining Tool Shed - \$40,000
 - Temple Park Public Toilet Renewal – 24 Gray Street - \$30,000
 - Coburg Olympic Pool – Pool Plant and Building Works - \$20,000
 - Commercial Tenancy Maintenance Obligations - \$20,000
 - Hadfield Depot Internal Break Out Area Works - \$20,000
 - Oak Park Kindergarten - \$20,000
 - Parker Reserve – Pavilion South - \$10,172
 - Municipal Art Collection: Various - \$8,200.
9. Notes savings realised from existing projects in the 2024-25 Capital Works Program:
 - Hosken Reserve Stage 3 Football Pitches - \$512,836

- Gym Equipment Replacement Program Fawkner Leisure Centre - \$374,900
- McPherson Street from Dead End to Reynard - \$320,628
- Carnarvon Street from Blyth to Dorothy, Road Reconstruction - \$172,028
- Pascoe Vale Community Centre – Children’s Area Refurbishment - \$164,266
- Kent Road from Bawden to Derby, Road Reconstruction - \$158,183
- Park Renewal – Evans Reserve - \$154,000
- Bain Avenue from Plaisted to Boundary, Road Reconstruction - \$151,458
- Paisley Court from Bluebell Kerb Line to Dead End, Road Reconstruction - \$126,978
- Beccles Street from Anderson Kerb Line to Lawson Kerb Line - \$122,212
- Carnarvon Street from Dorothy to Stewart, Road Reconstruction - \$110,000
- Lonsdale Street from Ohea to Murray, Road Reconstruction - \$102,559
- Chris Court from Devereaux to Dead End, Road Reconstruction - \$59,660
- Allard Park Sportsfield Redevelopment - \$47,362
- Carbon Management Strategy: Various - \$20,000
- De Carle Street: The Grove to Rennie – Coburg - \$7,509
- De Carle Street: The Avenue to The Grove – Coburg - \$5,492.

Carried unanimously

7.6 GOVERNANCE REPORT - DECEMBER 2024 - CYCLICAL REPORT

Executive Summary

The Governance report is prepared as a monthly standing report to Council which provides a single reporting platform for a range of statutory compliance, transparency, and governance related matters.

This Governance report includes:

- A summary of the minutes of Advisory Committees and Groups.
- Records of Meetings, with a recommendation that Council notes the records.
- A recommendation that Council appoints and authorises the Council officers referred to in the Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (*Planning and Environment Act 1987*).
- A quarterly report on key customer service measures.
- A review and evaluation of the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-2025 – Year 3 actions.
- Appointments to Portfolios, Internal Committees, Advisory Committees, Reference Groups and other External Bodies.
- The receipt and noting of the Councillors declarations of office.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Notes the Records of Meetings, at Attachment 1 to this report.

2. In the exercise of the powers conferred by section 147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and section 313 of the *Local Government Act 2020*:
 - a) Appoints and authorises Council staff referred to in the Instrument at Attachment 2 to this report, as set out in the instrument.
 - b) Determines the instrument comes into force immediately, the common seal of Council is affixed to the instrument, remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it, and revokes the previous Instrument executed on 16 September 2024.
 - c) Authorises the affixing of Council's common seal.
3. Notes the quarterly report on key customer service measures for the first quarter 2024/25 at Attachment 3 to this report.
4. Notes the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-2025 - Year 3 Annual Review and Evaluation at Attachment 4 to this report.
5. Appoints Portfolio Councillors, known as 'Councillors Responsible For...', for the 2024/25 Mayoral year as follows:

Arts and Culture	Cr
Climate and Nature	Cr
Early Years	Cr
Economic Development	Cr
Human Rights	Cr
Multiculturalism	Cr
Older Persons	Cr
Sport and Recreation	Cr
Transport and Getting Around	Cr
Urban Planning	Cr
Women	Cr
Young People	Cr

6. Appoints Councillors to internal committees, advisory groups, network and external committees for the 2024/25 Mayoral year as follows:

Internal Committees	
Audit and Risk Committee	Cr Cr Cr
CEO Employment and Remuneration Matters Committee	All Councillors
Community Planning – Councillor Reference Group	Mayor Cr Cr Cr Cr
Coburg Revitalisation Oversight Committee	Mayor (Chair) Cr/s
Brunswick Advisory Group	Cr (Chair) Cr/s
Coburg Advisory Group	Cr/s

Glenroy Advisory Group	Cr/s
Merri-bek Community Recognition Committee (Merri-bek Awards)	Cr Cr Cr
External Committees	
Friends of Aileu Community Committee	Cr
Merri Creek Management Committee	Cr Cr (substitute)
Metropolitan Transport Forum	Cr Cr
Municipal Association of Victoria (Representative)	Cr Cr (substitute)
M9 Committee	Mayor
Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA) Executive	Cr Cr (substitute)
Northern Councils Alliance	Mayor; and Cr (substitute)

7. Extends the tenure of the current advisory committees and reference groups (including the appointment of the existing community members) until July 2025 to enable a review of existing committees and reference groups.
8. Adopts the Terms of Reference for the Community Planning – Councillor Reference Group, provided at Attachment 5.
9. Appoints Councillors to advisory committees and reference groups for the 2024/25 Mayoral year as follows:

Advisory Committees	
Arts Advisory Committee	Cr (Chair)
Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee	Cr (Chair)
First Nations Advisory Committee	Cr (co-Chair)
Human Rights and Inclusion Advisory Committee	Cr (Chair)
Sustainable Transport Advisory Committee	Cr (Chair)
Reference Groups	
Affordable Housing Reference Group	Cr
Age-Friendly (Older People) Reference Group	Cr
Disability Reference Group	Cr
Gender Equality Reference Group	Cr
Heritage and Local History Reference Group	Cr
LGBTIQA+ Reference Group	Cr

10. Receives and notes the declarations of office from each of the duly elected Councillors as executed.

Motion

Cr Pulford moved, Cr Svensson seconded -

That Council:

