**Council AGENDA**

Thursday 23 June 2022

Commencing at 6pm

Council Chamber, Moreland Civic Centre, 90 Bell Street, Coburg



**1. WELCOME**

**2. APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS**

**4. COUNCIL REPORTS**

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**4. Council Reports**

**4.1 Proposed Moreland City Council 4-Year Budget 2022-2026 and Council Action Plan 2022-2023 - For Adoption**

**Director Business Transformation, Sue Vujcevic**

**Finance Management**

**Officer Recommendation**

That Council:

1. Having considered all submissions received and in accordance with Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, adopts the Annual Budget 2022-26 (Attachment 1 to this report).

2. Formally declares the Rates Levies and Annual Service Charges for the 2022-23 rating year as follows:

a) Declaration of Rates and Charges:

In accordance with section 158 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, the following rates and charges are declared for the rating year commencing 1 July 2022 and ending 30 June 2023.

b) Amount intended to be raised:

An amount of $176,568,599 (or such other amount as is lawfully raised as a consequence of this resolution) be declared as the amount which Council intends to raise by general rates and the annual service charge, which is calculated as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Amount** |
| Residential properties | $140,030,007 |
| Commercial properties | $7,843,736 |
| Industrial properties | $4,985,495 |
| Municipal charge | $0 |
| Service charges | $23,695,732 |
| Charge in lieu of rates on cultural and recreational lands | $13,629 |
| **Total** | **$176,568,599** |

 Rates Information:

i. General rates:

A general rate to be declared for the 2022-23 financial year. The rateable amount per property will be determined by multiplying the Capital Improved Value of each rateable property by the rate in the dollar indicated in the following table:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Rate**  |
| Residential properties | 0.00211750(0.21175 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value) |
| Commercial properties | 0.00211750(0.21175 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value) |
| Industrial properties | 0.00211750(0.21175 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value) |

ii. No amount is fixed as the minimum amount payable by way of general rate in respect of each rateable property within the municipal district.

c) Municipal charge:

No municipal charge is declared in respect of the 2022-23 financial year.

d) Annual service charge:

i. An annual service charge, for the collection and disposal of refuse, be declared in respect of the 2022-23 financial year.

ii. The annual service charge be in the sum of, and be based on the criteria, set out below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Rate** |
| 60 litres of capacity | $134.17 |
| 80 litres of capacity | $275.22 |
| 120 litres of capacity | $619.25 |
| 120 litre bin (shared 240 litre) | $464.44 |
| 160 litres of capacity | $733.93 |
| 160 litres of capacity (concession approved) | $366.96 |
| 200 litres of capacity | $848.60 |
| 200 litres of capacity (concession approved) | $424.30 |
| 240 litres of capacity (residential properties) | $963.28 |
| 240 litres of capacity (shared) | $206.42 |
| 240 litres of capacity (residential property concession approved) | $481.64 |

e) Cultural and recreational land:

In accordance with section 4(4) of the *Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963*, the following amounts be declared as a charge in lieu of the general rate (which would otherwise be payable):

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Glenroy Road, Glenroy | Northern Golf Club | 11,974 |
| Outlook Road, Coburg | Vic Amateur Basketball Association | 1,654 |
| **Total:** |  | **13,629** |

f) Incentives:

No incentives are declared for the payment of general rates (and annual service charge described earlier in this resolution) before dates fixed or specified for their payment under section 167 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

g) Interest on rates and charges:

i. Interest is to be charged in accordance with section 172 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, on any amounts of rates and charges which have not yet been paid by the instalment dates fixed by the Minister in accordance with section 167 of the *Local Government Act 1989*;

ii. That the interest to be charged is at the rate fixed under section 2 of the *Penalty Interest Rates Act 1983*, that applied on the first day of July immediately before the due date for payment; and

iii. Interest on rates and charges is to be calculated from the date on which the instalment was due.

h) Interest on unpaid monies:

i. Interest is to be charged on any amounts of money (other than rates and charges) which a person owes to the Council, and which has not been paid by the due date;

ii. The interest rate shall be determined by Council from time to time and shall not exceed the rate fixed from time to time by the Order-in-Council; and

iii. That such interest is to be applied in accordance with the provisions of section 120 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to make the final documents available for public inspection.

4. Advises submitters that Council has considered their submissions relating to the Draft Annual Budget 2022-23 and that the submitters be advised of the outcome of the consideration as it relates to their specific submission through this council report, and they be thanked for their contributions

5. Adopts the updated Active Travel (Walking and Riding) 10 Year Capital Program as shown at Attachment 5 and in Annual Budget 2022-26 which:

a) Moves the O’Hea Street bike project construction into 2023-24 instead of 2024-25, using the $700,000 currently allocated to Craigieburn Shared User Path Stage 4 project;

b) Moves the Craigieburn Shared User Path Stage 4 project construction into 2024-25 instead of 2023-24, using the $650,000 currently allocated to the O’Hea Street bike project construction;

c) Notes that the extra $50,000 needed for Craigieburn Shared User Path will be reallocated from the O’Hea Street project at the first quarter update of the budget;

d) Reduces the funding for “Road Renewal Improvement Outcomes-Various Locations” from $250,000 per annum to $0 in 2022-23 and to $100,000 in the subsequent 4 years;

e) Groups the projects into the three categories of Walking, Riding and Shared Infrastructure;

f) Includes adjustments to the Spend per capita on Walking and Riding infrastructure arising from the above changes.

6. Adopts Moreland Council Action Plan 2022-2023 (provided as Attachment 6) as the second-year actions to deliver against the Moreland Council Plan 2021-2025.

7. Authorises the Director Business Transformation to finalise the Moreland Council Action Plan 2022-2023, including any amendments as a result of the adoption of the Budget 2022-23 and or/minor administrative changes.

**REPORT**

**Executive Summary**

Council must prepare and adopt a rolling 4-year Budget that contains financial statements and other matters. This must be finally adopted by Council no later than 30 June each year.

The purpose of this report is to present for adoption the:

 4-Year Budget 2021-2025 (**Attachment 1**); and

 Council Action Plan 2022-23 **(Attachment 6)**

 Active Travel (Walking and Riding) 10 Year Capital Program (**Attachment 5**)

The 4-Year Budget 2022-2026 (Proposed budget) continues to deliver services to Moreland’s 188,000 plus residents within the 1.75 per cent rate cap set by the State Government. The Proposed budget funds Councillor and community initiatives and delivers critical major projects while maintaining Council’s financial sustainability.

The Proposed Budget has been developed in a rapidly changing environment following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on Councils revenue over the past two years and the financial impact is anticipated to continue in to the 2022-23 financial year.

Since public exhibition of the draft budget in May 2022, amendments have been made to develop the Proposed budget based on new information (e.g. changes to fees as set by the State Government) and community feedback received on the draft budget as part of the community engagement process. Details of the changes are summarised in section 3 of this report.

The public exhibition period on the draft budget was held from 2 May 2021 to 22 May 2022. 53 submissions were made to the proposed budget in this second round of community engagement; these submissions are in addition to the 32 community budget ideas received in the first stage of engagement. A copy of public submissions is provided as **Attachment 3**.

Since public exhibition of the draft budget in May 2022, Council has also approved the Active Travel (Walking and Riding) 10 Year Capital Program.

When integrating the Active Travel 10 Year Capital Works Program back into Council’s full 5-Year Capital Works Program, a shortfall in grant funding to deliver the full revised infrastructure program was identified. As a result, an updated Active Travel (Walking and Riding) 10 Year Capital Program (**Attachment 5**) has been provided for approval and the changes have been incorporated into the Proposed Budget.

Key changes made to the proposed Budget since public exhibition are detailed in this report.

