

MINUTES

Ordinary Meeting of Council

6.00pm Wednesday 19 February 2020

*** Broadcast live on Phoenix FM 106.7 ***

VENUE:

**Reception Room,
Bendigo Town Hall,
Hargreaves Street, Bendigo**

NEXT MEETING:

**Wednesday 18 March 2020
Bendigo Town Hall**

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This Council Meeting is conducted in accordance with Local Law No. 8. It is an offence for any person to engage in improper or disorderly conduct at the meeting.

Council Vision

Greater Bendigo - creating the world's most liveable community.

Council Values

Six values inform everything we as Council do in working together to be the best we can for all of our community.

Seeking to achieve the best value for our use of the community's public funds and resources, by:

- We Lead;
- We Learn;
- We Contribute;
- We Care;
- We Respond;
- We Respect.

Goals

- Presentation and Managing Growth
- Wellbeing and Fairness
- Strengthening the Economy
- Environmental Sustainability
- Embracing our Culture and Heritage
- Lead and Govern for All

ORDINARY MEETING

WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2020

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CRAIG NIEMANN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

PRAYER

PRESENT

Cr Margaret O'Rourke
Cr Jennifer Alden
Cr Matt Emond
Cr George Flack OAM
Cr Rod Fyffe OAM
Cr Susie Hawke
Cr Andrea Metcalf
Cr Mal Pethybridge
Cr James Williams
Mr Craig Niemann (Chief Executive Officer)
Mr Bernie O'Sullivan (Director, Strategy and Growth)
Ms Vicky Mason (Director, Health and Wellbeing)
Ms Debbie Wood (Director, Presentation and Assets)
Mr Andrew Cooney (Director, Corporate Performance)
Mrs Jessica Clarke-Hong (Manager Governance)

APOLOGIES

Nil

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

That Standing Orders be suspended to allow the conduct of the Community Recognition Section and Public Question Time.

MOTION

Moved Cr Fyffe, seconded Cr Flack.

That Standing Orders be suspended to allow the conduct of the Community Recognition Section and Public Question Time.

CARRIED

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION SECTION

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS

That Standing Orders be resumed.

MOTION

Moved Cr Fyffe, seconded Cr Flack.

That Standing Orders be resumed.

CARRIED

CR PETHYBRIDGE'S REPORT

Cr Pethybridge reported on his attendance at the following meetings and events:

- Bendigo Chinese Lunar New Year Festival (Year of the Rat)
- Australia Day celebrations at Mia Mia and Lake Weeroona - joined members of the Golden Square Collectors' Club
- Australia Day citizenship ceremony at the Bendigo Town Hall
- Unveiling of the Great Stupa
- Huntly Family Fun Day
- And, go Tigers for the forthcoming AFLW match at the QEO on 29 February!

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Pursuant to Sections 77, 78 and 79 of the Local Government Act 1989 (as amended) direct and indirect conflict of interest must be declared prior to debate on specific items within the minutes; or in writing to the Chief Executive Officer before the meeting. Declaration of indirect interests must also include the classification of the interest (in circumstances where a Councillor has made a Declaration in writing, the classification of the interest must still be declared at the meeting), i.e.

- (a) direct financial interest**
- (b) indirect interest by close association**
- (c) indirect interest that is an indirect financial interest**
- (d) indirect interest because of conflicting duties**
- (e) indirect interest because of receipt of an applicable gift**
- (f) indirect interest as a consequence of becoming an interested party**
- (g) indirect interest as a result of impact on residential amenity**
- (h) conflicting personal interest**

A Councillor who has declared a conflict of interest, must leave the meeting and remain outside the room while the matter is being considered, or any vote is taken.

Councillors are also encouraged to declare circumstances where there may be a perceived conflict of interest.

Nil

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Wednesday 22 January 2020.

The following items were considered at the Ordinary Council meeting held on Wednesday 22 January 2020 at 6:00pm.

NO.	TITLE	RECOMMENDATION
1.1	Response to Petition: Botanical Greenview Melbury Court Playspace	<p>That, having considered the petition regarding the retention of the play space at Melbury Court Reserve, Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Retain the play space at Melbury Court and continue to monitor and maintain until a complete renewal is required (approximately 3-5 years). 2. Continue with the proposed multi-practice court play space renewal at Botanical Drive as planned with no changes (refer attachment 2). 3. Install a small junior play element at Greenview Circuit. 4. Notify the submitters of the petition and inform them of the outcome.
2.1	41 Gladstone Street, Quarry Hill – Two Lot Subdivision, Construction of a Dwelling, Partial Demolition of Existing Dwelling and External Alterations	<p>Pursuant to section 61 of the Planning and Environment Act (1987), Council resolve to issue a Notice of Refusal to Grant a Permit for a two lot subdivision, construction of a dwelling, partial demolition of existing dwelling and external alterations at 41 Gladstone Street, Quarry Hill on the following grounds:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The bulk, form, separation / spacing and appearance of the development will have an adverse impact on heritage elements within the precinct. 2. The proposal represents an unacceptable design outcome in regards to integration with the street, safety and neighbourhood character.
3.1	Draft Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy	<p>That Council agree to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Release the draft Greater Bendigo Food System Strategy for a period of four weeks (month of February)

		<p>for community review and feedback; and</p> <p>2. Receive a further report, informed by the community feedback, with a final Greater Bendigo Food System Strategy for consideration.</p>
3.2	Community Infrastructure Loans Scheme	That Council apply to the 2019 Community Infrastructure Loans Scheme to fund the construction of the Municipal Baths development Project.
3.3	Wolstencroft Reserve Master Plan Adoption	<p>That Council having considered the submissions received in regard to the draft Master Plan resolve to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopt the Wolstencroft Reserve Master Plan; 2. Propose the closure to traffic on Havlin Street East between Rodney Street and 65 Havlin Street East in accordance with Schedule 11 Clause 9 of the Local Government Act 1989, subject to a satisfactory outcome from a public consultation process conducted in accordance with section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989; 3. Authorise public notice of Council's intention to close the road to traffic in accordance with section 223; 4. Appoint a committee of three Councillors, to consider any submissions made and report to the whole Council and; 5. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to carry out any administrative procedures necessary to ensure that Council complies with its obligations under section 223.
5.1	Reimagining Bendigo Creek – Draft Plan for Community Comment	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Endorse the Draft Reimagining Bendigo Creek Plan for public display for a minimum period of 28 days. 2. Are provided with a further report outlining the public display process, summarising any submissions received and any changes required to the draft Plan.
6.1	Arts and Creative Industries Advisory	That Council:

	Committee (ACIAC) Appointments	1. Appoint the recommended candidates to the committee for a 3-year term. 2. Adopt the Committee's terms of reference.
7.1	Record of Assemblies	That Council endorse the record of assemblies of Councillors as outlined in this report.
13.1	Confidential Section 89 Report	Contractual Matter

The unconfirmed minutes have also been posted on the City of Greater Bendigo website pending confirmation at this meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Wednesday 22 January 2020, as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed.

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Flack, seconded Cr Fyffe.

That the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

1. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

1.1 PETITION REQUEST FOR DOUBLE SEALED BITUMEN PATHWAY (DOMAIN RETIREMENT VILLAGE, JUNORTOUN)

Responsible Director Debbie Wood, Director Presentation and Assets

[Petitions and joint letters with ten (10) or more signatures are included in the agenda or tabled at the meeting, unless there is a separate legal process for considering the petition or joint letter, as there is for planning submissions or submissions following public notices (Section 223 LGA)].

Further motion adopted at the Council Meeting [17 April 2019]: That in order to support the public disclosure of petitions as part of the democratic process Council requires that all future officer reports to Council Ordinary Meetings in response to public petitions include a copy of the petition and the names of all signatories.

The following petition has been received from residents of Domain Country Club, McIvor Highway, Junortoun in support of a proposal to Council for double sealed pathways leading to and from the Domain Retirement Village, as outlined below:

"We the undersigned residents of Bendigo Domain Country Club and ratepayers of Greater Bendigo City Council formally request council to give consideration to this proposal for the construction of double sealed bitumen pathways along McIvor Highway."

Signatures - 125

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive the petition and response be prepared within two (2) meetings.

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Flack, Seconded Cr Hawke.

That the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

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## **2. PRESENTATION AND MANAGING GROWTH**

### **2.1 PROPOSED MID BLOCK ROAD CLOSURE FOR SYMONDS STREET, MAIDEN GULLY**

#### **Document Information**

**Author** Dumir Wewala, Transportation Engineer

**Responsible Director** Debbie Wood, Director Presentation & Assets

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#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to brief Council regarding the proposal to close off Symonds Street, Maiden Gully to through traffic. The proposed Closure will require the placing of a barrier across the unsealed, mid-block section of Symonds Street (Between 132 Symonds Street property access and Olympic Parade Intersection – Attachment 1).

The section of road reserve proposed as part of the road closure is considered not suitable for sustained through traffic and surplus to Council's road network requirements, therefore Council approval is sought, in accordance with Schedule 11, Clause 9 of the Local Government Act 1989, for a permanent traffic closure.

#### **Summary**

Symonds Street, Maiden Gully is a road under the care and control of the City of Greater Bendigo (CoGB).

The sealed section between Mackenzie Street West and 130 Symonds St, property access, is located through a densely populated area which collects traffic from the minor local street network.

CoGB has received a formal request to investigate the road safety and dust related concerns caused by motorists using the unsealed section of Symonds Street as a short cut to and from Olympic Parade.

The subjected section of Symonds Road is located within bushland which provides access to:

- 132 Symonds Street - approx. 200m West of Preston Place
- 294 Olympic Parade - approx. 75m East of Olympic Parade
- 150 Symonds Street - Currently no formal access to this parcel of land.

CoGB has recently undertaken a community consultation process and having considered the situation and submissions, CoGB Traffic Engineers have formed the view that the road is no longer reasonably required to provide through access and that a mid-block closure would resolve a number of the issues that have been raised prior to and during the formal submission period.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council having considered the submissions received in regard to the proposed mid-block closure of Symonds Street:

1. Approve the midblock traffic closure of Symonds Street, Maiden Gully, between 132 Symonds St property access and the Olympic Parade Intersection through the installation of fencing and a gate.
2. Inform adjoining residents and other submitters of Council's decision.

### **RESOLUTION**

Moved Cr Fyffe, Seconded Cr Emond.

That the recommendation be adopted.