1. Notes the Records of Meetings, at Attachment 1 to this report.
2. In the exercise of the powers conferred by section 147(4) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and section 313 of the Local Government Act 2020:
 - a) Appoints and authorises Council staff referred to in the Instrument at Attachment 2 to this report, as set out in the instrument.
 - b) Determines the instrument comes into force immediately, the common seal of Council is affixed to the instrument, remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it, and revokes the previous Instrument executed on 16 September 2024.
 - c) Authorises the affixing of Council's common seal.
3. Notes the quarterly report on key customer service measures for the first quarter 2024/25 at Attachment 3 to this report.
4. Notes the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-2025 - Year 3 Annual Review and Evaluation at Attachment 4 to this report.
5. Appoints Portfolio Councillors, known as 'Councillors Responsible For...', for the 2024/25 Mayoral year as follows:

Arts and Culture	Cr Iwasaki Cr Pulford Cr Abboud
Climate and Nature	Cr Iwasaki Cr Svensson
Early Years	Cr Svensson Cr Yildiz
Economic Development	Cr Yildiz Cr Miles Cr Politis Cr Pulford Cr Abboud
Human Rights	Cr Svensson
Multiculturalism	Cr Theodosis Cr Iwasaki Cr Yildiz Cr Politis
Older Persons	Cr Yildiz Cr Miles
Sport and Recreation	Cr Yildiz Cr Davidson Cr Theodosis Cr Politis Cr Miles Cr Irvin
Transport and Getting Around	Cr Miles Cr Irvin

	Cr Pulford
Urban Planning	Cr Svensson Cr Miles Cr Irvin Cr Iwasaki
Women	Cr Abboud Cr Theodosis
Young People	Cr Svensson Cr Yildiz

6. Appoints Councillors to internal committees, advisory groups, network and external committees for the 2024/25 Mayoral year as follows:

Internal Committees	
Audit and Risk Committee	Cr Svensson Cr Davidson Cr Politis
CEO Employment and Remuneration Matters Committee	All Councillors
Community Planning – Councillor Reference Group	Mayor Cr Abboud Cr Svensson Cr Miles Cr Pulford Cr Yildiz
Coburg Revitalisation Oversight Committee	Mayor (Chair) Cr Abboud Cr Politis Cr Iwasaki
Brunswick Advisory Group	Cr Svensson Cr Pulford Cr Irvin Cr Iwasaki
Coburg Advisory Group	Cr Abboud Cr Politis Cr Iwasaki
Glenroy Advisory Group	Cr Davidson Cr Miles Cr Yildiz Cr Theodosis
Merri-bek Community Recognition Committee (Merri-bek Awards)	Cr Abboud Cr Iwasaki Cr Yildiz Cr Politis
External Committees	
Friends of Aileu Community Committee	Cr Pulford Cr Miles
Merri Creek Management Committee	Cr Abboud Cr Irvin (substitute)

Metropolitan Transport Forum	Cr Miles Cr Irvin (substitute)
Municipal Association of Victoria (Representative)	Cr Pulford Mayor, Cr Davidson (substitute)
M9 Committee	Mayor
Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA) Executive	Cr Iwasaki Cr Svensson (substitute)
Northern Councils Alliance	Mayor; and Cr Yildiz (substitute)

7. Extends the tenure of the current advisory committees and reference groups (including the appointment of the existing community members) until July 2025 to enable a review of existing committees and reference groups.
8. Adopts the Terms of Reference for the Community Planning – Councillor Reference Group, provided at Attachment 5.
9. Appoints Councillors to advisory committees and reference groups for the 2024/25 Mayoral year as follows:

Advisory Committees	
Arts Advisory Committee	Cr Iwasaki (Chair) Cr Abboud
Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee	Cr Iwasaki (Chair)
First Nations Advisory Committee	Cr Bolton (co-Chair)
Human Rights and Inclusion Advisory Committee	Cr Svensson (Chair) Cr Abboud
Sustainable Transport Advisory Committee	Cr Irvin (Chair)
Reference Groups	
Affordable Housing Reference Group	Cr Svensson
Age-Friendly (Older People) Reference Group	Cr Yildiz
Disability Reference Group	Cr Bolton
Gender Equality Reference Group	Cr Theodosis Cr Abboud
Heritage and Local History Reference Group	Cr Bolton
LGBTIQA+ Reference Group	Cr Svensson Cr Pulford

10. Receives and notes the declarations of office from each of the duly elected Councillors as executed.

Amendment

Cr Yildiz moved, Cr Iwasaki seconded –

That Cr Yildiz be appointed as Council's representative to the Municipal Association of Victoria for the 2024/25 Mayoral year.

Carried

Cr Pulford called for a division.

For

Cr Yildiz
Cr Theodosios
Cr Miles
Cr Davidson
Cr Politis

Total For (5)

Against

Cr Abboud
Cr Bolton
Cr Irvin
Cr Iwasaki
Cr Pulford
Cr Svensson

Total Against (6)

Lost

Resolution

Cr Pulford moved, Cr Svensson seconded -

That Council:

1. Notes the Records of Meetings, at Attachment 1 to this report.
2. In the exercise of the powers conferred by section 147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and section 313 of the *Local Government Act 2020*:
 - a) Appoints and authorises Council staff referred to in the Instrument at Attachment 2 to this report, as set out in the instrument.
 - b) Determines the instrument comes into force immediately, the common seal of Council is affixed to the instrument, remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it, and revokes the previous Instrument executed on 16 September 2024.
 - c) Authorises the affixing of Council's common seal.
3. Notes the quarterly report on key customer service measures for the first quarter 2024/25 at Attachment 3 to this report.
4. Notes the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-2025 - Year 3 Annual Review and Evaluation at Attachment 4 to this report.
5. Appoints Portfolio Councillors, known as 'Councillors Responsible For...', for the 2024/25 Mayoral year as follows:

Arts and Culture	Cr Iwasaki Cr Pulford Cr Abboud
Climate and Nature	Cr Iwasaki Cr Svensson
Early Years	Cr Svensson Cr Yildiz
Economic Development	Cr Yildiz Cr Miles Cr Politis Cr Pulford Cr Abboud
Human Rights	Cr Svensson
Multiculturalism	Cr Theodosios Cr Iwasaki Cr Yildiz Cr Politis

Older Persons	Cr Yildiz Cr Miles
Sport and Recreation	Cr Yildiz Cr Davidson Cr Theodosis Cr Politis Cr Miles Cr Irvin
Transport and Getting Around	Cr Miles Cr Irvin Cr Pulford
Urban Planning	Cr Svensson Cr Miles Cr Irvin Cr Iwasaki
Women	Cr Abboud Cr Theodosis
Young People	Cr Svensson Cr Yildiz