The Council Action Plan 2022-2023 (provided as **Attachment 6**) has been developed as an annual plan to support implementation of the Moreland Council Plan 2021-2025 and identifies the major priorities and actions to deliver against the Strategic Objectives (as contained in the Council Plan), and in alignment with the Proposed Budget.

**Previous Council Decisions**

**Proposed Moreland City Council 4-Year Budget 2022-2026 –** 27 April 2022

That Council:

*1. Endorses the Proposed 4-year Budget 2022-2026 (provided as Attachment 1 to this report), for the purpose of community exhibition.*

*2. Endorses the Proposed Community Infrastructure Plan (provided as Attachment 2 to this report), for the purpose of community exhibition.*

*3. Endorses the outcomes of the Community Budget Idea’s Process (provided as Attachment 3 to this report), noting that the proposed budget includes the following selection of community budget ideas totalling $462,500 (higher than the $250,000 allowed for).*

*i) Hadfield sporting club scoreboard $85,000*

*ii) Merri Creek Trail: Seating Installation Blitz (25 seats) $87,500*

*iii) Harold Stevens Athletics Track – fences need attention $150,000*

*iv) Community access to a commercial kitchen $70,000*

*v) Extending the Youth Holistic Outreach Program for one year (YHOP) $60,000*

*vi) Northside Renters Rights Info Nights $10,000.*

*4. Notes the draft Moreland Council Action Plan 2022-2023 (provided as Attachment 4 to this report) as the second year of actions to deliver against the Moreland Council Plan 2021-2025. This document will be presented for endorsement at the meeting on the 23 June 2022.*

*5. Notes that $10.1 million will be transferred to Significant Projects Reserve to accumulate funding for Council’s long-term significant priorities which include, but are not limited to, the Fawkner Leisure Centre Redevelopment and the Saxon Street project.*

*6. Invites feedback on the Proposed Budget and the Proposed Community Infrastructure Plan for the 21-day public exhibition period until 5pm on 22 May 2022.*

*7. Makes the Proposed 4-year Budget 2022-2026 and Proposed Community Infrastructure Plan available on the Council website and hard copies available at the three civic centres and all libraries.*

*8. Appoints the Mayor as Chair, and Councillors to hear from submitters who indicate they wish to be heard in support of their feedback in relation to the Proposed 4-year Budget 2022-2026 and Proposed Community Infrastructure Plan.*

*9. Sets the date and time of the meeting to hear submitters requesting to be heard in support of their written feedback to the Proposed 4-year Budget 2022-2026 and Proposed Community Infrastructure Plan as 6pm on Thursday 2 June 2022, to be held at the Coburg Civic Centre (noting that the location and format of this is subject to change in accordance with COVID-19 restrictions).*

*10. Receives a further report at its meeting on 23 June 2022 outlining any feedback received on the Proposed 4-year Budget 2022-2026 and Proposed Community Infrastructure Plan; and presenting a final Proposed 4-year Budget 2022-2026 and Community Infrastructure Plan for consideration for adoption.*

**10 Year Capital Works Program for Active Transport** –8 June 2022

*That Council:*

*1. Adopts the 10 Year Capital Works Program for Active Travel (Walking and Riding) at Attachment 1 to this report with the following changes.*

*a) Maintain separate bike and pedestrian budgets, and create a third budget category ‘shared paths’, for genuinely shared infrastructure such as the bridges over the creeks. This is to maintain maximum transparency.*

*b) Reinstate the O’Hea Street shared path to Derby St and the proposed separated lanes on De Carle Street to the first two years of the capital works program.*

*2. Notes the feedback on possible separated bicycle lanes on Glenlyon Road in Brunswick and Brunswick East, and Munro and Harding Streets in Coburg.*

**Council Action Plan 2021-22 - Third Quarter Performance Report** –11 May 2022

*That Council:*

*1. Notes the Council Action Plan 2021-2022 – Third Quarter Performance Report for the period ending 31 March 2022 (provided as Attachment 1).*

*2. Endorses that action 43 ‘Support sports clubs to deliver free activities through application to Council's community grants program’ is withdrawn for 2021-22 delivery (placed on hold) and will be added to the Council Action Plan 2022-23 as an action for year 2 of the Council Plan delivery.*

*3. Endorses that action 66 ‘Scope a coordinated approach and policy on digital inclusion in Moreland’ is withdrawn for 2021-22 delivery due to resource capacity issues (placed on hold) and will be added to the Council Action Plan 2022-23 as an action for year 2 of the Council Plan delivery, to be actioned in Quarter 1 2022-23.*

*4. Endorses that action 70 ‘Take forward place based and integrated approaches to meeting community needs by developing precinct plans’ is withdrawn for delivery in 2021-22 and discontinued for delivery from the Council Action Plan entirely.*

*5. Endorses that action 102 ‘Develop community programs framework to support wellbeing and learning outcomes’ is withdrawn for 2021-22 delivery (placed on hold) and will be added to the Council Action Plan 2022-23 as an action for year 2 of the Council Plan delivery.*

**1. Policy Context**

The Proposed 4-year Budget 2022-2026 (Proposed Budget) has been informed by Council priorities as well as informed by the community consultation held in January to March (stage 1) and May (stage 2) 2022. Council prepares its budget under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

In accordance with sections 88 and 90 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council adopted a new Moreland Community Vision 2021-2031 and Council Plan 2021-2025 in October 2021. Council officers have developed the Moreland Council Action Plan 2022-2023 (**Attachment 6**). It includes the specific actions to be taken during the second financial year in the implementation of the Moreland Council Plan 2021-2025.

**2. Background**

Council is required to produce a 4-year budget for each financial year by 30 June. Council held community consultation throughout January, February and March (stage 1) and May (stage 2) to inform the proposed budget. On 27 April 2022, Council resolved to endorse the proposed Budget and make it available for 21 days for public exhibition.

An annual Council action plan is developed each year to identify priority actions for delivering the Strategies and Major Initiatives contained in the Moreland Council Plan 2021-2025. This annual planning method enables Council to be more opportunistic in the delivery of the Moreland Council Plan 2021-2025, whilst providing flexibility in responding to changing and/or unforeseen circumstances (e.g. the COVID-19 pandemic, partnerships, grant opportunities and development of the 10 Year Asset Plan and Community Infrastructure Plan etc).

On 8 June, Council approved the Active Travel (Walking and Riding) 10 Year Capital Program with an amendment to bring forward the O’Hea Street bike lane project and the De Carle Street bike lane project into the first two years of the program. In incorporating the changes in the Proposed Budget, some minor changes have been identified to address a shortfall in grant funding.

**3. Issues**

**Proposed 4-Year Budget 2022-2026**

In a ‘normal’ year, it can be challenging to fund the delivery of services to Moreland’s 188,000 plus residents and deliver on the ambitious Council goals all within the rate cap of 1.75 per cent set by the Minister for Local Government. The Proposed Budget delivers key outcomes for the Moreland community while maintaining Council’s financial sustainability. The proposed budget was developed alongside the gender impact assessment **Attachment 4,** which aims to create better and fairer outcomes and ensure all people have equal access to opportunities and resources.

This Proposed Budget provides for an underlying surplus of $21.6 million that excludes capital contributions and developer contributions.

The underlying operating result is an important measure of financial sustainability. This measure demonstrates Council’s ability to self-fund its operations, and excludes funding related to Council’s capital works program.