**CARRIED**

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Background Information

The tenant of 130 Symonds Street has made an application to CoGB to formally close the unsealed section of Symonds Street to through traffic. The section of road reserve is currently unsealed and routinely maintained by CoGB. The resident has raised concerns regarding increase in dust and road safety concerns caused by the motorists using Symonds Street as a shortcut through to Olympic Parade and has requested CoGB place a permanent barrier across the road. The road is also attracts speeding, dangerous driving, dumping of rubbish and reports of vehicles meeting in the secluded location.

The most recent traffic volume was recorded in 2015 and was 53 vehicles per day.

CoGB Traffic Engineers have consulted with the applicant regarding the formal traffic closure process and undertaken preliminary investigations to determine the suitability for permanent road closure of part of the road reserve.

Apart from two property owners on the unsealed section, adjoining landowners indicated that the road is no longer required for any public purpose.

A search of the Road Reserve status has also been conducted to confirm the dedication as a Council public road reserve. The road was also established over a Coliban Water parcel running perpendicular to Symonds Street between No.130 and 132 properties (water race).

Options/Alternatives:

The options available to Council are:

1. Approve the closure of part of Symonds Street to through traffic and advise all property owners of the outcome.
2. Consider sealing part of Symonds Street in the vicinity of No.130 to eliminate the dust problem.

Potential Treatment	Cost	Current Rating in Council's Dust Suppression Program
Sealing of 130 metre segment with recycled asphalt	\$15,000	24 out of 77 projects

3. Council could consider not approving the road closure and leaving the road and access in the existing condition.

Timelines:

CoGB will notify the residents/land owners the final outcome of the proposal within two weeks and organise the traffic closure within 8 weeks of formal Council approval.

Risk Analysis:

The permanent traffic closure will maintain access for pedestrians, cyclists and emergency vehicles. It will reduce traffic volumes in Symonds Street, thereby significantly reducing dust issues, improving road safety and amenity for residents and adjoining land owners. Given that currently the subject section of Symonds Street acts as a short cut connecting Olympic Parade with Golden Square, any diverted traffic resulting from the traffic closure is expected to have some minor impacts on the daily road users.

Consultation/Communication

In November 2019 CoGB consulted with local residents via letters inviting them to make a submission in regard to the proposed traffic closure. CoGB also contacted the Service Authorities, including Regional Road Victoria, Country Fire Authority, Victoria Police and Ambulance Victoria to formally comment on the proposal.

A public notice was placed in the Bendigo Advertiser on 23 November 2019 requesting written submissions in accordance with Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989. Submissions were to be made within 28 days from publication, being 21 December 2019.

Five of the submissions were in support of the proposal (from residents and the Forest Fire Operations Division Loddon Mallee, DELWP).

Two submissions opposing the proposal were received:

The owner of 150 Symonds Street noted, *'this road has been in use for over 100 years by the public and closure of the road to traffic will not stop dust or vehicles ie. Motor bikes and Trail bikes also traffic using the dirt road behind the houses on Banyula Court. It will not stop hoons from entering the road via Olympic Parade and still do burn outs on a quiet road in the dust.'* Furthermore the property owner concerns about the possible decrease in property value due to lack of access from Symonds Street East'.

Alternatively the owner is recommending Council to consider a location to install a physical barrier which would not restrict access to her property via Eastern side of Symonds Street similar to No.132 Symonds Street property access. The existing access to No.150 property is situated 150 metres west of the proposed barrier location. Hence the proposed midblock road closure prevents access to the property via the eastern side of Symonds Street. However additional access points may be constructed to gain access via the eastern side of Symonds Street (subject to CoGB approval). Furthermore this property requires a very limited vehicular access as currently there are no residential dwellings and/or permanent residents situated within the parcel.

The owner of 294 Olympic Parade stated that the proposed traffic closure would force them to use the Olympic Parade access which increases the travel time to the Bendigo CBD and expresses concerns about the Olympic Parade intersection being substandard.

CoGB Traffic Engineers calculate that the proposed closure would increase the travel time by up to 90 seconds which is deemed reasonable for the benefits gained in the road closure. The Olympic Parade intersection also has more than adequate sightlines and CoGB does not consider the intersection substandard. There are currently some potholes in the unsealed section that have been reported for CoGB Maintenance works.

CoGB received one previous community request concerning road safety and dust issues in 2015.

Resource Implications

Budget Allocation in the Current Financial Year:

All costs associated with the midblock traffic closure will be borne by the City.

Attachments

1. Location Map



Map : Symonds St. Maiden Gully - Proposed Mid-block Closure



Map Width is 862.6 m

Map Scale : 1:3,270

Created by Engineering on Thursday, 31 October 2019

About this Document

This map has been created for the purpose of showing basic locality information over Greater Bendigo City Council. Property boundary line network data is supplied by State Government. Any error should be reported to the GIC Section, Greater Bendigo City Council.

Disclaimer

This map is a representation of the information currently held by Greater Bendigo City Council. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the product, Council accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions.

3. WELLBEING AND FAIRNESS

3.1 COMMERCIAL FITNESS OPERATOR POLICY

Document Information

Author Amy Johnston, Coordinator Facilities

Responsible Director Vicky Mason, Director Health and Wellbeing

Purpose

To seek endorsement of the Commercial Fitness Operator Policy for a further period of five years.

Summary

The objective of the Commercial Fitness Operator Policy (the Policy) is to support appropriate commercial fitness activities in public spaces, whilst balancing the rights of all community members to access public open space in safety and comfort.

The Policy also included the introduction of fees and charges for commercial fitness operator permit holders and inclusion of the policy into the Community Local Law.

The Policy was adopted, in August 2017, for a two year period and has been reviewed through a number of methods:

- Analysis of customer requests and feedback to fitness operators within City parks, garden and reserves;
- A survey distributed to all current and previous permit holders about the policy and the principles of the policy;
- Random surveying of members of the public utilising the City's parks, gardens and reserves based on their knowledge and feedback to the policy.

Evaluation of the Policy has shown:

- A significant level of physical activity opportunities being offered by commercial fitness operators;
- A decrease in the number of complaints received about commercial fitness operators; and
- A general satisfaction that the community are happy with the policy and how it manages the sharing of public space between operators and the general public.

For these reasons no changes are being recommended to the Policy.

In response to the findings of the consultation period and information collated over the two year policy period, further communications will be distributed to not for profit clubs and groups utilising the City's parks, gardens and reserves providing conditions of use and promotion of specific purpose sporting facilities. Ongoing monitoring and management of the blocking of footpaths and common spaces will be undertaken by officers, including the installation of signage and further communication of expectations.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Commercial Fitness Operators Policy for a further period of five years.

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Metcalf, Seconded Cr Williams.

That the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

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### **Policy Context**

#### Community Plan Reference:

*City of Greater Bendigo Community Plan 2017-2021:*

Goal 2:        Wellbeing and fairness

Inclusive policies, partnerships and projects that increase access, improve health and learning opportunities, by building better connections and quality of life.

Objective 2.1 Create a much healthier Greater Bendigo

Objective 2.2 Promote positive wellbeing across the Greater Bendigo community.

Goal 4:        Presentation and managing growth

Planning, development and infrastructure that increase our liveability and pride where we live.

Objective 4.4    Keep Greater Bendigo attractive with good quality public facilities and places.

#### Strategy Reference:

Greater Bendigo Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021

The Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021 has an identified domain of: Healthy and Well with focus on: Proportion of adults, adolescents and children who are sufficiently physically active

Council Policy Reference:

[Commercial Fitness Operator Policy 2017](#)

## **Background Information**

The Commercial Fitness Operator Policy was developed in 2016 following an increase in commercial fitness operators and feedback from the community that there was a need to formally manage operators conducting commercial fitness activities in the City's parks, gardens and sporting reserves.

The objective of the Commercial Fitness Operator Policy is to support appropriate commercial fitness activities in public spaces, whilst balancing the rights of all community members to access public open space in safety and comfort. To help achieve this objective several principles were developed for the policy to enable Council to manage access to public land and assess the suitability of the proposed commercial activities. These principles are as follows:

- Equity: to ensure equity for all members of the public in the access of public land
- Protection: to balance commercial fitness operation activities with the access rights of all community members. To protect built and natural physical assets from damage or misuse.
- Respect: to ensure activities are carried out in a safe, ethical and respectful manner.
- Consistency: to ensure there is a consistent approach to the management of commercial fitness operators.

The 2016 Commercial Fitness Operator Policy was adopted as a 6 month trial with no fees for permit holders.

Following the trial period, the 2017 Commercial Fitness Operator Policy was adopted with fees and charges commencing in the 2018/19 financial year and enforcement as part of the community local law in 2018.

Previous Council Decision(s) Date(s):

29 June 2016 – Commercial Fitness Operator Policy Trial

16 August 2017 – Commercial Fitness Operator Policy Review

24 January 2018 – Local Law Review

## Report

Ongoing consultation and progressive changes to the implementation of the Commercial Fitness Operator Policy has resulted in the following outcomes for commercial fitness use at the City's parks, gardens and reserves:

- Reduced customer complaints regarding fitness operators;
- Sustainable fees and charges for permit holders;
- Consistent conditions of use for fitness activities;
- Reliability and availability of space being programmed for both fitness activities and community events/general use;
- Ability to monitor usage and process permits in a timely manner;
- Enforcement for non-registered users and/or inappropriate behaviour;
- Continued improvement of parks, gardens and reserves for fitness activities and;
- Ongoing support for businesses providing health and wellbeing activities for the Greater Bendigo community.

One of the key objectives of the Policy is supporting appropriate commercial fitness activities and in 2018/2019, 2756 hours of exercise classes were provided by commercial fitness operators in public spaces which were available to a potential 55,120 participants (max 20 per class). It is anticipated that in 2019/2020 there will be 2,652 hours of exercise classes provided, resulting in opportunities for 53,040 attendees. These figures highlight the value commercial fitness operators contribute in providing opportunities to the community to be active.

The number of complaints about fitness operators in the 12 months prior to the Policy being endorsed was twenty-two. In the 29 months since the Policy was adopted there have only been nine complaints. This significant decrease in the number of complaints since the policy's inception indicates that the policy is working in its aim to balance commercial fitness operation activities with the access rights of all community members.

Satisfaction surveys undertaken as part of the review of the Policy showed that most people are happy with the policy and the sharing of the park between fitness operators and the general park users. One standout issue however is the number of people that said the fitness operators and participants were taking over footpaths and other common areas, which may present a risk to the general public at the parks. Officers intend on installing signage outlining approved areas within high use parks and gardens, as well as monitoring this issue and providing further communications as required.