6. Appoints Councillors to internal committees, advisory groups, network and external committees for the 2024/25 Mayoral year as follows:

Internal Committees	
Audit and Risk Committee	Cr Svensson Cr Davidson Cr Politis
CEO Employment and Remuneration Matters Committee	All Councillors
Community Planning – Councillor Reference Group	Mayor Cr Abboud Cr Svensson Cr Miles Cr Pulford Cr Yildiz
Coburg Revitalisation Oversight Committee	Mayor (Chair) Cr Abboud Cr Politis Cr Iwasaki
Brunswick Advisory Group	Cr Svensson Cr Pulford Cr Irvin Cr Iwasaki
Coburg Advisory Group	Cr Abboud Cr Politis Cr Iwasaki
Glenroy Advisory Group	Cr Davidson Cr Miles Cr Yildiz

	Cr Theodosius
Merri-bek Community Recognition Committee (Merri-bek Awards)	Cr Abboud Cr Iwasaki Cr Yildiz Cr Politis
External Committees	
Friends of Aileu Community Committee	Cr Pulford Cr Miles
Merri Creek Management Committee	Cr Abboud Cr Irvin (substitute)
Metropolitan Transport Forum	Cr Miles Cr Irvin (substitute)
Municipal Association of Victoria (Representative)	Cr Pulford Mayor Cr Davidson (substitute)
M9 Committee	Mayor
Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA) Executive	Cr Iwasaki Cr Svensson (substitute)
Northern Councils Alliance	Mayor; and Cr Yildiz (substitute)

7. Extends the tenure of the current advisory committees and reference groups (including the appointment of the existing community members) until July 2025 to enable a review of existing committees and reference groups.
8. Adopts the Terms of Reference for the Community Planning – Councillor Reference Group, provided at Attachment 5.
9. Appoints Councillors to advisory committees and reference groups for the 2024/25 Mayoral year as follows:

Advisory Committees	
Arts Advisory Committee	Cr Iwasaki (Chair) Cr Abboud
Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee	Cr Iwasaki (Chair)
First Nations Advisory Committee	Cr Bolton (co-Chair)
Human Rights and Inclusion Advisory Committee	Cr Svensson (Chair) Cr Abboud
Sustainable Transport Advisory Committee	Cr Irvin (Chair)
Reference Groups	
Affordable Housing Reference Group	Cr Svensson
Age-Friendly (Older People) Reference Group	Cr Yildiz
Disability Reference Group	Cr Bolton
Gender Equality Reference Group	Cr Theodosius Cr Abboud
Heritage and Local History Reference Group	Cr Bolton
LGBTIQA+ Reference Group	Cr Svensson Cr Pulford

10. **Receives and notes the declarations of office from each of the duly elected Councillors as executed.**

Carried

8.32 pm *Cr Yildiz left the meeting and did not return.*

7.7 CONTRACT VARIATION: RFT-2024-7 RETAINING WALL RECONSTRUCTION GREENBANK CRESCENT, PASCOE VALE SOUTH

Executive Summary

This report outlines the key issues related to the reconstruction of a section of retaining wall at Greenbank Crescent, part of Council's 2024/25 capital works program. Council awarded Axis Infrastructure Pty Ltd a contract for the reconstruction work with a value of \$816,118.02 (GST exclusive).

During the reconstruction work, further subsidence of road surface was identified which resulted in high risk of failure of the retaining wall beyond the reconstruction zone. As such, officers requested a variation proposal from the contractor to extend the work to cover the area of subsidence.

This report seeks approval of additional \$840,000 (GST exclusive) to the original contract sum. There will be a shortfall of \$831,118.01 (GST exclusive) in the project budget, which will be referred to the second quarterly budget review of 2024/25.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Approves an increase in the total contract sum for Contract RFT-2024-7 Retaining Wall Reconstruction Greenbank Crescent, Pascoe Vale South to \$1,656,118.01 (GST exclusive) for unforeseen variations that have arose during construction, noting that this represents a 103 per cent variation.
2. Refers the budget shortfall of \$831,118.01 (GST exclusive) to the second quarterly budget review of 2024/25.
3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to approve the contract variation, extensions and related documentation as identified in point 1.

Resolution

Cr Bolton moved, Cr Abboud seconded -

That Council:

1. **Approves an increase in the total contract sum for Contract RFT-2024-7 Retaining Wall Reconstruction Greenbank Crescent, Pascoe Vale South to \$1,656,118.01 (GST exclusive) for unforeseen variations that have arose during construction, noting that this represents a 103 per cent variation.**
2. **Refers the budget shortfall of \$831,118.01 (GST exclusive) to the second quarterly budget review of 2024/25.**
3. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to approve the contract variation, extensions and related documentation as identified in point 1.**

Carried

8.33 pm *Cr Bolton left the meeting.*

7.8 CONTRACT AWARD: RFT-2024-41 RICHARDS RESERVE SOCCER FIELD UPGRADE WORKS

Executive Summary

This report seeks the award of the preferred contractor, Global Turf Projects Pty Ltd for the contract RFT-2024-41 Richards Reserve Soccer Field Upgrade works at Richards Reserve.

A request for tender was released on Saturday 14 August 2024 and closed on 6 September 2024, with five (5) tenders received.

The tenders were evaluated and Global Turf Projects Pty Ltd was identified as the preferred tenderer, achieving the highest score through the evaluation process by the evaluation panel.

Global Turf Projects Pty Ltd has previously undertaken soccer field upgrade works that included drainage, irrigation and re-shaping of the ground for other local government authorities to a very good standard.

The lump sum construction Contract includes but is not limited to reshaping of the ground and supply and installation of:

- rootzone sand and drainage gravel
- stormwater drainage, irrigation and pump station
- washed Santa Ana turf maxi roll
- fencing around the soccer field (including 450mm wide concrete edge strip) including pedestrian and vehicular access gates
- 6m high behind-goal netting and mobile soccer goals.

The Contract also includes provisional items of supply and installation of a storm water harvesting system including water storage tanks and filtration.

The tender complies with section 109(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

The cost of this Contract is \$1,253,084.61 (excluding GST). Council's budget in 2024/25 for delivery of this contract is \$1,106,000 (excluding GST). The budget shortfall of \$148,000 for the project is recommended to be referred to the second quarterly financial review for 2024/25.