Council remains in a healthy financial position through prudent financial management ensures sufficient cash is available to fund our operations, projects and balance sheet items. Total Council expenditure will amount to $204.6 million and requires a Comprehensive Income Statement surplus of $40.1 million to meet the following requirements:

 $2.1 million in loan principal repayments. Repayment of loan interest is included in the income statement whilst the principal repayment is a balance sheet item and requires cash funding;

 $1.0 million transfer to the Defined Benefits Scheme reserve. This continues the process of replenishing the cash reserves that were used to repay the defined benefit liability in August 2013 and so to restore Council’s liquidity for this liability; and

 $6.7 million in additional rates funded capital expenditure beyond depreciation. Depreciation being non-cash expenditure, reflects the level of asset consumption. However, to gradually close the renewal backlog that Council faces, rates funded capital expenditure needs to exceed depreciation.

**Adjustments to the proposed budget**

After considering all submissions received as well as new information received after the draft Budget was developed, the following adjustments are made in the proposed Budget:

 **Rates and Charges:** The final valuation information has been received from the Valuer General to support the setting of rates;

 **Fees and Charges:** Statutory fees and charges set by the State have been adjusted from a 2 per cent increase to a 1.75 per cent increase for statutory fees and fines for the 2022-23 financial year;

 **Operating Grants:** The Financial Assistance Grant that is expected to be received from the State Government has been reduced to align with the latest information received;

 **Employee Costs:** the Enterprise Agreement assumptions have been updated to reflect the Enterprise Agreement 2021. This agreement was put to staff vote in early June however it is still pending approval from Fair Work.

The proposed budget includes an allocation of $250,000 to finalise and begin implementing the change of the municipal name in 2022-23, and a further $250,000 in 2023-24. This allocation is required to update Council’s digital platforms, signs at significant Council buildings and facilities and municipal entry signs.

**Operating projects budget:**

 **Local History Maintenance and Conservation:** Funding of $80,000 has been allocated in the operating budget for 2022-23 to commence planning for the collection, conservation and presentation of Moreland’s local history.

 **Add Arts Grant Boost to cover smaller Community Budget Ideas:** In response to the many notable arts related community budget idea submissions received, funding of $40,000 has been allocated in the operating budget for 2022-23 to allow for further consideration and assessment of the Arts related ideas submitted during the budget process.

 **Support for the Moreland L2P Program - New Car:** Funding of $15,000 has been allocated in the operating budget for 2022-23, in response to a budget feedback submission.

**Capital works program:**

 **Active Transport:** The capital works program has been updated to reflect the updated Active Travel (Walking and Riding) 10 Year Capital Program. The key changes include bringing forward the O’Hea Street bike lane project and the De Carle Street bike lane project into the first two years of the program and aligning the delivery timeframes to align with the available funding.

 **Hadfield sporting club score board:** Funding was increased from $85,000 to $160,000 in the capital works program to fund both the scoreboard and the coaching box as voted by the community in stage one of community consultation and in response to feedback submissions;

 **Brunswick Velodrome - Community Pump Track:** Funding of $75,000 has been allocated in the capital works program for 2022-23, in response to a budget feedback submission;

 **Work shed for Upfield Forest Group:** Funding of $45,000 has been allocated in the capital works program for 2022-23, in response to a budget feedback submission;

 **K W Joyce Reserve Water Refill Station:** Funding of $10,000 has been allocated in the capital works program for 2022-23, in response to a budget feedback submission.

**Financial Sustainability**

Council is committed to the sustainable management of its resources and is mindful of the significant economic impacts of COVID-19 on the community. There has been disruption caused to Moreland’s business community and employment hardship continues to be experienced across the City. The proposed Budget aims to ensure that Council continues to deliver vital services to the community and essential infrastructure while maintaining accountability for prudent financial management.

**Carry Forwards of capital works program from 2021-22 to 2022-23**

A significant challenge that Council is currently facing is construction costs are currently escalating with high volatility, following the effects of the pandemic on the global supply of materials, labour and stimulus projects affecting both demand and supply lines. In March, Council forecasted $15.1 million of 2021-22 capital projects would need to be delayed into the 2022-23 year (provided in **Attachment 2**). These carry forwards are due to a variety of reasons, including but not limited to:

 COVID-19 impacts;

 Resourcing issues (staffing and contractors);

 Further community consultation required;

 Supply issues and delays; and

 Increased construction costs.

It is expected that the number and value of projects impacted by external delays will further increase. The full extent of projects that will need to be carry forward into 2022-23 will be reported to council in September 2022 in the Annual Report.

**Waste Charges**

The 2022-23 Budget proposes the charge for an 80-litre garbage (or landfill) bin to increase by 54 cents per week or $28.19 per year (to a total cost of $275.22 per annum), largely due to the proposed increase to the landfill levy increase imposed by the State Government, the increased fuel costs as well as starting the work to increase our waste streams from 3 to 4 to accommodate the Victorian State Government Circular Economy Waste Policy.

The charge per litre for an 80-litre bin ($3.44 per litre per annum) remains proportionately much lower than the rate for larger bins to encourage reduced waste. The annual waste fees are directly linked to the cost of providing the waste services, on a cost recovery basis.

**The 2022-23 Operating Projects Program**

The operating projects program amounts to $5.5 million. This is another year of significant investment to progress key Council Plan initiatives. These projects are detailed in **Attachment 1** – Appendix A. Key projects in the program include:

 Zero Carbon Moreland (ZCM) Emergency Action Plan ($0.4 million);

 Urban Forest Strategy – Tree Planting Regime ($0.5 million);

 Continuing the solar and/or thermal grants for low-income earners ($0.4 million); and

 Developing the open space strategy ($0.3 million).

**The 2022-23 Capital Works Program**

This Proposed Budget continues Council’s strong commitment to delivering on its major projects pipeline with a further $10.1 million set aside for the Significant Projects Reserve to fund future projects. The Fawkner Leisure Centre Redevelopment and Saxon Street Community Hub are the next two significant projects to commence construction in 2022-23.

The proposed new Capital Works Program amounts to $57.7 million ($34.6 million funded by rates, $6.8 million from grants and contributions and $16.3 million from reserves). Key deliverables in the program include:

 Commencing construction of the $27.8 million Fawkner Leisure Centre redevelopment ($1.5 million);

 Commencing construction of the $22.6 million Saxon Street Community Hub ($5.0 million);

 Completing the construction of the $11.3 million Fleming Park redevelopment ($6.5 million); and

 Commencing the upgrade works for several kindergartens over the next five years totalling $14.6 million. Including completing Oak Park kindergarten and Doris Blackburn in 2022-23 ($3.4 million).

**Borrowings**

Council have proposed an increase to borrowings of $8.0 million in the 2022-23 financial year. This will be borrowed for a 10-year period at a variable interest rate to fund the Fawkner Leisure Centre Redevelopment.

**Active Travel (Walking and Riding) 10 Year Capital Program**

On 8 June, Council approved the Active Travel (Walking and Riding) 10 Year Capital Program with an amendment to bring forward the O’Hea Street bike lane project and the De Carle Street bike lane project into the first two years of the program.

***De Carle Street***

The De Carle Street bike lane project was originally scheduled for 2021-22 and was approved by Council in October 2021 to be carried forward to 2022-23. The De Carle Street project included two separate bike projects:

 De Carle Street Protected Bike Lanes-The Avenue to Moreland Rd, Coburg for $250,000; and

 $135,000 for the delivery of protected bike lanes from the “Road renewal improvement outcomes-Various Locations” budget to be delivered along with the (also deferred) De Carle Street road reconstruction project from The Avenue to Rennie Street.

Having been carried forward, these projects are still scheduled to be delivered in 2022-23, however they do not feature in the program of new projects and will be delivered in addition to them.

***O’Hea Street***

The O’Hea Street project was scheduled in the presented 10 Year capital program for development and engagement in 2022-23, approvals in 2023-24 and then implementation at a cost of $650,000 in 2024-25. The year for approvals was also in recognition of the resourcing strategy for the full program, with staff effort focused in 2022-23 and 2024-25.