Permit holders also expressed concern over not for profit operators utilising public land without an understanding of the conditions of use. Whilst the policy excludes not for profit organisations, it is important that consistent conditions of use are communicated to these groups as the same user risks are evident even though the group is not receiving a commercial benefit.

### Priority/Importance:

The policy will ensure that commercial fitness operators have confidence and reliability to operate their business and that public space is appropriately managed for the community without increased operational maintenance costs or detrimental amenity outcomes.

### Options/Alternatives:

Council has a range of different options available in managing commercial fitness operators in public spaces. These include allowing the activity to continue without restricting the activity, group sizes or areas of operation, Council may also desire to continue without fees being applied.

Annual and six month summer commercial fitness operator permits are currently offered, commencing 1 October each year. For administrative efficiency this could be changed to only annual agreements, however this could have a financial impact to commercial fitness operators businesses based on the current fees and charges structure of six month and annual permits.

Council may wish to increase resourcing should increased enforcement of the Policy be a priority, this would require staffing budget bids into the future in consultation with Safe and Healthy Environments.

### Timelines:

Annual and six month summer commercial fitness permits commenced 1 October 2019 with adopted 2019/2020 fees and charges therefore any changes would need to consider the timeline of new permits from 1 October 2020.

### Risk Analysis:

There remain a number of operators who are not registered with the City but are utilising public land for their commercial benefit. It is unknown if these operators have insurance, appropriate training or risk management plans for their activities. This places a level of risk upon the Council should an incident occur. Through the local law and permit process, authorised officers have the ability to check permits and if necessary, apply penalties to operators who do not have permission to operate within the municipality. This risk is addressed by spot checks undertaken by the Safe and Healthy Environments Unit under the Community Local Law.

## **Consultation/Communication**

### Internal Consultation:

Officers with direct involvement in management of the policy are regularly in contact due to the ongoing activities of all permit holders.

Ongoing support and input has been provided by Active and Healthy Lifestyles, Safe and Healthy Environments and Parks and Open Space.

### External Consultation:

There has been a total of 15 commercial fitness operators hold permits since the Policy was adopted and they were all provided with an opportunity to complete an online survey and/or attend a drop in session. Operators completed 3 surveys out of a possible 15, with no operators attending the drop in session organised by Safe and Healthy Environments and Active and Healthy Lifestyles officers on 4 November 2019.

Active and Healthy Lifestyles officers also completed surveys at Lake Weeroona on 25 November 2019 and 4 December 2019 and Rosalind Park on 13 January 2020 with 33 surveys completed with the key messages and feedback being:

- A third of the respondents were aware that the City has a policy for commercial fitness operators using public spaces.
- Respondents gave a combined score of 79 out of 100 for equity between park users and commercial fitness operators being met.
- Respondents gave a combined score of 91 out of 100 for a balance of access plus protection of the environment and assets from damage and misuse between fitness operators and community members.
- Respondents gave a combined score of 81 out of 100 for fitness operators carrying out their activities respectfully.
- Additional general comments included:
  - Eleven respondents said that the fitness operators were not a problem in public spaces.
  - Seven respondents said that it was great to see people were being encouraged to exercise in parks.
  - Three respondents mentioned that fitness operators and their participants sometimes blocked walking paths for other park users.
  - Three respondents said that the number of fitness operators operating is currently at capacity and no more permits should be issued.

Nine complaints containing 11 issues regarding commercial fitness operators have been received by City since the Policy was adopted in August 2017. More than half of the issues complained about were about commercial fitness operators blocking access to paths and other public areas.

## **Resource Implications**

Administration duties such as processing booking applications and permits will continue to be managed within existing staffing resources within the Active and Healthy Lifestyles Unit. The City will also be implementing an enhanced booking system that will allow commercial fitness operators to self-manage bookings with real time availability.

Active and Healthy Lifestyles, Parks and Open Space and Safe and Healthy Environments work in conjunction to assist with monitoring of this policy and enforcement through the Community Local Law as necessary.

Given the limited resources available before 8am and after 6pm when commercial fitness operators are conducting most of their classes; a process for both operators and the general public is in place to log customer requests and depending on the feedback this is referred to Active and Healthy Lifestyles or Safe and Healthy Environments for follow up.

Safe and Healthy Environments are completing spot checks and have included this policy enforcement as part of the regulation of the Community Local Law.

## **Attachments**

- 1.Commercial Fitness Operator Policy 2020
- 2.Commercial Fitness Operator Policy Evaluation 2019-2020

## **4. STRENGTHENING THE ECONOMY**

### **4.1 CREATIVE CITY OF GASTRONOMY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CCGAC) APPOINTMENTS**

#### **Document Information**

**Author** Anna Knight, Creative Cities Officer

**Responsible Director** Bernie O'Sullivan, Strategy and Growth

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#### **Summary/Purpose**

The report recommends the appointment of members to the new Creative City of Gastronomy Advisory Committee (CCGAC) and adoption of the Committee's terms of reference.

The City of Greater Bendigo was designated a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy in October 2019. A commitment was made in the City's application that a formal Committee to Council would be formed to help guide and support work relating to the Creative Cities designation, bringing together community experts and City of Greater Bendigo staff. An Expression of Interest (EOI) process was undertaken to recruit Committee members, with a selection panel recommending the appointment of 13 external candidates.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Appoint the recommended candidates, as listed in this report, to the Creative City of Gastronomy Advisory Committee for a 4-year term.
2. Adopt the Creative City of Gastronomy Advisory Committee's terms of reference.

#### **RESOLUTION**

Moved Cr Alden, Seconded Cr Metcalf.

That the recommendation be adopted.

**CARRIED**

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Policy Context

The City of Greater Bendigo's application to join the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) in the category of gastronomy was developed through extensive community consultation, with both an external and an internal steering committee overseeing its development. It was agreed that, should Bendigo and the region be designated by UNESCO, a formal Committee to Council should be established to provide advice on matters strategically relevant to the City of Gastronomy designation and the mission of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN).

Background Information

The City of Greater Bendigo was designated a UNESCO Creative City in October 2019, in the category of Gastronomy. The City's application embraced everything that is happening across the city and region in terms of food and beverages and proposed ambitious projects to further the mission of UNESCO and the Creative Cities Network.

The application was developed with four pillars at its heart:

- Recognition and elevation of our Indigenous heritage and living culture
- Creativity, innovation and diversity
- Health and Wellbeing
- Sustainability

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) was created in 2004 to foster international cooperation with and between cities that have recognised culture and creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development. The Network recognises seven areas of creativity, one of which is Gastronomy. There are currently 246 cities in the UCCN, with 36 recognised in the category of Gastronomy – including Tucson (USA), Parma (Italy), Östersund (Sweden), Bergen (Norway) and Chengdu (China).

The network works together, foregrounding creativity and culture in development at both a local and international level. The member cities come from diverse regions and work towards a common mission: placing creativity and cultural industries at the core of their development plans to make their cities and regions safe, resilient, inclusive and sustainable.

The UNESCO Creative Cities brand is globally recognised and can significantly raise the national and international profile of the city and region. Of all the creative categories, Gastronomy offers the most potential to benefit the community and economy – through developing and promoting our already thriving food and beverage industries.

The establishment of a Creative City of Gastronomy Advisory Committee, combining various specialist skills from within the City of Greater Bendigo and across the region with the expertise, knowledge and interest of technical experts and community-based participants, will assist Council in developing strategic directions to best capitalise on its new status as a UNESCO Creative City.

Report

Following Bendigo's designation as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy on 31st October 2019, a call out for Expressions of Interest to join the Creative City of Gastronomy Advisory Committee was advertised from 14 December 2019 and was open until 17 January 2020. The opportunity was advertised in print media (Bendigo Advertiser and Mclvor Times), as well as through a media release and call-out on the City's Facebook page and website. Emails were also sent to a mailing list comprising everyone who had been involved in the City of Gastronomy work to date. A total of 21 EOIs were received during this time.

These responses were compiled and shared with a selection panel, comprised of Mayor Cr Margaret O'Rourke, Cr Jennifer Alden, Cr Andrea Metcalf, Trevor Budge and Anna Knight. All EOIs were discussed, with a very strong field of candidates to consider. It was decided that based on written responses it was possible to make a selection without undertaking an interview process. It was also agreed that several of the candidates who were not selected as members of the Committee could be appointed as co-opted members at various times to provide expert advice on various matters. It is also intended that the Youth Council nominate one of their members to join the Advisory Committee.

Members of the selection panel:

Mayor Cr Margaret O'Rourke (Chair)
 Cr Jennifer Alden (Deputy Chair)
 Cr Andrea Metcalf
 Trevor Budge (Manager Regional Sustainable Development)
 Anna Knight (Creative Cities Officer)

Recommended Committee Members (external):

1	Sonia Anthony
2	Rose Vincent
3	Wes Vine
4	Bryley Savage
5	George Biron
6	Laura Maywood
7	Carly Noble
8	Hayley Tibbett
9	Neil Clark
10	Jemily Sweet
11	Abbie Place
12	Amelia Byrne
13	Bernard Glaude

Recommended Committee Members (internal)

Two (2) City of Greater Bendigo representatives at a Director or Manager level with one (1) from the Health and Wellbeing Directorate and one (1) from the Strategy and Growth Directorate.

An officer from the Regional Sustainable Development Unit to provide Committee support.

Two (2) City of Greater Bendigo representatives at any level, one (1) representing tourism and one (1) representing health.

Priority/Importance:

Formation of the Creative City of Gastronomy Advisory Committee is a high priority to ensure the opportunities generated from Bendigo's designation as a Creative City of Gastronomy are fully realised.

Options/Alternatives:

The options are to appoint the recommended members of the Committee or to reject the recommendations of the selection panel and propose a new process of recruitment.

Timelines:

Committee members will be formally notified following Council's decision, with an initial meeting of the group planned for March 2020.

Consultation/Communication

External Consultation:

Advertisements with a call out for committee members appeared in the Bendigo Advertiser and Mclvor Times, with Expressions of Interest accepted for a 5-week period. A media release and Facebook post also advertised the opportunity. Information regarding the committee and the EOI process was available on the City's website and on the Bendigo Gastronomy website, and all individuals involved in the City's UCCN application were invited to apply to join the Committee.

Internal Consultation:

An internal Gastronomy Application Management Team oversaw the development of the UNESCO Creative Cities Application and supported the commitment to form an Advisory Committee should our application be successful.