The target contract commencement date is mid-January 2025. Weather permitting, the ground will be available in approximately November 2025 accounting for the construction period and the time needed for turf establishment.

The tender complies with section 109(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

The cost to deliver this project is \$1,253,084.61 (excluding GST). Council budget in 2024/25 for delivery of this contract is \$1,106,000 excluding GST. The budget shortfall of \$148,000 for the project that is recommended to be referred to the second quarterly financial review for 2024/25.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:
 - a) Make a formal offer to Global Turf Projects Pty Ltd, ACN 608 443 670 (Contractor) to award Contract RFT-2024-41 Richards Reserve Soccer Field Upgrade works (Contract) for the lump sum of \$1,164,051.06 (excluding GST) plus provisional sum of \$89,033.55 (excluding GST), totalling \$1,253,084.61 (excluding GST) and otherwise subject to and in accordance with paragraph 1(b) of this Resolution.
 - b) Negotiate and finalise the Contract terms between Council and the Contractor, subject to the terms specified in paragraph 1(a) not being exceeded.
2. Conditional on acceptance of the Contract by the Contractor in accordance with the terms of this Resolution, authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:
 - a) do all things necessary to execute the Contract and any required documentation for the Contract including exercising of delegations relating to contract variation(s) in accordance with the terms and conditions within the contract; and
 - b) advise all tenderers of Council's decision in relation to the Contract.
3. Refers the budget shortfall of \$148,000 for the project to the second quarterly financial review for 2024/25.

Resolution

Cr Theodosis moved, Cr Iwasaki seconded -

That Council:

1. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:**
 - a) **Make a formal offer to Global Turf Projects Pty Ltd, ACN 608 443 670 (Contractor) to award Contract RFT-2024-41 Richards Reserve Soccer Field Upgrade works (Contract) for the lump sum of \$1,164,051.06 (excluding GST) plus provisional sum of \$89,033.55 (excluding GST), totalling \$1,253,084.61 (excluding GST) and otherwise subject to and in accordance with paragraph 1(b) of this Resolution.**
 - b) **Negotiate and finalise the Contract terms between Council and the Contractor, subject to the terms specified in paragraph 1(a) not being exceeded.**
2. **Conditional on acceptance of the Contract by the Contractor in accordance with the terms of this Resolution, authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:**
 - a) **do all things necessary to execute the Contract and any required documentation for the Contract including exercising of delegations relating to contract variation(s) in accordance with the terms and conditions within the contract; and**
 - b) **advise all tenderers of Council's decision in relation to the Contract.**
3. **Refers the budget shortfall of \$148,000 for the project to the second quarterly financial review for 2024/25.**

Carried

7.9 CONTRACT AWARD: RFT 2024-54 SHORE RESERVE PAVILION UPGRADE

Executive Summary

The "Shore Reserve Pavilion Reconstruction" project originated from the need to address the outdated and inadequate facilities at Shore Reserve. Originally built in the 1950s, the pavilion underwent refurbishments in the 2000s to expand its floor space. With the increasing participation of females in traditionally male-dominated sports like AFL and Cricket, there was a growing demand for more inclusive facilities. The project is a strategic initiative aimed at not only improving the pavilion but also aligning it with AFL Victoria and Cricket Australia guidelines. Additionally, it reflects the strategic goals outlined in the Council Plan, which prioritise community engagement, sustainability, and the enhancement of recreational facilities.

The proposed pavilion will be compliant with the current standards. The designs have been finalised and approved by key stakeholders.

Tenders were invited on 28 September 2024 from suitably experienced contractors to undertake Shore Reserve Pavilion Upgrade (Modular) project. Tenders closed on 25 October 2024 and 5 tenders were received.

Modular Spaces Pty Ltd as trustee for Modular Buildings Unit Trust been identified as the preferred service provider based on a set of predefined evaluation criteria, which considered a balance of cost, capacity, capability and risk. The tender complies with section 109(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:
 - a) Make a formal offer to Modular Spaces Pty Ltd as trustee for Modular Buildings unit Trust. (A.C.N. 159 209 319) and (ABN: 20 210 873 554) (**Contractor**) to award to the Contractor contract RFT-2024-54 – Shore Reserve Pavilion Upgrade (MODULAR) (**Contract**) for the maximum sum of \$1,939,824.00 (excluding GST) or \$2,133,806.40 (including GST).
 - b) Negotiate and finalise the terms of the Contract between Council and the Contractor provided that:
 - i. the terms specified in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution shall not be altered without a further Resolution of Council; and
 - ii. other than terms referred to in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution, the terms of the Contract are acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer;
2. Conditional on acceptance of the Contract by the Contractor in accordance with the terms of this Resolution, authorise the Chief Executive Officer to:
 - a) do all things necessary to execute the Contract and any required documentation for the Contract including exercising of delegations relating to contract variation(s) in accordance with the terms and conditions within the contract; and
 - b) Advises all tenderers of Council's decision in relation to the Contract.
3. Refers the shortfall of \$623,400 for the project to the second quarterly financial review for 2024/25 bringing the total project budget to \$2,138,658.

Resolution

Cr Abboud moved, Cr Iwasaki seconded -

That Council:

- 1. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:**
 - a) Make a formal offer to Modular Spaces Pty Ltd as trustee for Modular Buildings unit Trust. (A.C.N. 159 209 319) and (ABN: 20 210 873 554) (Contractor) to award to the Contractor contract RFT-2024-54 – Shore Reserve Pavilion Upgrade (MODULAR) (Contract) for the maximum sum of \$1,939,824.00 (excluding GST) or \$2,133,806.40 (including GST).**
 - b) Negotiate and finalise the terms of the Contract between Council and the Contractor provided that:**
 - i. the terms specified in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution shall not be altered without a further Resolution of Council; and**
 - ii. other than terms referred to in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution, the terms of the Contract are acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer;**
- 2. Conditional on acceptance of the Contract by the Contractor in accordance with the terms of this Resolution, authorise the Chief Executive Officer to:**
 - a) do all things necessary to execute the Contract and any required documentation for the Contract including exercising of delegations relating to contract variation(s) in accordance with the terms and conditions within the contract; and**
 - b) Advises all tenderers of Council's decision in relation to the Contract.**
- 3. Refers the shortfall of \$623,400 for the project to the second quarterly financial review for 2024/25 bringing the total project budget to \$2,138,658.**

Carried

7.10 CONTRACT AWARD: STATE PURCHASE CONTRACT - PROVISION OF GAS FOR LARGE AND SMALL SITES

Executive Summary

Merri-bek City Council's current agreements for both the small and large sites is through the Victoria State Purchase Contract (SPC). Council's current supplier for large sites is with Red Energy Pty Ltd (ACN 107 479 372) and, Origin Energy (Vic) Pty Ltd ACN 086 013 283 for supply of gas to small sites. These contracts expire on 31 December 2024.