Council’s decision to bring this project forward for completion in the first two years of the program can be implemented, however this has an impact on resource availability in 2023-24.

In implementing Council’s recommendation, officers have adjusted the timing of the $700,000 Craigieburn Shared User Path Stage 4 project. Instead of being delivered in 2023-24, this has now been moved to 2024-25 to facilitate the higher priority O’Hea Street project.

While the projects have been swapped, the funding has not been adjusted at this point. However, it is proposed that this will be addressed in the first quarter budget update, moving $50,000 from the O’Hea Street project to the Craigieburn Shared User Path Stage 4.

***Further adjustments to Active Travel 10 Year Capital Program***

When integrating the Active Travel 10 Year Capital Program back into Council’s full 5-Year Capital Works Program, an error was also identified regarding assumptions about the extent of grant funding in the program. This has resulted in a shortfall in funding to deliver the full revised infrastructure program.

To address this matter, officers have reduced the funding allocation to the budget item “Road Renewal Improvement Outcomes-Various Locations”. In 2022-23 the full allocation of $250,000 has been removed in recognition that the 2021-22 allocation to De Carle Street is yet to be implemented and this will be done in 2022-23. There are no other projects among the 2022-23 road reconstruction projects where an opportunity for active travel improvement outcomes exists. In the subsequent years 2023-24 to 2026-27, the amount available has been reduced from $250,000 to $100,000. This will still facilitate the delivery of the highest priorities opportunities for active travel outcomes along with road reconstruction projects, while allowing the implementation of the projects identified as priorities through the community engagement and strategic priorities identified through the transport strategy.

The Albion Street Wombat Crossings and the abovementioned Road Renewal Improvement Outcomes were inadvertently omitted from the total funding allocated to Active Travel when this was reported to Council on 8 June and the “per capita” calculation was presented. These two items have now been added into the Active Travel program spreadsheet (**Attachment 5**). The overall budget for relevant infrastructure types has increased slightly – walking, riding and shared – as has the per capita spend.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2022-23** | **2023-24** | **2024-25** | **2025-26** | **2026-27** |
| **As presented to Council on 8 June** |
| Walking | $ 832,404  |  $ 544,881  |  $ 718,996  |  $ 567,770  |  $ 745,641  |
| Riding | $ 100,000  |  $ 751,500  |  $ 753,045  |  $ 54,636  |  $ 136,275  |
| Shared | $ 1,662,000  |  $ 2,026,040  |  $ 1,858,301  |  $ 1,656,789  |  $ 1,635,510  |
| Total spend | $ 2,594,404  |  $ 2,672,421  |  $ 2,630,342  |  $ 2,279,195  |  $ 2,517,427  |
| Forecast population | 189,292  |  192,422  |  196,278  |  200,047  |  203,709  |
| Spend per capita | $ 13.71  |  $ 13.89  |  $ 13.40  |  $ 11.39  |  $ 12.36  |
| **Proposed in final budget** |
| Walking | $ 892,404  |  $ 754,881  |  $ 928,996  |  $ 567,770  |  $ 745,641  |
| Riding | $ 100,000  |  $ 751,500  |  $ 53,045  |  $ 54,636  |  $ 136,275  |
| Shared | $ 1,662,000  |  $ 1,476,040  |  $ 1,958,301  |  $ 1,756,789  |  $ 1,735,510  |
| Total spend | $ 2,654,404  |  $ 2,982,421  |  $ 2,940,342  |  $ 2,379,195  |  $ 2,617,427  |
| Forecast population | 189,292  |  192,422  |  196,278  |  200,047  |  203,709  |
| Spend per capita | $ 14.02  |  $ 15.50  |  $ 14.98  |  $ 11.89  |  $ 12.85  |

Council resolved on 8 June that the budgets for walking, riding and shared infrastructure be separately identified in the Active Travel 10 Year Capital Program. The individual line items in the 5-year Capital Works Program remain separable between these infrastructure types, and the intention is to continue to report on the spend on each infrastructure type in the annual budget process.

The Active Travel (Walking and Riding) Capital Program has been reordered to group the items into the three infrastructure categories, showing the subtotals of expenditure for each category.  This is summarised in the table above and the updated Active Travel 10 Year Capital Program is provided in **Attachment 5**.  Within this attachment, the changes in budgets and years compared to the 8 June version and referred to in the text above are shown with an orange border.

**Council Action Plan 2022-23**

The 2022-23 Council Action Plan (provided as **Attachment 6**) includes a total of 96 actions that have been identified to be delivered under the five themes of the Council Action Plan.

These actions can be categorised as: new actions identified for delivery in 2022-23, existing multi-year actions that are being delivered over a number of years (progressing from 2021-22); and actions that were identified for delivery in 2021-22, however have not been achieved and that require completion in 2022-23.

As outlined in the Moreland Council Plan 2021-2025, an annual action plan (including the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing actions) is developed each year over the 4-year Council Plan period to include priority actions to be taken in that financial year for the implementation of the Council Plan.

This annual planning method enables Council to be more opportunistic in the delivery of the Moreland Council Plan 2021-2025, whilst providing flexibility in responding to changing and/or unforeseen circumstances (e.g. the COVID-19 pandemic, partnerships, grant opportunities and development of the 10 Year Asset Plan and Community Infrastructure Plan).

Accordingly, the final Moreland Council Action Plan 2022-2023 has been developed to support implementation of the Moreland Council Plan 2021-2025 and identifies the major priorities and actions to deliver against the Strategic Objectives (as contained in the Council Plan).

The Action Plan is resourced for delivery through the 2022-23 annual budget and has been informed by a number of key inputs including workshops with Councillors to determine priorities for the year ahead and the various community engagement processes undertaken in the preparation of the budget (as outlined in the Community Consultation and Engagement section of this report). The Council Action Plan includes an action to finalise and begin implementing the change of the municipal name.

All annual commitments documented in the Moreland Council Action Plan 2022-2023 will form part of quarterly and annual performance reporting to Council.

Whilst the Council Action Plan 2022-2023 shows the full proposed actions, provided in **Attachment 7** is a summary which highlights; new actions identified for delivery in 2022-23; existing multi-year actions that are being delivered over a number of years; merged actions; and actions that were not fully delivered in 2021-22 and require completion in 2022-23.

**Human Rights Consideration**

The implications of this report have been assessed in accordance with the requirements of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities.

**Community impact**

Community impact is addressed throughout the Council Plan 2021-2025 but primarily under strategic objective 5: To build community trust through encouraging participation, evidence-based decision making, stewardship of resources and being accessible and responsive.

**Climate emergency and environmental sustainability implications**

Climate emergency and environmental sustainability implications are addressed throughout the Council Plan 2021-2025 but primarily under strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3

**Economic sustainability implications**

Economic sustainability implications are addressed throughout the Council Plan 2021-2025 but primarily under strategic objective 4: To create welcoming, unique spaces and places across Moreland that attract and connect everyone, improving access to community facilities and affordable housing and encouraging vibrant artistic, social and economic activity.

**Legal and risk considerations**

The Moreland Community Vision 2021-2031 and Moreland Council Plan 2021-2025 and processes associated with the development of these documents have been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*.

**4.** **Community consultation and engagement**

**4-Year Budget 2021-2025**

Each year Moreland Council prepares a budget that outlines the financial resources needed to implement the key directions of the Council Plan. The Budget strives to maintain a critical balance between costs, quality and value to ratepayers; informed by two phases of community consultation.

In accordance with Council’s Community Engagement Policy 2020, the engagement process for the budget included gathering community budget ideas from the community to inform the draft budget between February and March 2022.