Resource Implications

The Committee is supported by the Regional Sustainable Development Unit. There are no resource implications associated with the ongoing operation of this committee other than administration and ongoing committee support.

Attachments

1. Creative City of Gastronomy Advisory Committee Draft Terms of Reference



Creative City of Gastronomy Advisory Committee

TERMS OF REFERENCE and associated matters

1. Introduction

The City of Greater Bendigo was designated a UNESCO Creative City in October 2019, in the category of Gastronomy. The City's application embraced everything that is happening across the city and region in terms of food and beverages, and proposed ambitious projects to further the mission of UNESCO and the Creative Cities Network. The application was developed with four pillars at its heart:

- Recognition and elevation of our Indigenous heritage and living culture
- Creativity, innovation and diversity
- Health and Wellbeing
- Sustainability

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) was created in 2004 to foster international cooperation with and between cities that have recognised culture and creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development. The Network recognises seven areas of creativity, one of which is Gastronomy. There are currently 246 cities in the UCCN Network, with 36 recognised in the category of Gastronomy – including Tucson (USA), Parma (Italy), Östersund (Sweden), Bergen (Norway) and Chengdu (China).

The network works together, foregrounding creativity and culture in development at both a local and international level. The member cities come from diverse regions and work towards a common mission: placing creativity and cultural industries at the core of their development plans to make their cities and regions safe, resilient, inclusive and sustainable.

The UNESCO Creative Cities brand is globally recognised and can significantly raise the national and international profile of the city and region. Of all the creative categories, Gastronomy offers the most potential to benefit the community and economy – through developing and promoting our already thriving food and beverage industries.

2. Terminology

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network – ‘the Network’ – provides overarching direction for all City of Gastronomy activities. The Mission of the Network must be considered when developing plans, projects and initiatives under the City of Gastronomy banner.

Bendigo's designation as a City of Gastronomy is not about one restaurant, one café, one grower or producer; this is about the sum of our region's parts and our collective plans for the future. The designation first and foremost recognises that Bendigo is a creative city, and the title is not simply about food and beverages but about all forms of culture and creativity that thrive in our city and region.

The application took a collaborative regional approach and highlighted the development of healthy food systems to benefit everyone. Importantly, being a UNESCO City of Gastronomy is about the region as a whole – from the Murray to the Macedon Ranges – and all the initiatives that are bringing healthy, fresh and creative food into the spotlight.

While the term ‘gastronomy’ might suggest elite fine foods and restaurants, it means a lot more. Gastronomy is about growing and processing food, about the art of good food and drink, and the concept fits with many important aspects of Bendigo and the region's culture and economy, such as:

- First Nations history, culture and relationship with Country – life in our region was for thousands of years based on a local and sustainable food system
- Innovation and creativity in agriculture, manufacturing and food production
- Health issues being addressed through a focus on nutrition and healthy lifestyles
- Increasing interest in local food systems that reduce waste, increase access to fresh food and reduce inequality
- The linking of food production to local employment and sustainable use of resources in the context of climate change
- Food share, food banks and social enterprises addressing social disadvantage through food and training initiatives
- Growing importance of ‘kitchen gardens’, urban agriculture in Bendigo and the region

From sustainable food systems to the damage and disruption brought by European settlement, from globalisation and mass production changing our relationship to food to an increasing emphasis on local, healthy, nutritious food, Bendigo's story is one that will resonate with cities around the world.

3. Purpose

The City of Gastronomy Advisory Committee (the Committee) is a high level strategically focused advisory group. The purpose of the Committee is to provide the best high level advice, guidance and strategic representation to Council with respect to matters concerning UNESCO Creative City and City of Gastronomy status and activities.

The Committee will support Council and CoGB in the development of relevant strategy, policy and action plans and assist with community engagement and discussion around these issues.

The Terms of Reference are provided to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Committee. Key roles of the Committee include:

- a. Providing advice to Council on current and emerging issues for food systems, gastronomic tourism, land management practices, Indigenous food systems and strategies to heal the Country, including issues related to, but not limited to, social, educational, economic, cultural and environmental aspects.
- b. Providing advice on matters strategically relevant to City of Gastronomy designation and the mission of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network as required by Council, including input on food systems strategies and projects, health and wellbeing initiatives, planning considerations, project priorities and funding which may be considered to have an impact on our commitment to the Network and to the Gastronomy cities globally.
- c. Participating in consultative forums initiated by the CoGB for the purpose of informing and seeking feedback from the community.
- d. Assisting in the development of partnerships and communication networks to ensure effective dissemination of information, coordinated advice and feedback to Council.
- e. Harnessing the opportunities that CoGB's community engagement meetings afford to profile issues relevant to Gastronomy, the Network and global cooperation initiatives.
- f. Providing recommendations for research or investigations into strategic issues impacting on gastronomy, food systems, land management innovation, hospitality and tourism.
- g. Providing clear recommendations based on skills, knowledge and experience of the members.
- h. Identify relevant funding opportunities.

Council will take the advice of the City of Gastronomy Advisory Committee into consideration as part of its deliberations, with the City of Greater Bendigo's appointed officer generally the primary liaison between the Committee and Council.

4. Membership

To ensure a balanced and comprehensive base for advice, the Committee should collectively have a diversity of relevant expertise and experience. Ideally there should be a balanced representation of genders and culturally diverse representation. The Committee should also reflect a regional approach, including representatives from other municipalities.

Membership to the Committee shall comprise:

- 4.1 Three (3) Greater Bendigo City Councillors, with one Councillor to be the Chair and another the Deputy Chair.
- 4.2 One Greater Bendigo Youth Councillor
- 4.3 Up to 13 members drawn from Bendigo and surrounding municipalities who represent a broad range of technical skills and community experience.

Members should represent the diversity of creativity and gastronomy, with good understanding of the different aspects of gastronomy (e.g. education, sustainability, health, innovation, creativity, production, hospitality, tourism etc.)

Representatives should demonstrate a general interest in gastronomy, rather than one aspect, with the capacity to consider the views of the wider community and to consider issues strategically and impartially. Community representatives will be chosen by an expression of interest process.

- 4.4 Two (2) City of Greater Bendigo representatives at a Director or Manager level with one (1) from the Health and Wellbeing Directorate and one (1) from the Strategy and Growth Directorate. An officer from the Regional Sustainable Development Unit shall be appointed as the Executive Officer to the Committee.

Two (2) City of Greater Bendigo representatives at any level, one (1) representing tourism and one (1) representing health.

- 4.5 As required by the Committee, members can be co-opted to the Committee to provide specific technical expertise or participate in particular projects.
- 4.6 If a Committee member misses more than two meetings in succession without informing the Committee Chair or Vice Chair, that person will be contacted, and their membership of the Committee may be revoked.
- 4.7 The roles and responsibilities of the Committee members are:
 - a. To be familiar with the relevant council strategies (e.g. Food Systems Strategy, Environment Strategy), the City's Application to UNESCO as well as the UNESCO Creative Cities Mission and the work of other Creative Cities (especially, but not limited to, Cities of Gastronomy). The Committee should be familiar with the UN's Agenda 2030 and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (which provide overarching direction for all projects and initiatives in the Network).
 - b. to be fully prepared for meetings
 - c. to agree to participate in a collaborative meeting format

- d. to bring expertise, local knowledge and broad community experience to the table
- e. to consider and raise issues, proposals and ideas; and
- f. to provide informed advice and guidance.

5. Expressions of Interest

- 5.1 Expressions of Interest for Committee membership will be sought through a public call seeking a diversity of skill sets and experience.
- 5.2 Expressions of Interest for Committee membership must include responses to a set of Key Selection Criteria/Questions. All Expressions of Interest received for Committee membership will be considered by a Selection Panel.
- 5.3 The role of the Selection Panel shall be to assess all Expressions of Interest received, develop a shortlist for interview if required and, following interview, make recommendations to Council as to the preferred Committee membership.
- 5.4 The new Committee will be formally appointed by Council and members will serve in a voluntary capacity.
- 5.5 Any City of Greater Bendigo Officers other than the five nominated officers who attend Committee meetings shall do so in an ex-officio capacity.

6. Term of Appointment

- 6.1 Delegates (section 4.3) shall remain on the Committee for their term so long as they represent the authority referred to or until such time as Council or the relevant government authority chooses to replace them.
- 6.2 Community representatives on the Committee are to be appointed for 4 years. Councillor appointments shall be for a 12 month term.
- 6.3 Retiring Committee members may apply for further terms of office up to a maximum of 3 terms.
- 6.4 The Committee shall make recommendations to the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate to fill any vacancy on the Committee and the term of office of the newly appointed Committee member shall expire at the same time as the Committee member being replaced.

7. Chairperson

A Councillor is to be appointed by Council to chair the meetings. If the Chair is absent, one of the other Councillors or Council delegate present is to chair by agreement.

8. Conduct of Meetings

Committee meetings will be conducted as follows:

- a. Committee meetings are to be held on a regular cycle bi-monthly for the first 12 months with a review of frequency at the end of this time. Additional meetings may be required from time to time. Timing will be confirmed.

- b. Meetings will generally be held at City of Greater Bendigo offices, in Bendigo City Centre.
- c. A quorum will consist of more than half of the Committee members who are eligible to vote.
- d. The Committee will endeavour to reach decisions by consensus. Where this is not achievable, voting rights extend to community members. Voting rights do not extend to Councillors or City of Greater Bendigo officers.
- e. There is no provision for proxy attendees or proxy voting. In the event that a committee member is unable to attend but wishes to cast a vote of an agenda item, the committee member must submit their vote in writing by midday on the day of the meeting.
- f. The Committee, by resolution or through the Chair, may invite any CoGB staff member, individual, interest group, or agency representative to attend a meeting as a delegation or to submit or present information that will assist the Committee in carrying out its functions.
- g. Minutes of each Committee meeting will be recorded and distributed to all Committee members. The minutes shall also be made available to all Councillors and the City's Executive Management Team.

9. Conflict of Interest

Committee members should declare a conflict of interest if they are to discuss an item that, if supported by Council, could result in a direct or indirect benefit or loss to them as opposed to a large sector of the greater Bendigo community. The provisions of the Local Government Act 1989 apply to Councillor Members.

10. Dismissal of Members

Council and the Chief Executive Officer retain the right to revoke the membership of any person found to be acting outside the interests of the City of Greater Bendigo and the communities / sectors that the Committee is charged with representing.