Following an open tender by the State Government, AGL has been awarded the contracts for:

- Gas Large Sites under the State Purchasing Contract (SPC) for an initial term of two years, with two extension options available, for two and one year respectively.
- Gas Small Sites SPC for an initial term of three years, with two one-year extension options available.

Both SPCs contracts will commence on 1 January 2025.

It is recommended that Council continues to utilise SPC contracts instead of undertaking its own tender process.

The advantages of utilising the State Government contract are:

- Access to buying power ensuring competitive pricing
- Council can opt-in and out of the contract at any time without penalties. The opt out provision is important should Council decommission or remove gas fired boilers from its energy mix and upgrade to electric heat pumps powered by renewable electricity.
- negotiated future tariffs
- cost-efficient energy in a volatile wholesale market.

The supply of large market gas is to two Council's sites: Coburg Leisure Centre and Brunswick Baths.

Large sites are defined as those sites consuming more than 10,000GJ of gas per year. Whilst Small sites consume less than 10,000GJ of gas per year.

This report is recommending Council continue with the SPC for both large and small sites gas supply as this will yield the best financial outcome because of the buying power of the Government.

The procurement complies with section 109(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Approves to continue as a contract member of the State Purchase Contract (SPC) for Provision of Gas for Large and Small Sites in accordance with the following contract terms:
 - i. Large Sites contract - for an initial period of two (2) years commencing 1 January 2025
 - ii. Small Sites contract - for an initial term of three (3) years commencing 1 January 2025.
2. Notes that further extension options are available under this contract and will not be entered into without further resolution from Council.
3. Notes that Council has committed through the Zero Carbon Merri-bek Climate Emergency Action Plan to *ensure Council builds highly energy efficient facilities, including onsite renewables and 'no new fossil gas'*". This contract can be opted out of at any point without penalties as sites continue to be electrified.
4. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:
 - a) Do all things necessary to enter into the State Purchase Contract (SPC) and sign any required documentation for the Contract and;
 - b) Exercise contract variation(s) in accordance with terms and conditions within the contract; and
 - c) Advises the Department of Government Services of Council's decision in this matter.

Resolution

Cr Iwasaki moved, Cr Abboud seconded -

That Council:

1. **Approves to continue as a contract member of the State Purchase Contract (SPC) for Provision of Gas for Large and Small Sites in accordance with the following contract terms:**

- i. **Large Sites contract - for an initial period of two (2) years commencing 1 January 2025**
- ii. **Small Sites contract - for an initial term of three (3) years commencing 1 January 2025.**
2. **Notes that further extension options are available under this contract and will not be entered into without further resolution from Council.**
3. **Notes that Council has committed through the Zero Carbon Merri-bek Climate Emergency Action Plan to ensure Council builds highly energy efficient facilities, including onsite renewables and ‘no new fossil gas’’. This contract can be opted out of at any point without penalties as sites continue to be electrified.**
4. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:**
 - a) **Do all things necessary to enter into the State Purchase Contract (SPC) and sign any required documentation for the Contract and;**
 - b) **Exercise contract variation(s) in accordance with terms and conditions within the contract; and**
 - c) **Advise the Department of Government Services of Council’s decision in this matter.**

8.36 pm *Cr Bolton returned to the meeting during the debate.*

Carried

7.11 CONTRACT VARIATION: RFT 2023-447 STEWART STREET STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Executive Summary

Council awarded the contract for construction works for the RFT-2023-447 Stewart Street Streetscape Improvement Project in May 2024 for the sum of \$1,963,800. Through the 2024-25 Budget, and the 2023-24 Budget review cycle, Council endorsed a budget of \$2,219,207 for this project.

The project will create a new accessible pathway to CERES and beyond to the Merri Creek trail, as well as provide traffic calming and beautification to the streetscape.

Construction works commenced at Stewart Street in July 2024. In early September rock was encountered when excavating for water main realignment and drainage works. Further extensive rock was found at the western end of the road where extensive excavation was required for retaining wall construction and drainage works.

As at the end of November, the cost incurred to date against the contract is \$1,317,217 which includes the costs relating to the significant rock excavation works required. Based on the conditions on site, it is anticipated that the original contract value of \$1,963,800 (GST exclusive) needs to be varied by \$451,674 to an increased contract value of \$2,415,474 (GST exclusive), to deliver on the complete project. The increased contract value will allow for the full works to be completed, after accounting for unforeseen variations that have arisen as a result of latent conditions on the site.

This report seeks Council's approval to vary the contract and increase it by \$451,674 (excluding GST). If approved, a budget shortfall of \$294,667 will be referred to the second quarter finance review.

Officer recommendation

That Council:

1. Approves an increase in the total contract sum for Contract RFT-2023-447 – Stewart Street Streetscape Improvements to \$2,415,474 (GST exclusive) for unforeseen variations that have arisen and are anticipated to arise during construction works at Stewart Street, as a result of latent conditions;
2. Notes that the existing contract value is \$1,963,800, and the endorsed 2024-25 forecast budget provides total funds of \$2,219,207 for the project;
3. Refers the budget shortfall of \$294,667 to the second quarterly budget review of 2024-25; and
4. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to approve the contract variations and related documentation as per Council's decision identified in point 1.

Resolution

Cr Pulford moved, Cr Iwasaki seconded -

That Council:

1. **Approves an increase in the total contract sum for Contract RFT-2023-447 – Stewart Street Streetscape Improvements to \$2,415,474 (GST exclusive) for unforeseen variations that have arisen and are anticipated to arise during construction works at Stewart Street, as a result of latent conditions;**
2. **Notes that the existing contract value is \$1,963,800, and the endorsed 2024-25 forecast budget provides total funds of \$2,219,207 for the project;**
3. **Refers the budget shortfall of \$294,667 to the second quarterly budget review of 2024-25; and**
4. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to approve the contract variations and related documentation as per Council's decision identified in point 1.**

Carried

7.12 CONTRACT AWARD ST-2024-2 - PROJECT MANAGEMENT TOOL REPLACEMENT

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to recommend the award of the contract for the provision and implementation of a new Portfolio and Project Management Tool for Council. A Portfolio and Project Management Tool is software designed to help organisations plan, manage, and track their projects and resources effectively. It also helps organisations manage and prioritise multiple projects within a portfolio of work. It allows the organisation a holistic view of all projects, and to align these projects with strategic goals. This tool will replace the current tool and be utilised across the organisation to manage both capital expenditure and operational expenditure projects.