A breakdown of the full engagement process is as follows:

**Stage One – Participatory Budgeting**

As part of Council’s first participatory budget process, $250,000 was set aside to fund community ideas and include into the proposed budget.

Ideas were invited from the community for the 3 weeks from 31 January - 20 February 2022 and included a mix of tools for collecting ideas that included an online form on Conversations Moreland and post cards at Customer Service and Libraries.

Our methods to reach out included:

• 6 information sessions

• Emails to 150 stakeholders (including community groups)

• 3 social media Posts on the Moreland Facebook page with sharing across multiple platforms

• Customer service on hold message

• Posters and post cards customer service and libraries

• Promotion at and via the library services

• Library staff available to assist with the online form

• Aged care newsletter

All ideas were subject to the following terms and conditions:

• The idea must demonstrate a strong community benefit.

• The idea must directly align to a strategy of the Council Plan 2021-2025

• The idea must be for a once-off project or initiative that can be delivered by Council between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023.

• The idea must not cost more than $250,000 to implement.

• One submission per individual, community group or sporting association is permitted.

A total of 45 submissions were received from the public and 32 submissions were eligible to proceed to Stage 2. The 11 ineligible submissions were contacted with the rationale for not being allowed to proceed to Stage 2.

Community voting on the idea was gathered for the three weeks 1 March - 20 March 2022. Again, a variety of methods were used for engaging the community in voting for their favourite ideas. These methods for collecting votes included:

• Online Fund It Tool – Each voter had 3 votes

• Votes collected via customer service

• 3 Pop Up Sessions – 3 votes written on paper

* Sunday 6 March 2022 - Fleming Park Pop Up Session 10am – 12pm
* Sunday 6 March 2022 - Pentridge Pop Up Session 2pm – 4pm
* Thursday 10 March 2022 - Bonwick Cafe Pop Up Session

The participatory budgeting trial yielded a total of 4,236 votes from 1,412 voters. Each individual voter was required to select 3 ideas from the full list and there was not a single budget idea that was unsupported. A detailed breakdown of the voting results was provided as part of the Budget Report to Council in April 2022.

Of the 32 submissions that were voted on, 6 have been included in the proposed budget with a further $40,000 to further investigate and fund smaller arts based ideas as submitted and voted by the community.

**Stage Two – Budget Exhibition and Feedback**

The purpose of the exhibition stage of engagement was to share the draft document of the Budget with the community and invite comments on the draft. Council resolved to make the Proposed 4-year Budget 2022-2026 available on the Council website and hard copies were available at the three civic centres and all libraries. The exhibition period commenced on the 2nd of May for a full 21-day public exhibition period that closed on 22 May 2022.

During this period, we engaged the community both in person and online through:

• A dedicated Project Page: a dedicated project page was created on Council’s engagement website, Conversations Moreland, which helped to create a consistent location for the community to access information and participation online

• Communications Campaign: This included promotion on Council’s corporate channels and social media as well as hardcopies of the draft budget 2022-2026 document in customer service centres and libraries.

• Email: 2,622 people were emailed through the Conversations Moreland members list. This list includes the registered submitters from the Community Budget Ideas project. Of this 1,475 people opened the email and 118 people clicked through to the website

• Targeted engagement of previous submitters and non-English speaking and CALD communities, inviting feedback on the draft document via community ‘drop-in’ information session at the following locations and times:

* Brunswick Library 3rd May 11:00am – 1:00pm;
* Coburg Library 13th May 11:00am – 1:00pm;
* Glenroy Festival 15th May 11:00am – 3:00pm; and
* Glenroy Library 19th May 1:00pm – 3:00pm.

• Post and email.

Community submissions to the 4-year Budget closed on the 22nd of May. All submitters of feedback were invited to attend a feedback forum event on Thursday 2 June where community members attended Council in person to share their feedback on the draft Budget direct with Councillors. This event was facilitated by Mayor Councillor Riley of the 53 submissions received from the public for consideration, 27 members of the community have expressed interest in attending to present their ideas directly with Councillors and staff.

Of the 53 submissions, 18 related to Bike and Pedestrian Infrastructure (4 on Kent Roads bike lanes), 5 related to Recreation and Sporting Clubs and 4 related to the Community Budget Ideas.

A detailed listing of all submissions and officer comments are included in **Attachment 3.**

**Council Action Plan 2022-23**

Community consultation and engagement was not required for Council Action Plan 2022-2023 (Council Action Plan).

**Affected persons rights and interests**

The rights of persons affected by Council’s decision have been provided with the opportunity to contribute their views through the Community Engagement process.

**5. Officer Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

Council officers involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest in this matter.

**6. Financial and Resources Implications**

Costs associated with the preparation of the Proposed Budget, including the cost of providing hard copies following adoption, are funded from the 2021-22 operating budget allocations.

All actions documented in the Council Action Plan 2022-2023 are resourced through the 2022-2023 annual budget.

**7. Implementation**

Following adoption of the 2022-26 Budget a copy will be submitted to the Minister for Local Government within 28 days. The Proposed Budget will be available on the Council website and hard copies available at the three civic centres and all libraries.

Once adopted, the 2022-26 Budget will be loaded into Council’s financial management system to enable officers to implement budgeted activities.

Financial performance against budget will be reported to Council periodically to ensure sound financial management.

Progress on delivery of the Moreland Council Plan 2021-2025, and specifically Year 2 of the associated action plan will be monitored through quarterly and annual performance reporting.

**Attachment/s**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1**  | Annual Budget 2022-26 | D22/255079 |  |
| **2**  | Capital Carry Forwards into 2022-23 | D22/253682 |  |
| **3**  | 2022-26 Budget - Public Feedback and Submissions | D22/258047 |  |
| **4**  | Gender Impact Assessment - Budget 2022-2026 | D22/155208 |  |
| **5**  | Active Travel 10 Year Capital Program 2022-23 - For Adoption | D22/254998 |  |
| **6**  | Final Council Action Plan for 2022-2023 | D22/240539 |  |
| **7**  | Council Action Plan 2022-23 - Summary of Changes | D22/247438 |  |

4.2 Adoption of the Community Infrastructure Plan

**Director Place and Environment, Joseph Tabacco**

**City Strategy and Economy**

## Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Notes the feedback from the community as outlined in the Community Submissions Report at Attachment 2 to this report.

2. Adopts the final Community Infrastructure Plan at Attachment 1 to this report.

**REPORT**

**Executive Summary**

The Community Infrastructure Plan guides Council’s planning and delivery of community infrastructure. The Plan responds to increasing demand for community infrastructure in Moreland in response to a growing and changing population. It focuses on improving the performance of what we have while directing new investment to where the community benefits most. The Plan also helps Council secure external funding and project partners.

The draft Community Infrastructure Plan was on community exhibition for three weeks from 2 to 22 May. A total of 50 community submissions were received. **Attachment 2** to this report provides a summary of the public submission with officer responses.

Key features of the Community Infrastructure Plan include:

 An overarching policy framework, linked to the Community Vision, designed to guide Council’s planning and delivery of all community infrastructure over a 10-year period.

 Two broad approaches for addressing community infrastructure needs:

o Strategies to optimise the use of facilities, seek other forms of investment and improve experiences for the community. The strategies apply to the entire network of Council-owned community infrastructure.

o Capital investment projects to upgrade, expand or build new community infrastructure. This includes further planning activities for capital projects.

 A total of 43 capital projects including 15 projects in Moreland North, 15 in Moreland Central and 13 in Moreland South. Of those projects, a total of 26 capital projects are proposed to be funded and delivered in the next five years through Council’s Capital Works Program with accompanying external grants and contributions.