11. Insurance

- 11.1 Public Liability Insurance: Members of any Committee established by the Council under the Local Government Act or any other enabling legislation or, whilst acting in that capacity within the scope of their duties for and on behalf of the Council, are provided with cover under the LMI Broadform Public and Products Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance, subject to the LMI policy terms, conditions, endorsements, exclusions and deductible and the like.
- 11.2 Council appointed Committee members, whilst acting in that capacity within the scope of their duties for and on behalf of Council, are covered within the terms and conditions of the Council's LMI Public and Products Liability Insurance Policy for third party personal injury or damage to property (as defined) caused by an occurrence, and where applicable for breach of professional duty, in connection with the Business of the Council.

- 11.3 The City of Greater Bendigo's insurance policies provide indemnity for personal injury, property loss, products liability and claims for breach of professional duty, subject at all times to the Policy "Conditions and Exclusions".

12. Dissolution

- 12.1 The Committee may, at any meeting, agree to disband.
- 12.2 The Council may - for any reason - resolve to disband the Committee and, upon written notice to that effect being given to Committee members, the Committee shall be disbanded.

13. Implementation and Review

Sections of these Terms of Reference (Sections 5 - 16) are standard for Advisory Committees to Council and are only subject to review by Council or the City of Greater Bendigo. The Committee will undertake a review of the other sections of the Terms of Reference every three (3) years prior to the conclusion of its term.

14. Resources provided by City of Greater Bendigo

- 14.1 Provide administrative and technical support for the Committee's meetings.
- 14.2 Provide a suitable venue for the Committee's meetings, generally of 1-2 hours duration.

15. Communication

Minutes of each meeting will be recorded and distributed to the Committee and Council.

- 15.1 The Chairperson will report to Council regularly.
- 15.2 A delegation from the Committee will present annually to Council Briefings on the Committee's activities and initiatives in the previous year.
- 15.3 Responding to media requests or making public comment on behalf of the Committee is the responsibility of the Chairperson, Chief Executive Officer or an authorised City of Greater Bendigo officer. In some circumstances it may be appropriate for a Committee member to speak publically about the work of the Committee. In these instances, Chairperson approval must be sought.

16. Confidentiality

- 16.1 The Committee will, from time to time, deal with matters subject to confidentiality. Items of confidentiality will be specifically identified and Committee members are expected to observe this provision for the period that the provision applies.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

5.1 GREENING GREATER BENDIGO STRATEGY

Document Information

Author Tania MacLeod, Urban Forester

Responsible Director Debbie Wood, Director Presentation and Assets

Purpose

For Council to endorse the draft Greening Greater Bendigo strategy and associated action plan and gain support for its release for public display.

Summary

Greening Greater Bendigo is a 50-year strategic vision for how urban trees and green infrastructure are planned and prioritised across Greater Bendigo. A draft strategy and accompanying 10-year action plan have been prepared for Council endorsement.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council release the draft Greening Greater Bendigo for public display.

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Alden, Seconded Cr Metcalf.

That the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

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#### **Policy Context**

The development of an Urban Forest Strategy is an action of Council's Community Plan 2017-2021.

Goal 4: Presentation and managing growth.

*4.4.3. Increase urban shade and provide protection for significant and heritage trees through the development of a Greater Bendigo Tree Strategy.*

The development of an Urban Forest Strategy for Greater Bendigo was first identified as flagship project 2 in Council's Environment Strategy endorsed in 2016.

*Flagship Project 2: 'City in the forest, forest in the city'* aims to strategically increase vegetation cover across all urban areas of Greater Bendigo to reduce the urban heat island affect, improve community health and wellbeing and to enhance the overall attractiveness of the City.

## Report

Greening Greater Bendigo is the first urban forest strategy for Greater Bendigo. It is a 50-year strategic vision for increasing tree cover and health across urban areas and townships of Greater Bendigo and provides a strategic response to the complex challenges facing human and natural systems over the coming decades.

The document itself outlines the strategic context and the case for such a strategy. It compromises a vision and rationale on which targets have been set and the action plan has been aligned. It also contains an implementation framework outlining resource considerations and ongoing monitoring, reporting and review.

## Targets

1. Increase tree cover across urban areas and townships of Greater Bendigo from 16% at present to:
  - a. 25% tree cover across urban Bendigo by 2030
  - b. 35% tree cover across urban Bendigo by 2050
2. Improve the health of Bendigo's urban forest. By 2030 we will achieve:
  - a. An establishment rate for all newly planted trees of at least 95%At any one time there will be:
  - b. No more than the 10% of the total tree population with a useful life expectancy of less than ten years; and
  - c. No more than 10% of the total tree population with a health and condition rating of average or poor
3. The community will have a greater understanding of the importance of the urban forest and engage in its stewardship

These targets will be refined as more accurate baselines are established over the coming months with the completion of the tree inventory.

## Action Plan

The strategy is accompanied by a ten-year action plan which outlines the City's most immediate priorities and commitments to achieve the vision over the short-term. It aims to reverse the trend of tree loss from urban areas and align the City's resources and procedures accordingly.

The numerous actions have been grouped into five key strategic themes and assigned priorities and timeframes for action. Of all the actions, there are three that have been listed as priority actions based on their importance to the successful delivery of this strategy.

### Priority actions

1. Develop and deliver a ten-year tree planting program to increase tree cover and replace projected tree losses (Action 1.1)
2. Develop precinct plans for each urban precinct and township to guide local tree planting and green infrastructure investment (Action 4.1)
3. Undertake a review of the mechanisms available to protect significant trees and landscapes (Action 4.2)

### Vision

The vision for Greening Greater Bendigo was written by Greater Bendigo's Youth Council in November 2019 with careful consideration of the community's aspiration identified throughout the extensive community engagement period.

The vision reads:

*"Greater Bendigo: where the community values mindful development that enhances and conserves our environment, provides well-designed green spaces that promote community wellbeing and is conscious of our future climate."*

### Strategy Scope

The primary focus of Greening Greater Bendigo is on Council owned and managed land within urban areas and townships of Greater Bendigo. This includes; park and street trees; road reserves; parks and gardens; active and passive recreational reserves; urban vegetation; natural reserves within urban areas; waterways under City of Greater Bendigo management and; where planning controls can be implemented such as in new developments, overlays and subdivisions.

Under this strategy Council will also advocate for urban forestry on the interface of National and State Parks with urban areas, private properties and reserves and easements within urban areas managed by other agencies - particularly with Vic Roads around township entrances.

### **Consultation/Communication**

The development of Greening Greater Bendigo has involved extensive consultation with the community, internal work areas and affected stakeholders.

A period of community engagement took place in late-2018, the outcomes of which have previously been reported on.

Dja Dja Wurrung have provided feedback and guidance in aligning Greening Greater Bendigo to the aspirations of their Country Plan, Dhelkunya Dja 2014-2034, and will provide the forward for the final document. Youth Council has also provided valuable insights as well as penning the vision for the document.

Updates have been given to key stakeholders during the development of strategy including the Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee on multiple occasions and regular updates sent to those registered on the mailing list.

### Public display period

A period of public display is scheduled for feedback on the Greening Greater Bendigo draft following the February Council meeting and will run from February 20 to March 27, 2020.

The public display period for Greening Greater Bendigo coincides with that of Reimagining Bendigo Creek and the Greater Bendigo Food Systems Strategy. A communications and media plan will combine all three projects and comprise a radio campaign and multiple pop-ups at Summer in the Parks events encouraging the community to provide feedback via Council's website.

### **INTERNAL CONSULTATION**

The action plan has been developed in collaboration with multiple internal work areas over several months including dialogue at unit meetings, one-on-one meetings with relevant staff members and a drop-in style workshop in October which was attended by approximately 35 staff members. The table below lists the meetings with internal stakeholders and work areas that have taken place during the development of the action plan. In addition, 18 individual officers and work areas have provided written feedback on the draft strategy and action plan.

| <b>Work area</b>                            | <b>Date</b>            |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Engineering                                 | 17/06/2019             |
| Healthy Greater Bendigo                     | 21/08/2019             |
| Arboriculture and Environmental Management  | 27/08/2019; 13/12/2019 |
| Community Partnerships                      | 11/09/2019             |
| Active and Healthy Lifestyles               | 12/09/2020; 25/09/2019 |
| Walk, Cycle Greater Bendigo                 | 20/09/2019             |
| Statutory Planning - Planning Scheme Review | 23/09/2019             |
| Parks and Open Space                        | 25/09/2019             |
| Regional Sustainable Development            | 1/10/2019              |
| Innovation and Transformation               | 4/10/2019              |
| All staff workshop (40 staff members)       | 9/10/2019              |
| Public Space and Place Making               | 10/10/2019             |
| Statutory Planning                          | 31/10/2019             |
| Statutory Planning                          | 28/11/2019             |
| Communications and media                    | 29/11/2019             |
| ESD - Innovation and Transformation         | 4/12/2019              |
| Food System Strategy                        | 9/12/2019              |
| Financial strategy                          | 20/12/2019             |
| Statutory Planning                          | 20/12/2019             |
| EMT                                         | 14/01/2020             |

**UPCOMING DATES**

| <b>Milestone</b>                                      | <b>Date</b>                |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Public display period                                 | 20 February– 27 March 2020 |
| EMT briefing (Final document)                         | 12 May 2020                |
| Council briefing                                      | 1 June 2020                |
| Ordinary Council Meeting (Final strategy endorsement) | 17 June 2020               |

**Resource Implications**

Realising the vision for Greening Greater Bendigo requires long-term commitment from Council, City staff and the wider Greater Bendigo community. The Action Plan outlines the estimated resource demand for each action. The delivery of the action plan will require significant investment over the next decade and beyond and, in a period of rate-capping and slow economic growth, there will no doubt be challenges in securing sufficient resources. It will therefore be essential that Greening Greater Bendigo principles are integrated into the way that the City plans for and manages its assets and the public realm if the targets are to be met.

**Attachments**

1. Draft Greening Greater Bendigo 2020-2070
2. Draft Greening Greater Bendigo Action Plan 2020-2030
3. Community Engagement Plan



## **6. EMBRACING OUR CULTURE AND HERITAGE**

Nil.

## **7. LEAD AND GOVERN FOR ALL**

### **7.1 RECORD OF ASSEMBLIES**

#### **Document Information**

**Author**            **Jessica Clarke-Hong, Manager Governance**

**Responsible Director**   **Andrew Cooney, Director Corporate Performance**

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#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide the record of any assembly of Councillors, which has been held since the last Council Meeting, so that it can be recorded in the Minutes of the formal Council Meeting.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council note the record of assemblies of Councillors as outlined in this report.