Tenders were invited and assessed against selected criteria, including their ability to meet core business requirements, their implementation and services delivery approach, training delivery methods, and scripted demonstration of their system. Reference Checks were also conducted for shortlisted Vendors as a prerequisite to be invited to submit a Tender response.

The aim of the tender process was to engage, review, assess and select a suitable vendor via evaluation panel consensus, through an expression of interest and then select tender.

The successful vendor will be required to provide and implement a project management tool for the management of projects across Council.

The tender process has identified a highly capable vendor, who best demonstrated an ability to deliver a high-quality solution, meet all mandatory procurement and core functional requirements and is adherent to Council's Information Technology (IT) Cloud Services requirements.

The purpose of this report is to award a tender for the provision and implementation of a portfolio and project management tool for an initial term of three (3) years, with additional two (2) x three (3) year extension options.

The tender complies with section 109(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:
 - a) Make a formal offer to **EPM Partners Pty Ltd**, ABN 30 644 699 307 (**Contractor**) to award to the Contractor contract **ST-2024-2** for the **provision and implementation of a new Portfolio and Project Management tool (Contract)** on the following terms and otherwise subject to and in accordance with paragraph 1(b) of this Resolution:
 - i. For an initial term of three (3) years, with two (2) x three (3) year extension options, at the discretion of Council; and
 - ii. Accepts the rates as tendered provided the maximum contract value shall not exceed \$1,037,289 (excluding GST) over the life of the contract.
 - b) Negotiate and finalise the terms of the Contract between Council and the Contractor provided that:
 - i. the contract value specified in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution shall not be altered to exceed the above sum without a further Resolution of Council; and
 - ii. other than terms referred to in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution, the terms of the Contract are acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer.
2. Conditional on acceptance of the Contract by the Contractor in accordance with the terms of this Resolution:
 - a) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to finalise and execute the Contract and any required documentation for the Contract;
 - b) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to exercise the option(s) to extend contracts in accordance with the provisions within the Contract;
 - c) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to exercise contract variation(s) in accordance with terms and conditions within the contract and within the Instrument of Delegation; and
 - d) Advises all tenderers of Council's decision in relation to the Contract.

Resolution

Cr Pulford moved, Cr Bolton seconded -

That Council:

- 1. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:**
 - a) Make a formal offer to EPM Partners Pty Ltd, ABN 30 644 699 307 (Contractor) to award to the Contractor contract ST-2024-2 for the provision and implementation of a new Portfolio and Project Management tool (Contract) on the following terms and otherwise subject to and in accordance with paragraph 1(b) of this Resolution:**
 - i. For an initial term of three (3) years, with two (2) x three (3) year extension options, at the discretion of Council; and**
 - ii. Accepts the rates as tendered provided the maximum contract value shall not exceed \$1,037,289 (excluding GST) over the life of the contract.**
 - b) Negotiate and finalise the terms of the Contract between Council and the Contractor provided that:**
 - i. the contract value specified in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution shall not be altered to exceed the above sum without a further Resolution of Council; and**
 - ii. other than terms referred to in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution, the terms of the Contract are acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer.**
- 2. Conditional on acceptance of the Contract by the Contractor in accordance with the terms of this Resolution:**
 - a) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to finalise and execute the Contract and any required documentation for the Contract;**
 - b) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to exercise the option(s) to extend contracts in accordance with the provisions within the Contract;**
 - c) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to exercise contract variation(s) in accordance with terms and conditions within the contract and within the Instrument of Delegation; and**
 - d) Advises all tenderers of Council's decision in relation to the Contract.**

Carried

7.13 CONTRACT AWARD: RFT-2024-10 MANAGED NETWORK, INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

Executive Summary

Council relies on a robust and secure information technology (IT) network to support the wide variety of applications and devices used for daily operations across the municipality, including 40 Council sites with dedicated internet connections.

At the August 2016 Council meeting, it was resolved to enter into an eight-year contract with Thomas Duryea Consulting Pty Ltd (now Logicalis Australia Pty Ltd) to manage Council's IT infrastructure including the Wide Area Network (WAN) which is used to connect sites to each other and access the internet, Local Area Network (LAN) which is the wired network within each site, and Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN) which is used for wireless network at each site.

In October 2022, the vendor contracted to manage Council's Firewalls and internet security changed from Tesserent Australia Pty Ltd to Logicalis Australia Pty Ltd. Firewalls are used to monitor internet traffic and block potentially malicious traffic based on a defined set of security rules.

The above two mentioned contracts are due to expire on 21 March 2025.

Council invited vendors to respond to a public tender for a managed services contract for the provision of and ongoing support and maintenance of our Wide Area Network (WAN), Local Area Network (LAN), Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN), Firewalls and Internet security services.

The tender complies with section 109(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:
 - a) Make a formal offer to **Logicalis Australia Pty Ltd ABN 95 091 623 326 (Contractor)** to award to the Contractor contract **RFT-2024-10** for the supply of a Managed Network, Infrastructure and associated services (**Contract**) on the following terms and otherwise subject to and in accordance with paragraph 1(b) of this Resolution:
 - i. For an initial period of five (5) years commencing March 2025 with an additional one (1) x five (5) year extension option at the discretion of Council; and
 - ii. For an amount not exceeding \$4,588,504 excluding GST, over the full contract term.
 - b) Negotiate and finalise the terms of the Contract between Council and the Contractor provided that:
 - i. the terms specified in paragraph 1(a)(ii) of this Resolution shall not be exceeded without a further Resolution of Council; and
 - ii. other than terms referred to in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution, the terms of the Contract are acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer.
2. Conditional on acceptance of the Contract by the Contractor in accordance with the terms of this Resolution, authorise the Chief Executive Officer to:
 - a) Do all things necessary to execute the Contract and any required documentation for the Contract.