**Previous Council Decisions**

**Proposed Moreland City Council 4 Year Budget 2022-2026** - 27 April 2022

*That Council:*

*1. Endorses the Proposed 4-year Budget 2022-2026 (provided as Attachment 1 to this report), for the purpose of community exhibition.*

*2. Endorses the Proposed Community Infrastructure Plan (provided as Attachment 2 to this report), for the purpose of community exhibition.*

*3. Endorses the outcomes of the Community Budget Idea’s Process (provided as Attachment 3 to this report), noting that the proposed budget includes the following selection of community budget ideas totalling $462,500 (higher than the $250,000 allowed for).*

*i) Hadfield sporting club scoreboard $85,000*

*ii) Merri Creek Trail: Seating Installation Blitz (25 seats) $87,500*

*iii) Harold Stevens Athletics Track – fences need attention $150,000*

*iv) Community access to a commercial kitchen $70,000*

*v) Extending the Youth Holistic Outreach Program for one year (YHOP) $60,000*

*vi) Northside Renters Rights Info Nights $10,000.*

*4. Notes the draft Moreland Council Action Plan 2022-2023 (provided as Attachment 4 to this report) as the second year of actions to deliver against the Moreland Council Plan 2021-2025. This document will be presented for endorsement at the meeting on the 23 June 2022.*

*5. Notes that $10.1 million will be transferred to Significant Projects Reserve to accumulate funding for Council’s long-term significant priorities which include, but are not limited to, the Fawkner Leisure Centre Redevelopment and the Saxon Street project.*

*6. Invites feedback on the Proposed Budget and the Proposed Community Infrastructure Plan for the 21-day public exhibition period until 5pm on 22 May 2022.*

*7. Makes the Proposed 4-year Budget 2022-2026 and Proposed Community Infrastructure Plan available on the Council website and hard copies available at the three civic centres and all libraries.*

*8. Appoints the Mayor as Chair, and Councillors to hear from submitters who indicate they wish to be heard in support of their feedback in relation to the Proposed 4-year Budget 2022-2026 and Proposed Community Infrastructure Plan.*

*9. Sets the date and time of the meeting to hear submitters requesting to be heard in support of their written feedback to the Proposed 4-year Budget 2022-2026 and Proposed Community Infrastructure Plan as 6pm on Thursday 2 June 2022, to be held at the Coburg Civic Centre (noting that the location and format of this is subject to change in accordance with COVID-19 restrictions).*

## 1. Policy Context

The development and implementation of a Community Infrastructure Plan is identified in the Moreland Council Plan 2017-2021:

**Strategy**

4.1 Improve and provide equitable access to council-owned community infrastructure by investing in needs driven, place-based, integrated services and facilities including developing precinct plans

**Council Plan Major Initiative**

38. Develop and implement a Community Infrastructure Plan to support an integrated approach to the planning and investment of community facilities to meet community needs

The figure below shows where the Community Infrastructure Plan sits within Council’s Corporate Integrated Planning Framework. The Community Infrastructure Plan responds to the Community Vision and guides long-term (10-year) community infrastructure planning and resourcing. Service infrastructure plans (such as the Early Years Infrastructure Plan) inform the Community Infrastructure Plan with their service-specific infrastructure needs.

**Figure 1: Community Infrastructure Plan and Corporate Integrated Planning Framework**



## 2. Background

The Community Infrastructure Plan guides the planning and delivery of all Council-owned community infrastructure across five categories:

 Arts and Culture

 Community Spaces

 Early Years, Children and Young People

 Education and learning

 Aquatic, Leisure and Recreation

The Community Infrastructure Plan has four objectives:

 to address demand for community infrastructure fairly and equitably over the short and long term;

 to optimise the performance of community infrastructure to deliver quality services and user experiences;

 to inform responsible investment in community infrastructure through Council’s planning and budgets; and

 to help secure external funding and delivery partners.

The Plan guides investment priorities for the upgrade, expansion or development of new council owned community infrastructure and does not include any renewal or maintenance projects, which is the role of asset management plans.

The Plan will optimise Council’s existing community infrastructure, as a first step, to address community infrastructure needs. This involves seeking opportunities for integrated use ahead of investing in new facilities. This approach aims to achieve the greatest community return on Council’s investment.

The Community Infrastructure Plan adopts two broad approaches for addressing community infrastructure needs. The approaches are:

 Strategies to optimise the use of facilities, improve experiences for the community and seek other forms of investment. The strategies apply to the entire network of Council owned community infrastructure.

 Capital investment projects to upgrade, expand or build new community infrastructure. This includes further planning activities for capital projects.

Councillors endorsed the draft Community Infrastructure Plan for the purpose of community exhibition at Special Council Meeting on 27th April 2022. Further details of the engagement approach and community responses are in the consultation and engagement section of this report.

## 3. Issues

**Masterplan for Sporting Hub in the North**

During the engagement period, the Labor Federal Government made a pre-election commitment of $2 million to create a masterplan for a sporting hub in Coburg North in partnership with Moreland City Council. The hub could include Coburg Harriers Athletics Club, Coburg Little Athletics Centre, Coburg Basketball Association, Coburg Table Tennis Club, East Coburg Cricket Club and the Coburg Olympic Pool and potentially other users.

Coburg High School as part of its submission to the draft Community Infrastructure Plan indicated it had received a grant from the Victorian State Government to undertake master planning for shared facilities in Coburg and indicated they wish explore partnership approaches with Council. In response to this, the final Community Infrastructure Plan contains the following changes (captured as tracked changes in Attachment A)

 **New recommendations:**

o Masterplan for sports hub as money committed by the Federal Government pre-election

o Partnership development of indoor stadium with Coburg High, subject to support for funding in the capital works program in 2024-25 and conditional on DET funding)

 **Retaining recommendation** **13**

o Ray Kibby Centre - as works are scheduled for 2023-24 in the Capital Works Program.

 **Deleting Recommendation** **40**

o Coburg Basketball Stadium - as the outcomes of masterplan and stadium at Coburg High may redefine this need

### Capital Investment Projects

A total of 43 capital projects have been identified as priorities for investment over the next 10 years and beyond. These projects are either new, upgraded or expansion of existing facilities. These recommendations also include several further planning activities for capital projects. The geographic spread of the projects are as follows:

 15 projects in Moreland North (Glenroy, Fawkner, Hadfield and Gowanbrae)

 15 projects in Moreland Central (Coburg, Coburg North, Pascoe Vale South and Pascoe Vale)

 13 projects in Moreland South (Brunswick, Brunswick East and Brunswick West).

A total of 24 capital projects are to be delivered in the next five years through Council’s Capital Works Program, external grants and contributions.

### Table 1: Total Capital Projects (and Delivery Times) by Moreland District

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Years 1-5 years (2022-23 – 2026-27) | Years 6-10 years (2027-28- 2031-32) | Years 10+ (2032-33+) | Total Capital Projects |
| Moreland North | 9 | 5 | 1 | 15 |
| Moreland Central | 10 | 3 | 2 | 15 |
| Moreland South | 7 | 4 | 2 | 13 |
| Total Capital Projects | 26 | 12 | 5 | 43 |

The final Community Infrastructure Plan is provided at Attachment 1 to this report.

### Climate emergency and environmental sustainability implications

### The Community Infrastructure Plan will address climate change through recommendations linked with Council’s Climate Risk Strategy. A desired outcome of the Community Infrastructure Plan is for ‘resilient community infrastructure that can withstand the impacts of climate change and deliver zero-carbon emissions commitment’.