#### **RESOLUTION**

Moved Cr Fyffe, Seconded Cr Williams.

That the recommendation be adopted.

**CARRIED**

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Policy Context

City of Greater Bendigo Community Plan 2017-2021:

Goal 1 Effective community engagement will guide well informed, responsive decision-making and financially responsible resource allocations, which are transparent and accountable.

Background Information

A meeting will be an assembly of Councillors if it considers matters that are likely to be the subject of a Council decision, or, the exercise of a Council delegation and the meeting is:

1. A planned or scheduled meeting that includes at least half the Councillors (5) and a member of Council staff; or
2. An advisory committee of the Council where one or more Councillors are present.

The requirement for reporting provides increased transparency and the opportunity for Councillors to check the record, particularly the declarations of conflict of interest.

Report

Meeting Information	
Meeting Name/Type	Councillors' Briefing
Meeting Date	13 January 2020
Matters discussed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review of Forward Agenda and Semi-Final Ordinary Agenda Review 2. Planning matters 3. Response to Petition - Melbury Court Playspace 4. Presentation by Make a Change 5. Review Council Priorities 6. Council Elections 2020 7. Industrial Land Development Strategy
Attendees/Apologies	
Councillors	Cr Margaret O'Rourke Cr Jennifer Alden Cr Matt Emond Cr Rod Fyffe Cr Susie Hawke Cr Andrea Metcalf Cr James Williams Apology: Cr George Flack
Staff/Community Representatives	Mr Craig Niemann Ms Debbie Wood Mr Nathan Morsillo Mr Steven Abbott Mr Trevor Budge Mr Peter Hargreaves Apologies: Mr Andrew Cooney Ms Vicky Mason Mr Bernie O'Sullivan
Conflict of Interest disclosures	

Matter No.	Councillor/officer making disclosure	Councillor/officer left meeting
	Nil	

7.2 YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBER SELECTION

Document Information

Author **Rory White, Inclusive Communities Officer**

Responsible **Vicky Mason, Director Health and Wellbeing**
Director

Purpose

To thank outgoing Youth Councillors and endorse nine new Youth Councillors to join the Greater Bendigo Youth Council for 2020.

Summary

The City of Greater Bendigo's Youth Council commenced in February 2019 with 18 Youth Councillors.

At the October 22, 2019 Youth Council meeting, eight Youth Councillors advised they would be resigning from the Youth Council to pursue studies or take up employment opportunities.

To fill these vacancies, the City undertook a publicly advertised Expression of Interest process during November. Short-listed applicants were interviewed in December 2019.

Due to the high quality of applicants, the Interview Panel resolved to offer nine young people a Youth Councillor role, meaning there are now 19 Youth Councillors.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council acknowledge the valuable contribution of retiring Youth Councillors and endorse the nine new Youth Councillors, listed in this report, who will join the City of Greater Bendigo Youth Council.

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Pethybridge, Seconded Cr Metcalf.

That the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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## Policy Context

### 1. Community Plan Reference:

City of Greater Bendigo Community Plan 2017-2021:

Goal 1                      Lead and govern for all

Objective 1.1:           Engage with all communities.

Goal 2                      Wellbeing and fairness

Objective 2.4:           Support participation and development for residents of all ages and abilities.

2019/20 Community Plan Action: Advance the voices of young people, including supporting the Greater Bendigo Youth Council and implementing the Youth Strategy.

City of Greater Bendigo Youth Strategy: Explore, Engage, Empower - Young People in Greater Bendigo (2017- 2021):

Goal 1                      We provide opportunities for young people to have their say.

Action 1                   Strengthen the Youth Action Group to become a Youth Council and increase connections between Councillors, young people and the community to advocate on priority areas.

## Background Information

The City of Greater Bendigo's Youth Council commenced at the beginning of 2019 with 18 Youth Councillors.

The Youth Council represents the voice of young people aged 14 to 24 years who live, work and study in the municipality. The Youth Council acts as an advisory and advocacy body to Council concerning the priority issues faced by local young people.

At the October 22, 2019 Youth Council meeting, eight Youth Councillors advised they would be resigning from the Youth Council to pursue their studies or take up employment opportunities.

To fill these vacancies, the City undertook a publicly advertised Expression of Interest process during November. Short-listed applicants were interviewed in December 2019.

Expressions of Interest (EOI) to join the Youth Council were publicly sought via advertisements and articles in local newspapers and community newsletters, City of Greater Bendigo and YO Bendigo websites and social media platforms, as well as local youth agency networks.

Previous Council Decision(s) Date(s):

December 13, 2017 - Council adopted the Greater Bendigo Youth Strategy: Explore, Engage, Empower - Young People in Greater Bendigo (2017- 2021).

January 23, 2019: Council introduce and acknowledge the 18 young people selected to participate in the inaugural City of Greater Bendigo Youth Council.

## **Report**

At the October 22, 2019 Youth Council meeting eight Youth Councillors indicated their intention to resign to concentrate on their studies or employment opportunities.

The Youth Councillors who resigned were:

|                       |                                                                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Alyssa Lai            | (Scholarship to study in China)                                            |
| Annalise Varker       | (Concentrating on her new traineeship with DELWP)                          |
| Ella Edwards          | (Concentrate on her VCE)                                                   |
| Eva Tuyet Jan         | (Concentrating on her tertiary studies)                                    |
| Jack Tayba            | (Moving to Sydney to undertake an internship with Mercedes)                |
| Natasha Romas         | (Moved to Melbourne for employment with a legal firm)                      |
| Pan Pah Thei          | (Concentrating on her tertiary studies)                                    |
| Khayshie Tilak Ramesh | (Concentrate on her work and her role as Multicultural Youth Commissioner) |

To fill these vacancies the City undertook a publicly advertised EOI process during November 2019. Fifteen EOI were received from young people for the eight vacant positions on the Youth Council.

The EOI process required applicants to respond to four questions concerning relevant knowledge and skills and experience in community leadership. Young people's EOIs were assessed and shortlisted by City staff based on the following criteria:

- a) Motivation to nominate.
- b) Understanding of young people's needs in the community.
- c) Understanding of the Youth Councillor role.
- d) Experience in community leadership.

Thirteen applicants were shortlisted for interviews which were held in December 2019 and involved the: Mayor, Cr Margaret O'Rourke, Cr Malcolm Pethybridge, former Youth Councillor Alyssa Lai and Rory White (Inclusive Communities Officer).

Nine new Youth Councillors were selected:

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Amy Manderson           | 18 years and lives in Strathfieldsaye. Amy recently completed her VCE at Bendigo Senior Secondary College (BSSC) and will begin a Diploma of Education at La Trobe Bendigo in 2020.      |
| Grace McIntosh          | 17 years and lives in Junortoun. Grace attends NetSchool and is an active member of Hip Hoppportunities based in Eaglehawk.                                                              |
| Jack Smith              | 19 years and is moving to Bendigo from Mildura to complete a Bachelor of Applied Science/ Master of Occupational Therapy. Jack brings experience in the YMCA Victorian Youth Parliament. |
| Liloma Qurbani          | 18 years and was born in Afghanistan and lived in Pakistan and India before settling in Australia in 2017. Liloma is completing her VCE at BSSC.                                         |
| Lucy McNaughton – Perry | 19 years and lives in Eaglehawk. Lucy is studying a Bachelor of Business at La Trobe University Bendigo.                                                                                 |
| Mariah Tayba            | 18 years. Moved to Bendigo from Lebanon in 2015 and has a strong passion for volunteering. Will complete her VCE at BSSC in 2020.                                                        |
| Remus Brasier           | 15 years and lives in Quarry Hill. Remus is currently completing Year 10 at Girton Grammar in 2020.                                                                                      |
| Shay Murphy             | 21 years and lives in Maiden Gully. Completing a double degree in Business & Law at La Trobe Bendigo.                                                                                    |
| Xavier Rodgers          | 14 years and lives in Eaglehawk. Currently attends Victory Christian College.                                                                                                            |

With the addition of nine new Youth Councillors, the Youth Council now comprises 13 young women and 6 young men.

Youth Council induction has occurred in January 2020 and the first Youth Council Briefing meeting will be held on February 11, 2020. The next quarterly Youth Council Briefing to Council is scheduled for March 2, 2020.

### **Consultation/Communication**

The opportunity to submit an EOI to join the Youth Council was publicly advertised through a range of mediums including newspapers, City websites and social media. City staff also presented on the Youth Council and its membership opportunities to schools and service providers. Additionally, staff responded to numerous enquiries from interested community members and service providers during the EOI period.

### **Resource Implications**

Young people participate in the Youth Council on a voluntary basis.

The Community Partnerships Unit coordinates, supports and promotes the Youth Council within existing budgetary resources.



## **Conclusion**

The establishment of the City of Greater Bendigo Youth Council was recommended as part of the City's Youth Strategy: Explore, Engage, Empower - Young People in Greater Bendigo (2017- 2021).

Following an EOI process at the end of 2018, 18 young people were selected to comprise the inaugural Youth Council which commenced at the beginning of 2019 for a two-year term.

At the October 22, 2019 Youth Council meeting eight Youth Councillors indicated their intention to resign to pursue their studies or take up employment opportunities.

The EOI process seeking new Youth Councillors commenced in November and interviews were conducted in December 2019.

Fifteen EOIs were received and 13 young people were shortlisted for interviews. Of these, nine young people are recommended to be endorsed by Council as new Youth Councillors on the City of Greater Bendigo Youth Council for the remainder of the initial two-year term.

### 7.3 FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT Q2 - 31 DECEMBER 2019

#### Document Information

**Author** Nathan Morsillo, Manager Financial Strategy

**Responsible Director** Andrew Cooney, Director Corporate Performance

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#### Summary/Purpose

To provide Council with:

A report on the financial performance and financial position of the City of Greater Bendigo (CoGB) to 31 December for 2019/20.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Greater Bendigo City Council receive the Finance Report comparing Budgeted and Actual Revenues and Expenses to 31 December 2019, in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

#### **RESOLUTION**

Moved Cr Fyffe, Seconded Cr Flack.

That the recommendation be adopted.

**CARRIED**

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Background Information

In accordance with Section 138 of the *Local Government Act 1989*:

“At least every 3 months, the Chief Executive Officer must ensure that a statement comparing the budgeted revenue and expenditure for the financial year with the actual revenue and expenditure to date is presented to the Council at a Council meeting which is open to the public.”