- b) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to exercise the option(s) to extend contracts in accordance with the provisions within the Contract.
- c) Execute variations within 10 per cent (\$458,850) of the original contract amount to cover additional costs that arise that are associated with new sites, additional capacity at existing sites and new security protocols that may be required to be adopted in response to emerging threats or state/federal government requirements; and
- d) Advises all tenderers of Council's decision in relation to the Contract.

Resolution

Cr Abboud moved, Cr Pulford seconded -

That Council:

- 1. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:**
 - a) Make a formal offer to Logicalis Australia Pty Ltd ABN 95 091 623 326 (Contractor) to award to the Contractor contract RFT-2024-10 for the supply of a Managed Network, Infrastructure and associated services (Contract) on the following terms and otherwise subject to and in accordance with paragraph 1(b) of this Resolution:**
 - i. For an initial period of five (5) years commencing March 2025 with an additional one (1) x five (5) year extension option at the discretion of Council; and**
 - ii. For an amount not exceeding \$4,588,504 excluding GST, over the full contract term.**
 - b) Negotiate and finalise the terms of the Contract between Council and the Contractor provided that:**
 - i. the terms specified in paragraph 1(a)(ii) of this Resolution shall not be exceeded without a further Resolution of Council; and**
 - ii. other than terms referred to in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution, the terms of the Contract are acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer.**
- 2. Conditional on acceptance of the Contract by the Contractor in accordance with the terms of this Resolution, authorise the Chief Executive Officer to:**
 - a) Do all things necessary to execute the Contract and any required documentation for the Contract.**
 - b) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to exercise the option(s) to extend contracts in accordance with the provisions within the Contract.**
 - c) Execute variations within 10 per cent (\$458,850) of the original contract amount to cover additional costs that arise that are associated with new sites, additional capacity at existing sites and new security protocols that may be required to be adopted in response to emerging threats or state/federal government requirements; and**
 - d) Advises all tenderers of Council's decision in relation to the Contract.**

Carried

7.14 AMENDMENT TO RFT 2024-8 CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY, INSTALL AND MAINTENANCE OF GYM EQUIPMENT

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to amend Council Resolution to Award Contract RFT 2024-574 Supply and Install of Gym Equipment for Councils Aquatic and Leisure Centres dated 10 July 2024 that states, "For a fixed term of seven years, commencing 01/10/2024". Item 1(c) stated that "the terms specified in paragraph 1(a) and 1(b) of this Resolution shall not be altered without a further Resolution of Council". The contract could not commence on 01/10/2024 and hence the requirement for this amendment.

- At the time of the Council report the date of the commencement of the lease contract date hadn't been confirmed for both Fawkner Leisure Centres and Coburg Leisure Centres.
- Although the contract has been signed and executed, the leased component hasn't commenced. Seeking to amend this to reflect the lease contract execution date for each site.

The awarding of this contract will require the outright budget to be spread over a seven-year period, covering the lease arrangement.

The procurement complies with section 109(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Approves amendment to item 1(a)(ii) of Council Resolution to award Contract RFT 2024-8 Supply and Install of Gym Equipment for Councils Aquatic and Leisure Centres dated 10 July 2024 that states, "For a fixed term of seven years, commencing 01/10/2024" to "For maximum term of seven (7) years from the executed date of the lease contract for each Fawkner Leisure Centre and Coburg Leisure Centre.
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:
 - a) Enter into and execute a lease agreement from commencement date for each individual lease for Fawkner Leisure Centre and Coburg Leisure Centre.

Resolution

Cr Abboud moved, Cr Bolton seconded -

That Council:

1. **Approves amendment to item 1(a)(ii) of Council Resolution to award Contract RFT 2024-8 Supply and Install of Gym Equipment for Councils Aquatic and Leisure Centres dated 10 July 2024 that states, "For a fixed term of seven years, commencing 01/10/2024" to "For maximum term of seven (7) years from the executed date of the lease contract for each Fawkner Leisure Centre and Coburg Leisure Centre.**
2. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:**
 - a) **Enter into and execute a lease agreement from commencement date for each individual lease for Fawkner Leisure Centre and Coburg Leisure Centre.**

Carried

NOTICES OF MOTION

8.1 PHASE OUT GAS IN COUNCIL'S POOLS

Motion

That Council receives a report outlining a plan to shift Council's swimming pools away from gas and to renewable energy for heating.

Resolution

Cr Bolton moved, Cr Iwasaki seconded -

That Council receives a report in March which outlines a plan to shift Council's swimming pools away from gas and to renewable energy for heating. The report would outline which pools still use gas for heating, how much they use, and a timeline for shifting these pools off gas to renewable energy

.Carried unanimously

8.2 PLANNING FOR BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL AT PARKER RESERVE, NORTH COBURG

Motion

That Council resolves to receive a report at the March 2025 meeting on the scope, costs, engagement requirements and timelines to prepare a plan for Parker Reserve that considers how the current and future needs of baseball and softball could be accommodated and supported.

Resolution

Cr Abboud moved, Cr Bolton seconded -

That Council resolves to receive a report at the March 2025 meeting on the scope, costs, engagement requirements and timelines to prepare a plan for Parker Reserve that considers how the current and future needs of baseball and softball could be accommodated and supported.

Carried unanimously

8.3 TURNING ROADS INTO PARKS

Motion

That Council receives a report in mid-2025 that:

1. Outlines how Council could close certain sections of roads or narrow existing wide roads in our city to create new parks and open space to help reach our A Park Close to Home and safer streets targets.
2. Includes potential locations this may be possible in Merri-bek informed by the relevant Council teams and interested community groups and local residents.
3. Is informed by other Councils' and agencies' experiences of closing roads to turn into parks or open spaces.

Resolution

Cr Pulford moved, Cr Irvin seconded -

That Council receives a report in mid-2025 that:

1. Outlines how Council could close certain sections of roads or narrow existing wide roads in our city to create new parks and open space to help reach our A Park Close to Home and safer streets targets.
2. Includes potential locations this may be possible in Merri-bek informed by the relevant Council teams and interested community groups and local residents.
3. Is informed by other Councils' and agencies' experiences of closing roads to turn into parks or open spaces.

Carried

Cr Pulford called for a division.