### Human Rights Consideration

The recommendations are compatible with human rights in the *Victorian Human Rights Charter* and *Gender Equality Act 2020*. The Community Infrastructure Plan seeks to improve access to Council’s community infrastructure through a range of policies, plans and infrastructure investment. A ‘desired outcome’ of the Community Infrastructure Plan is for ‘universally accessible and welcoming community infrastructure for the whole community including different age groups, cultures, genders and abilities’.

A Gender Impact Assessment will be completed to support the implementation of the plan.

## 4. Community consultation and engagement

Councillors endorsed the draft Community Infrastructure Plan for the purpose of community exhibition at the Special Council Meeting on 27 April 2022. The exhibition period was for three weeks from 2 to 22 May and community feedback on the draft plan was sought through the following engagement strategies:

 The Conversations Moreland digital engagement platform

 Community ‘drop-in’ information sessions:

o Brunswick Library 3rd May 11 am – 1 pm

o Coburg Library 13th May 11 am – 1 pm

o Glenroy Library 19th May 1 pm – 3 pm

 Circulation of the Plan to interested networks and individuals

 Promotion on Council’s corporate channels and social media

 Hardcopies of the Plan in customer service centres and libraries.

A total of 50 submissions were received and 4 submitters (2 online and 2 in person) spoke at the hearing of submissions held on 2 June 2022.

The issues the community raised are listed in Table 2. The majority of issues raised related to retaining, maintaining, and upgrading outdoor pools in Moreland.

Attachment 2 provides a summary of the submissions with officer responses.

### Table 2: Issue Topic and Number of Submissions Raising Issue

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Issue Topic** | **Number of Submissions Raising Issue** |
| Need to retain, maintain, and upgrade the Coburg Olympic Outdoor Pool | 33 |
| Need to retain, maintain, and upgrade the Pascoe Vale Outdoor Pool | 7 |
| Consider partnerships with Coburg High School | 2 |
| Sustainable travel access measures | 2 |
| Need for fair process for allocating community infrastructure funding | 1 |
| Support for investment in libraries | 1 |
| Need for a commercial kitchen in Moreland North | 1 |
| Need to increase activation and diversity of use at Shore Reserve, Pascoe Value South | 1 |
| Need for squash courts, particularly in Coburg North | 1 |
| Importance and use of City Oval | 1 |
| Prioritise upgrades to Fawkner playgrounds over indoor upgrades to the Fawkner Leisure Centre | 1 |
| Need to improve the outcomes of community infrastructure in Brunswick West | 1 |
| Need for a dedicated Men’s Shed in Glenroy | 1 |
| Need for a dedicated youth space in Glenroy | 1 |
| Lack of community infrastructure investment in Pascoe Vale | 1 |

*\*Does not total 50 because some submitters raised more than one issue in their submission*

## 5. Officer Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Council officers involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest in this matter.

## 6. Financial and Resources Implications

### Capital Project Investment Costs

A total of 26 capital projects are to be funded and delivered in the next five years through Council’s Budget and Capital Works Program, external grants and contributions. Council’s Budget and Capital Works Program are being presented for adoption at the 23 June Special Council Meeting.

The Community Infrastructure Plan contains cost ranges for all capital projects over the 10 years plus period. These project costs will be subject to further feasibility work, inflationary increases and scope refinement in future years.

### External Funding Opportunities

*State Government – Kindergarten Facilities*

The State Government is investing in 3-year-old kindergarten facilities through the *Building Blocks Partnership (BBP)* funding program.

Council has worked closely with Department of Education and Training (DET) to establish a framework to enable State co-investment in a pipeline of kindergarten infrastructure projects through the BBP*.* The BBP proposes a program of works based on a mix of fully funded projects and others which rely on co-investment from Council over a four-year period, with in principle agreement to a second tranche of projects over the following 4 years.

Council endorsed the Early Years Infrastructure Plan 2022-2030 at the 8 June Council meeting.

*Development Contributions Plan (DCP)*

The projects identified in an adopted Community Infrastructure Plan will form part of the strategic justification for a future DCP. This DCP is likely to collect contributions over a 15-20 year time frame and is subject to a planning scheme amendment.

*Advocacy Priorities*

The Moreland Council Plan 2021-26 identifies coordinated ‘advocacy for improved community outcomes’ as a key initiative.

The capital needs identified in the Community Infrastructure Plan will inform Moreland’s community infrastructure priorities requiring external investment from mechanisms other than Council’s budget.

Endorsing all community infrastructure capital needs signals to external parties, such as State Government agencies, they are identified priorities supported by Council.

**Community Infrastructure Plan Strategies**

The Community Infrastructure Plan contains strategies that aim to optimise the use of facilities, seek other forms of investment, and improve the experiences for the community. The strategies apply to all Council owned community infrastructure and will be supported by an implementation plan and will contains actions led by several Council services. Current base budget and resources can support the delivery of these actions.

## 7. Implementation

Successful delivery of the Community Infrastructure Plan requires a whole of Council approach with adept project and resource management. An implementation plan will guide the delivery of the Plan, including actions for each strategy and progression of capital projects through Council’s capital project planning and delivery cycle.

Monitoring and evaluation of the Plan is an important part of understanding its impact and how it is tracking towards its intended outcomes. A monitoring and evaluation framework will support this and include a range of measures and reporting timeframes.

The community infrastructure capital projects will be reviewed and updated annually alongside Council’s budget and capital works program. The review will look at Council’s current priorities, changes in community needs and the best cost estimates available. The review will ensure the Community Infrastructure Plan aligns with Council’s 10-year Financial and Asset Plans, as required by the *Local Government Act 2020*.

## Attachment/s

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1**  | Final Community Infrastructure Plan | D22/244754 |  |
| **2**  | Draft CIP submissions and officer responses | D22/243976 |  |

4.3 Asset Plan 2022-2032

**Director City Infrastructure, Anita Curnow**

**Capital Works Planning and Delivery**

## Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Adopts the Asset Plan 2022-2032 at Attachment 1 to this report prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 92 of the *Local Government Act 2020*;

2. Authorises the Director City Infrastructure to approve cosmetic edits only to the document ahead of publishing the final Asset Plan on Council’s website.

**REPORT**

**Executive Summary**

The *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) requires Council to develop, adopt and maintain a 10‑year Asset Plan for maintenance, acquisition, disposal and management of Council-managed assets. The first plan, in accordance with the Act, must be adopted to be effective from 1 July 2022. A review of the Asset Plan must be completed by 31 October in the year following a General Council election.

Council’s $2.4 billion portfolio of assets has been built up progressively over many decades. Assets such as roads and drainage provide the building blocks of our way of life, while others add to the quality of life by facilitating recreation, arts, culture, health and educational activities. Our assets are also integral to us achieving our zero carbon, water management and social inclusion goals, and support local business and economic development.

The Act requires the first Asset Plan to be developed through Council’s adopted engagement policy and subsequent Asset Plan reviews in accordance with the Act through a deliberative engagement process. Community participation in the development of the Moreland Asset Plan occurred through the *Imagine Moreland* engagement program, guided by Moreland’s Community Engagement Policy 2020. The draft Asset Plan was made available for public exhibition to allow the community to have further feedback and submissions between the period of 2 May 2022 and 29 May 2022 (inclusive).

There were 4 submissions on the draft Asset Plan. The Asset Plan has not required amendment in response to submissions received. It is noted that the Asset Plan section relating to Transport Infrastructure has been updated to reflect amendments in the Active Travel (Walking and Riding) 10 Year Capital Program adopted by Council on 8 June 2022 and reflected in the 2022-23 Budget as proposed for adoption at this meeting.

**Previous Council Decisions**

**Draft Asset Plan for Public Exhibition** – 13 April 2022

That Council resolves to make the Draft Asset Plan 2022-23 to 2031-32 available for public exhibition to seek community feedback and input for a period of 4 weeks.