A review of the financials for the period 1 July 2019 to 31 December 2019 was undertaken by the City's Finance Committee on 10 February 2020.

Policy Context

City of Greater Bendigo Community Plan 2017-2021:

<u>Goal 1</u>	<u>Lead and govern for all</u>
Objective 1.3	Be innovative and financially responsible
Objective 1.4	Be accountable and efficient in its use of the community's money

Report

This report provides an update on the financial performance in comparison to the budget for the 2019/2020 financial year for the period 1 July 2019 to 31 December 2019.

1. YTD Financial Performance

Operating Result - YTD Actual vs YTD Budget

Operating result is a measure for accounting for an organisation's profit or loss for a given period. An Operating Result recognises all revenue and operating expenditure; it includes non-cash expenditure such as depreciation and non-cash revenue of donated assets.

The City's operating result as at 31 December 2019 is a variance of \$2.6M (4%) from the position budgeted for this point in the year. There are a number of factors contributing to this variance which are outlined in further detail later in the report.

YTD Budget 31/12/2019 Surplus/(Deficit)	YTD Actual 31/12/2019 Surplus/(Deficit)	Variance
\$62.6M	\$60M	\$2.6M Unfavourable

The Income Statement for the period 01 July 2019 – 31 December 2019 is included below:

Income Statement – COGB

	YEAR TO DATE				FORECAST			
	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Variance		Annual Budget	Full Year Forecast	Forecast Variance	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
REVENUE								
Rates & Charges	121,607	121,308	(299)	0%	121,851	121,707	(144)	0%
Stat Fees & Fines	3,096	3,077	(19)	-1%	5,581	5,311	(270)	-5%
User Fees	13,297	14,583	1,286	10%	26,897	28,306	1,409	5%
Operating Grants	8,340	9,398	1,058	13%	24,746	26,713	1,967	8%
Capital Grants	4,337	3,378	(959)	-22%	8,674	9,124	450	5%
Contributions - Cash	2,233	1,981	(252)	-11%	4,116	4,213	97	2%
Contributions - Asset	6,154	0	(6,154)	-100%	12,307	12,307	-	0%
Interest & Other	712	656	(56)	-8%	1,424	1,320	(104)	-7%
Internal Revenue	14,103	13,158	(945)	-7%	28,207	25,826	(2,381)	-8%
Share of NCGRLC	46	0	(46)	-100%	92	92	-	0%
Total Revenue	173,925	167,539	(6,386)	-4%	233,895	234,920	1,025	0%
EXPENSES								
Employee Benefits	34,798	34,142	657	2%	70,525	70,560	35	0%
Materials & Services	39,040	36,367	2,673	7%	74,953	74,529	(425)	-1%
Equipment Expenses	3,638	2,934	704	19%	6,941	7,008	67	1%
Depreciation	19,621	20,100	(479)	-2%	39,240	40,266	1,026	3%
Borrowing Costs	1,060	1,023	37	3%	2,120	2,120	-	0%
Loss on PPEI	-355	65	(419)	118%	4,326	4,441	115	3%
Bad Debts	112	-1	113	101%	226	226	-	0%
Internal Expenses	13,389	12,871	518	4%	26,657	26,208	(449)	-2%
Total Expenses	111,304	107,501	3,803	3%	224,988	225,358	370	0%
Operating Result	62,621	60,038	-2,583	-4%	8,907	9,562	654	7%

Major variances that contribute to the result include:

Area	Fav / Unfav	Main Contributing Factors	Variance
Contributions – Asset	Unfavourable	This income relates to infrastructure Council takes ownership of when developments are completed. The process to value these assets and record them in Councils systems has not yet occurred this financial year. This is a timing issue and not likely to result in a permanent variance	\$6.2M
Government Grants – Operating	Favourable	The favourable result is due to additional grants including Community Partnerships (inclusive communities and champions for change programs); and various Regional Sustainability and Development grants. This income will be matched by expenditure in 19/20 and 20/21.	\$1M

Area	Fav / Unfav	Main Contributing Factors	Variance
User Fees	Favourable	Higher quantities of commercial waste have been received than budgeted. Additionally, there has been increased activity at the Bendigo Livestock Exchange.	\$1.2M
Equipment Expenses	Favourable	Timing of expenditure for plant and equipment expenses associated with unsealed road maintenance has changed due to dry conditions. This includes expenditure on crushed rock and plant operations.	\$0.7M
Government Grants – Capital	Unfavourable	Capital grants are unfavourable to the adopted budget due to the timing of invoicing for grants related to sealed road projects. Grant funds are expected to be received within the coming months.	\$1M

2. Forecast Performance

The City regularly updates its forecasts, which estimates the financial year position as at 30 June 2020. The operating forecast result is currently favourable to budget, representing various minor additional forecast income and expenditure reductions in the current financial year.

Operating Result - Forecast v Annual Budget

Annual Budget 30/06/2020 Operational Surplus	Forecast 30/06/2020 Operational Surplus	Variance
\$8.9M	\$9.5M	\$0.7M Favourable

Major variances that contribute to the forecast favourable operating result include the following:

Area	Fav / Unfav	Main Contributing Factors	Variance
Operating Grants	Favourable	The City has been successful in gaining a number of operating grants that were not included in the adopted budget. These programs are mainly across Active & Healthy Lifestyles, Regional Sustainable Development and Community Partnerships. These will have corresponding expenditure in the current and subsequent year.	\$2M

Area	Fav / Unfav	Main Contributing Factors	Variance
User Fees	Favourable	Additional levels of revenue are forecast due to increased levels of commercial waste being processed. In addition, it is forecasted that the City will receive higher than budgeted revenue from fees associated with parking, building appointments and new pool barrier regulations (with some associated additional expenditure due to increased workload)	\$1.4M

2019/2020 Cash Result

The cash result is managed on an ongoing basis rather than annually, as the impact of previous year's results will affect the following year's budget.

	Annual Budget Surplus/(Deficit)
Accumulated Surplus Carried Forward 30/06/19	\$20,273,707
Carried Forward Capital Work Projects from 2018/2019	(\$13,863,306)
Grants received in 2018/2019 not spent at 30 June 2019	(\$761,871)
Budgeted accumulated cash surplus as at 30/06/20	(\$472,033)

	Forecast Result Surplus/(Deficit)
2019/20 financial year cash result (including above carry-forwards & grants)	\$4,380,732
Capital Projects identified at 30/09/2019 as requiring Carry Forward	N/A*
Forecast of grants in 2019/2020 relating to 2020/2021	N/A*
2019/2020 forecast accumulated surplus/(deficit)	\$10,029,262

* - these are forecast in the third quarter report

3. Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet for 31 December 2019 is included below:

Balance Sheet – COGB

	Annual Budget 2020 \$'000	YTD Previous Actual 2019 \$'000	YTD Actual 2020 \$'000	Year on Year Variance	
				\$'000	%
Current Assets					
Cash and Cash Equivalents	45,832	64,353	64,658	305	0%
Trade and Other Receivables	12,270	77,492	78,145	654	1%
Inventory	-	424	698	274	65%
Other Assets/Prepayments	1,520	1,718	1,588	(130)	-8%
Total Current Assets	59,622	143,987	145,089	1,102	58%
Non-Current Assets					
Investments in Associates	3,949	3,222	3,272	51	2%
Trade and Other Receivables	80	101	59	(42)	-41%
Forestry Plantations	0	83	83	-	0%
Intangible Assets	0	216	216	-	0%
Plant, Equipment and Infrastructure	1,538,802	1,486,152	1,599,783	113,631	8%
Total Non-Current Assets	1,542,831	1,489,772	1,603,412	113,640	8%
TOTAL ASSETS	1,602,453	1,633,759	1,748,501	114,742	7%
Current Liabilities					
Trade and Other Payables	15,828	13,724	10,910	2,814	21%
Provisions	16,675	18,380	16,521	1,859	10%
Interest Bearing Liabilities and Borrowings	5,397	2,107	1,998	109	5%
Trust Funds	3,025	2,672	2,560	112	4%
Total Current Liabilities	40,925	36,883	31,989	4,894	13%
Non-Current Liabilities					
Provisions	9,875	10,251	10,804	(552)	-5%
Interest Bearing Liabilities and Borrowings	40,643	45,684	41,725	3,960	9%
Total Non-Current Liabilities	50,518	55,936	52,529	3,407	6%
TOTAL LIABILITIES	91,443	92,818	84,518	8,301	9%
NET ASSETS	1,511,010	1,540,941	1,663,984	123,044	8%
Equity					
Accumulated Surplus	616,862	764,739	821,407	56,668	7%
Reserves	871,565	752,124	817,156	65,031	9%
Other Reserves	22,583	24,077	25,421	1,344	6%
TOTAL EQUITY	1,511,010	1,540,941	1,663,984	123,044	8%

4. Proposed Mid-Year budget consideration

It is usual that during a budget cycle, additional and unplanned issues arise that need to be addressed and can impact a budget. These could be expenditure or revenue.

During the first six months of 19/20, a number of items have been identified and are included for Council's consideration. These are included at **Attachment 1**.

The total impact of these adjustments is \$1.4M, and for the purposes of effective forecasting, these have been factored into the forecasts noted in Section 3. Should Council not approve the inclusion of all of some of the proposed variances, the forecast can be adjusted.

Conclusion

The Finance Committee has reviewed the statement comparing Budgeted and Actual Revenues and Expenses to 31 December 2019, and the financial forecast for 2019/2020.

Attachment 1 - Mid-Year Budget Items

Project/Service Area	Details	Amount
Gurri Wanyarra Energy Efficiency Audit	Budget submission has been prepared requesting a budget allocation to undertake a comprehensive audit and energy efficiency review at the Gurri Wanyarra site.	\$50,000
Gurri Wanyarra Utility Costs	Following a full year of operation there is now a clearer picture of the utility costs associated with Gurri Wanyarra.	\$245,000
Purchase of Property in Maiden Gully	Council has elected to purchase properties in Maiden Gully & Huntly which have strategic significance for future DCP planning.	\$200,000
Supporting the City of Gastronomy	To support the UNESCO recognition, a budget submission has been prepared and approved which covers various costs (including salary) associated with the designation.	\$102,422
Municipal Baths / Rosalind Park	External design costs to support faster progression of this projects as a Councillor priority for 2020	\$233,000
Kangaroo Flat Library Relocation	Increase in budget allocation required to recognise the works brought forward into the current year that was previously intended to be staged over numerous years.	\$586,818
TOTAL		\$1,417,240

8. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.

10. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cr Williams reported on his last month as follows

"Australia Day is always an enjoyable event and this year I attended the community barbecue and function at Elmore. Carl Koch gave his usual rendition of a colloquial poem based on humour and goodwill. A bacon and egg breakfast was enjoyed by all and the brass band from Bendigo is always a highlight. Off to Bendigo for the ceremony at Lake Weeroona and congratulations to our new and past citizens of the year who do a great job of representing their communities of interest. Thanks to Kevin Cail and Sam Kane for a job well done and we all look forward to getting to know and hearing from our new citizens of the year, Anne Prime and Elmore's own Harley Hayes. From Lake Weeroona to the Town Hall for a favourite ceremony, the swearing-in of new citizens. It never ceases to amaze me the diversity and background of these people and it is great to see Bendigo becoming a multicultural city.

Had lunch with the Youth Council and the newly appointed members along with the Mayor and fellow Councillors. Great to see such a diverse bunch of enthusiastic youths participating in the process and hopefully learning and looking forward to a solid contribution to their causes in the future.

A listening post at Peter Krenz Leisure Centre in Eaglehawk where there was a good turn out and diverse range of issues covered by those present. Thanks to the staff at the centre that provided a meeting space.

Presented to the Australian Leadership Group along with Cr Colleen Condliffe about a possible part solution to the waste issue for Northern Victoria and more particularly, Bendigo. An interesting and engaging group with some great knowledge and background.

One of the best outings is talking to the students at Eaglehawk Secondary College and along with Cr Pethybridge and the City's Youth Officer, Rory White, we had a good chat about council issues in the area and the Youth Council".

Cr Hawke reported on her attendance at the following meetings and events:

- *Bendigo Trust Board Meeting*
- *Three Councillor Briefings*
- *Tour of the Golden Square Swimming Pool*
- *Eppalock Ward Listening Post*
- *Meeting regarding Rosalind Park*
- *Disability Inclusion Reference Committee Meeting*
- *Rural Communities Committee Meeting*

Cr Emond reported on his attendance at the following meetings and events:

- Music and Arts Program Launch at Bendigo Health
- 'Changed Forever' exhibition at the Soldiers' Memorial in Pall Mall
- Highlighting the need to ensure that artists receive commensurate payment for their work in the arts and creative industries sector
- Crimestoppers launch of Bushfire Arson and the introduction of information in other languages
- Commended the work of Bill Clark who voluntarily works to clean-up One Tree Hill and thank you to Deb Wood's team in providing tip vouchers for Bill to take rubbish to the landfill; last year Bill advised there was 5,771 litres of rubbish collected in the area!

Cr Metcalf reported on her last month as follows:

"Firstly my apologies to the Golden Square Pool Committee and pool users. You don't have an answer to your request about whether your pool will remain open after the end of this Pool season which is on the Labour Day weekend. I know you were hoping to have a decision at this meeting.

Not having a decision makes it difficult for the Pool Committee to know whether they can accept the grants from the Federal and State Governments and Swimming Australia that they've been successful in obtaining. The Pool patrons are asking questions about next season already but there aren't answers to be given.

As a Council we can talk about wanting to be the world's most liveable community and I think this community demonstrates what a liveable community looks like on the ground.

At the Heywire dinner in Canberra last week, the story that was played during the dinner, was about Sam Kane, from his journey from a 13 year old volunteer to today being President of the Golden Square Pool amongst other roles.

Australia Day was a busy day for the councillors. It was a real pleasure to listen to Dr Skye Kinder who was the Australia Day ambassador at Eaglehawk. She talked about the setbacks in her life that helped her get her to where she is today. She was so inspiring.

The Eaglehawk Australia Day citizens were Wally Stables and Dylan Gaffee. Both of them make worthwhile contributions to their local community. Well done and well deserved recognition. It was a real pleasure to talk to Wicky Toma at the breakfast who is 103, reminiscing about travelling out to the Whipstick in a horse and cart. Wicky has lived in Eaglehawk all his life. The Eaglehawk Rotary Club cooked up a delicious breakfast and the Australia Day breakfast in Canterbury Park is getting better every year.

Congratulations also to Rhianwen and Andrew Seiter on the opening of Mackenzie Quarters and Ms Batterhams last Saturday. It has been an amazing transformation of a building and I wish you all the best going forward. You have already been very generous in sharing your building with events that the City has been hosting.

There is a new Mayor at Kamarooka too being Erroll Hay who is taking over from Robyn McKay.

Huntly Family Fun Day was great on Sunday. There was a heap of families out there and lots to keep the children entertained. Congratulations to the organising committee.

Also a reminder that the Huntly CFA are holding a Bushfire Planning Workshop on Saturday 29/2 at the Huntly Fire Station between 10am and 1pm. You can register for this workshop by emailing Helen.Taylor@cfa.vic.gov.au

There will be a fundraiser for the Huntly CFA with tea at the Huntly Hotel so make sure you pencil the date in your diary. I know the Ward councillors will be in attendance. We just don't know the date of it yet".

Cr Alden reported on her attendance at the following meetings and events:

- Chinese New Year celebrations (Year of the Rat)
- Australia Day celebrations at the Golden Square Swimming Pool and Lake Weeroona
- Australia Day citizenship ceremony at which the city welcomed 44 new citizens
- Great Stupa of Universal Compassion - the largest Buddhist pagoda in the southern hemisphere
- Meeting new members of the Youth Council
- Bendigo Chamber Music Festival
- Meeting with Dag Hartman UNESCO City of Gastronomy from Ostersund in Sweden - a wonderful mentor for Bendigo's Creative City of Gastronomy
- Spoke at the Bendigo NEXT tourism conference on what being a Creative City of Gastronomy means for the tourism industry
- Council Budget Workshops
- Looking forward to the women's football match next week (with the Tigers being stronger than the Cats!)

Cr Flack reported on his attendance at the following meetings and events:

- *Australia Day celebrations at Mia Mia and Lake Weeroona and played with the Marist Brass Band*
- *Australia Day citizenship ceremony at the Bendigo Town Hall*
- *Eppalock Ward Listening Post*
- *Spent the last week in Tasmania for the Mustang Rally*
- *Attended the Municipal Fire Plan Committee Meeting at Epsom*

Cr Fyffe reported on his attendance at the following meetings and events:

- Highlighted there is only 41 days until the 150th celebrations for Easter!
- Extended congratulations to previous Citizen of the Year, Kevin Cail and Young Citizen of the Year, Sam Kane
- Australia Day celebrations at Maiden Gully and noted that there are a lot of celebrations held in the morning, which makes it difficult to get to all the celebrations; it may be a topic for discussion for some to be held in an evening
- Marong Football and Cricket Clubs held a T20 match to fundraise for Bushfire Relief
- Opening of the Bendigo Chamber Music Festival
- Opening of Clad, contemporary ceramic gallery at the Bendigo Pottery
- Welcome to Monash Medical students
- Launch of Creative Communities
- Opening of Mackenzie Quarters

11. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor, Cr Margaret O'Rourke tabled a report on her attendance at the following meetings and events:

- Attended the Industrial Land Steering Committee Meeting
- Attended the Change the Heart service of prayer and lament held at St Matthew's Church, Long Gully
- Attended the Bendigo Chinese Association: 2020 Lunar New Year Festival held at Dai Gum San
- Attend and spoke at the Junortoun, Strathfieldsaye and Bendigo Australia Day Community Celebrations.
- Presided at the Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony attended by 44 new citizens
- Attended the Disc Golf Opening Day at the Quarry Hill Golf Course
- Met with the Youth Council as part of their Induction
- Attended the Unveiling of The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion
- Attended a consultation meeting to discuss planning application at 1 Denovan Street, East Bendigo
- Attended a joint meeting of the Bendigo Maubisse Friendship Committee and the Ballarat Friends of Ainara Community Committee
- Attended the Sustainability and Environment Advisory Committee meeting
- Attended and officially opened the Bendigo Chamber Music Festival held at The Capital Theatre
- Attended a dinner with Dag Hartman visiting from Ostersund in Sweden and the City of Gastronomy committee
- Chaired the Bendigo Maubisse Friendship Committee meeting
- Attended a planning session with Dag Hartman visiting from Ostersund in Sweden regarding City of Gastronomy
- Attended the Bendigo Chamber of Music Festival's Mayor's Gala concert
- Attended and spoke to participant at the Australian Leadership Program
- Attended and spoke at the Announcement for Inclusive Playground Grants by Maree Edwards MP
- Spoke to the participants of the Power to the People program
- Attended the Exhibition Launch: Changed Forever - Legacies of Conflict (A shrine of Remembrance Touring Exhibition)
- Attended and hosted the Civic Welcome for the Essendon Football Club
- Attended the Eaglehawk Landfill Buffer community information drop in session
- Presented to the Rural Councils Victoria group
- Presented certificates to students at Quarry Hill Primary School
- Attended the Creative Communities Garden Party
- Attended and spoke at the Mackenzie Quarters official opening
- Met with the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor of La Trobe University
- Spoke to the participants attending the Workplace Inclusion - A program for Bendigo
- Attended and welcomed participants at the City of Greater Bendigo Affordable Housing Workshop
- Attended and laid a wreath at the Darwin Defenders Commemorative Service
- Participated in numerous workshops and forums, Including:
- Participated in numerous radio, newspaper, television media interviews and photo opportunities
- Met with many residents, businesses and community groups regarding a wide range of issues.

Thank you to the Deputy Mayor and those Councillors who represented me at events I was unable to attend.

12. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Craig Niemann, tabled a report on his attendance at the following meetings and events:

- Participated in a meeting of the Industrial Land Steering Committee
- Attended the Australia Day celebrations including the formal announcement of the Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year and Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony at which 44 residents became Australian citizens
- Participated in a number of Executive Management Group teleconferences of Regional Cities Victoria
- Participated in a meeting of the Bendigo Trust Board
- Assisted with interviews for appointment of CEO for Bendigo Heritage Attractions
- Participated in meetings relating to Bendigo GovHub
- With the Mayor, met with the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor of La Trobe University
- Participated in regular media interviews
- Attended the unveiling ceremony of The Great Stupa which was unveiled for the first time since reaching its height of 48 metres after 17 years of construction
- Participated in discussions with Councillors regarding the 2020/21 Budget
- Attended a meeting of Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnerships
- Attended a meeting of Local Government Chief Executive Officers hosted by Hobart City Council

13. CONFIDENTIAL (SECTION 89) REPORTS

Nil.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7:49pm.

Confirmed:

18 March 2020

Chair