For

Cr Bolton
Cr Pulford
Cr Svensson
Cr Iwasaki
Cr Abboud
Cr Irvin

Total For (6)

Against

Cr Davidson
Cr Miles
Cr Politis
Cr Theodosis

Total Against (4)

Carried

8.4 AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN COBURG

Motion

That Council:

1. Notes that the Coburg Conversation project undertook extensive community consultation about future use of six council-owned sites in central Coburg.
2. Notes that Council endorsed the resulting six objectives of "Revitalising Coburg" including: quality housing; a new library; public space; more greening; friendly streets; and a thriving economy.
3. Acknowledges that the housing crisis is having immediate impacts on our community.
4. Acknowledges that in relation to Objective 4 (New high-quality housing, including social and affordable housing) the Coburg Conversation project consultation process concluded that:
 - a) There is a need for diverse, high-quality housing in Coburg to meet the needs of a growing population.
 - b) When it comes to housing, people need to be able to access different types of housing at different stages across their lives.
 - c) There is a growing need for social and affordable housing in Merri-bek, particularly in Coburg. Since 2003, the median weekly rent has risen more than twice the rate of inflation, from \$200 to \$500.

- d) Central Coburg, with its close proximity to shops, services and public transport, is an ideal location for social and affordable housing. Today, 4,341 households in Merri-bek (6.4%) are in need of affordable housing, 84 per cent of which are low or very-low income.
5. Commits to progressing the objectives of the Coburg Conversation Project within this term of Council with a focus on creating urgently needed genuinely affordable housing, alongside a new Coburg library and community hub.
6. Notes that Council is commissioning detailed feasibility work, supported by a federal Housing Support Program grant, to inform options to realise the objectives of Revitalising Coburg including providing advice on site locations of preferred uses, potential delivery models and potential project partners; and asks that the council receive either the final report or progress report by March 2025
7. Notes that state and federal governments have a key role to play in the provision of public housing, which is a genuinely affordable form of housing as rents are capped at 25 per cent of household income, with resident's rights protected by state legislation.
8. Resolves that the feasibility work include consideration of options including:
 - a) Long term leasing arrangements with state government to build public housing;
 - b) A partnership with the Federal government through the Housing Australia Future Fund to construct housing where rents are capped at 25 per cent of household income;
 - c) Options that keep all sites under public ownership, including taking expressions of interest from not-for-profit developers to redevelop suitable sites with land secured via long term leasing arrangements with council.
 - d) Other models to achieve social and affordable outcomes in central Coburg, including the option to call for an expression of interest from not-for-profit developers.

Resolution

Cr Svensson moved, Cr Iwasaki seconded -

That Council:

1. **Notes that the Coburg Conversation project undertook extensive community consultation about future use of six council-owned sites in central Coburg.**
2. **Notes that Council endorsed the resulting six objectives of “Revitalising Coburg” including: quality housing; a new library; public space; more greening; friendly streets; and a thriving economy.**
3. **Acknowledges that the housing crisis is having immediate impacts on our community.**
4. **Acknowledges that in relation to Objective 4 (New high-quality housing, including social and affordable housing) the Coburg Conversation project consultation process concluded that:**
 - a) **There is a need for diverse, high-quality housing in Coburg to meet the needs of a growing population.**
 - b) **When it comes to housing, people need to be able to access different types of housing at different stages across their lives.**
 - c) **There is a growing need for social and affordable housing in Merri-bek, particularly in Coburg. Since 2003, the median weekly rent has risen more than twice the rate of inflation, from \$200 to \$500.**

- d) Central Coburg, with its close proximity to shops, services and public transport, is an ideal location for social and affordable housing. Today, 4,341 households in Merri-bek (6.4%) are in need of affordable housing, 84 per cent of which are low or very-low income.
- 5. Commits to progressing the objectives of the Coburg Conversation Project within this term of Council with a focus on creating urgently needed social and genuinely affordable housing, alongside a new Coburg library and community hub.
- 6. Notes that Council is commissioning detailed feasibility work, supported by a federal Housing Support Program grant, to inform options to realise the objectives of Revitalising Coburg including providing advice on site locations of preferred uses, potential delivery models and potential project partners; and asks that the council receive either the final report or progress report by March 2025
- 7. Notes that state and federal governments have a key role to play in the provision of public housing, which is a genuinely affordable form of housing as rents are capped at 25 per cent of household income, with resident's rights protected by state legislation.
- 8. Resolves that the feasibility work include consideration of options including:
 - a) Long term leasing arrangements with state government to build public housing;
 - b) A partnership with the Federal government through the Housing Australia Future Fund to construct housing where rents are capped at 25 per cent of household income;
 - c) Options that keep all sites under public ownership, including taking expressions of interest from not-for-profit developers to redevelop suitable sites with land secured via long term leasing arrangements with council.
 - d) Other models to achieve social and affordable outcomes in central Coburg, including the option to call for an expression of interest from not-for-profit developers.
 - e) Alignment with state and federal housing initiatives and reforms, and state and federal funding opportunities, for all options.

Carried unanimously

NOTICE OF RESCISSION

Nil.

FORESHADOWED ITEMS

Nil.

URGENT BUSINESS REPORTS

ADMIT AN ITEM OF URGENT BUSINESS

Cr Sue Bolton requested an urgent item of business be admitted to the meeting.

Resolution

Cr Bolton moved, Cr Iwasaki seconded -

That Council admits an item of business that relates to the east field of Hosken Reserve, noting that the matter has arisen since the distribution of the agenda and cannot safely or conveniently be deferred to the next Council meeting.

Carried

SAFETY RISKS ON EAST FIELD OF HOSKEN RESERVE, COBURG NORTH

Resolution

Cr Bolton moved, Cr Pulford seconded –

That Council:

1. Recognises the risks to the public of glass, rocks and material potentially containing asbestos continuing to be found on the surface of the Community Open Space (formerly known as the East Field) at Hosken Reserve, Coburg North.
2. Seeks a briefing from officers regarding the plan to reduce risks to the community and workers from material potentially containing asbestos, rocks and glass being found on the surface of the Community Open Space at Hosken Reserve and notify the community about what is found and being done by contacting the 28 signatories to the petition and place signs in the park.
3. Following the implementation of this plan to reduce the safety risks, level, seed and irrigate the Community Open Space to create a grassy space that is suitable for informal passive, active and recreational community use.

Carried unanimously

The Council meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

Confirmed

Cr Helen Davidson
MAYOR