## 1. Policy Context

The preparation of this Asset Plan is identified as a major initiative/priority in the Council Plan as follows:

 **Theme 5**: An Empowered and collaborative Moreland

 **Strategic Objective 5**: Build community trust through encouraging participation, evidence-based decision making, stewardship of resources and being accessible and responsive.

 **Strategy 5.8**: Ensuring our assets provide the best fit for community needs over the long term

 **Major Initiatives and Priorities # 45**: Develop and implement 10-year Asset Plan

 **Indicator:** Asset renewal and asset upgrade as a percentage of depreciation (Know Your Council) – Increase from Moreland 2021 baseline measure of 95.57%

## 2. Background

Pursuant to Section 92 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), Council must develop, adopt and keep in force an Asset Plan in accordance to Council’s deliberative engagement practices. The plan must encompass information on maintenance, renewal, expansion, acquisition, disposal and decommissioning of assets for which Council is responsible.

Pursuant to subsection 6 of section 92, the Asset Plan must be adopted by 30 June 2022 and be in force by 1 July 2022. The plan must be reviewed or developed by 31 October in the year following a general election of the Council – therefore, the subsequent update of the Asset Plan is due by 31 October 2025.

The Asset Plan is provided at **Attachment 1** and covers Transport Infrastructure (e.g. roads, footpaths, bike paths and bridges), Community and Civic Facilities (e.g. community centres, Council offices, sporting pavilions), Stormwater Infrastructure (e.g. drainage pits, pipes) and Open Space (e.g. parks, playgrounds, reserves, sporting fields).

## 3. Issues

### Community impact

The draft asset plan is an overarching document that lays a strategic framework for how Council’s financial investment decisions are made to provide optimum level of service to the Community by the utilisation of Council’s physical assets.

### Climate emergency and environmental sustainability implications

The scope of capital projects included in the draft Asset Plan for each asset class will account for both emissions abatement and climate adaptation.

Emissions reduction (contributing to Zero Carbon Moreland goals) is achieved by building projects incorporating costs for sustainable design to promote energy efficiency and use of green energy. Use of recycled materials in construction and minimising demolition also reduce the carbon footprint of our asset programs and create opportunities around the circular economy.

Climate risk considerations impact significantly on the design of assets. For example rather than replace like-with-like, officers will review drainage capacity as drains are replaced to accommodate more severe storm events and reconsider selection of materials based on their performance at higher temperatures given the hotter summers we’re experiencing. These challenges are reflected in the forthcoming Climate Risk Strategy which will work hand-in-hand with the Asset Plan.

### Economic sustainability implications

The Asset Plan is a key document that sets a strategic framework for financial investment decision making to provide optimum level of service to the community by utilisation of assets. One of the key aspects of the Asset Plan is the Sustainability Index, which is a numeric representation of how sustainable our asset management practices are. Further, the draft Asset Plan discusses minimising life cycle cost and finding a balance between community aspiration and evidence-based needs.

In addition, some of the assets delivered provide direct and indirect support to local businesses, such as activity centre urban design treatments. Provision of active transport options supports residents seeking to minimise the costs of travel.

### Legal and risk considerations

The draft Asset Plan is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*. Whilst there are no significant risks associated in adopting the Asset Plan, there are reasonable risks if an Asset Plan is not developed, such as non-compliance with the requirements of the Act and lack of strategic framework guiding financial investment decisions for asset sustainability.

As referenced above, the Asset Plan also plays a critical role contributing to our assessment and mitigation of climate risk.

### Human Rights Consideration

The implications of this report have been assessed in accordance with the requirements of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities. The adoption of the draft Asset Plan does not violate the Victorian Human Rights Charter.

For the Asset Plan as a whole, a Gender Impact Assessment is not deemed required. However, it is noted that for some asset categories, strategies guiding their prioritisation and scoping and individual category asset management plans will need to be developed with the insights gained through Gender Impact Assessments.

## 4. Community consultation and engagement

Community participation in the development of the Asset Plan occurred through the *Imagine Moreland* engagement program, guided by Moreland’s Community Engagement Policy 2020. This includes the commitment to collaborating with the community as a partner and developing the Asset Plan and other corporate plans through broad community engagement, complemented by a deliberative engagement process.

This has been a full four-stage deliberative engagement program aligned with Council’s *Community Engagement Policy 2020*, namely:

Stage 1. **Wide engagement (January – March 2021)** Multi-channel online and in-person engagement

Stage 2. **Deliberative engagement part 1 (April – May 2021)** A series of full day deliberative workshops to identify the vision for Moreland including consideration of council’s asset planning

Stage 3. **Deliberative engagement part 2 (May – June 2021)** Deliberative engagement online using *Conversations Moreland* to inform the asset plan.

Stage 4. **Public exhibition (May 2022)** Draft asset plan was publicly exhibited for feedback.

Some of the common themes from our community relevant to the Asset Plan during Stage 1 engagement were:

 More quality green spaces and tree lined streets

 Improve the presentation of the city – remove litter and graffiti

 Maintain current buildings and ensure fit for purpose builds

 Prioritise projects that are achievable

 Pandemic recovery – more support for local businesses and support for jobs creation

 More opportunities for social interaction particularly for younger people and older people.

Stages 2 and 3 of Imagine Moreland involved deliberative engagement with a representative Community Panel. In early March, we delivered 30,000 invitations to randomly-selected households across Moreland, inviting household members to register their interest to participate in a Community Panel. From the nominations received, a panel of 44 people, representative of Moreland’s diversity, was appointed.

During stage 2, the panel developed the new Community Vision document for Moreland over 3 full days. They also proposed strategic directions for consideration in the Asset Plan.

In stage 3 of *Imagine Moreland*, the panel held 6 online conversations on a series of topics. Several of the questions raised were relevant to asset planning. Feedback received included:

 Seeking better decision-making process for projects,

 Greater transparency in decision making,

 Safer paths and streets,

 Increased accessibility,

 The need for managing environmental impacts and encouraging sustainability and

 Improved connectivity between bike paths and transport routes.

Stage 4 of *Imagine Moreland* was public exhibition between 2 May 2022 and 29 May 2022 (inclusive). The Asset Plan was exhibited to the community for feedback for a period of 4 weeks. In total, 4 submissions were received. Matters raised noted the role of assets in achieving Council’s objectives and investment prioritisation approaches. Specifically:

 A suggestion to include regulatory strategies in achieving Council’s goals – not only asset investment – an example being a reduction in speed limits to improve safety for people who ride, not necessarily having to always invest in infrastructure for this outcome

 An observation that the Asset Plan adds to the large numbers of strategies and plans of Council and noting the challenge of keeping these updated

 A request for consideration of a greater proportion of asset funding on natural assets, particularly mentioning the Merri Creek corridor

 Support for Council officers to make recommendations for investment in assets in a way that achieves Council’s broader objectives, and not to prioritise budget spending on assets based on popular voting.

The feedback received relates to prioritisation approaches to infrastructure investment. For existing infrastructure, prioritisation is addressed in the Asset Plan through the achievement of sustainability indices. For new infrastructure, prioritisation is addressed in the strategies that inform the Capital Works Program (for example, transport, recreation, community infrastructure and open space strategies and plans). None of the submissions warranted a change to the Asset Plan.

It is noted that the extensive community engagement and subsequent Council consideration on 8 June 2022 of the Active Travel (Walking and Riding) 10 Year Capital Program resulted in some changes to the information in the Transport Infrastructure sections of the Asset Plan and this section has since been updated.

**Affected persons rights and interests**

Before making a decision that affects a person’s rights, Council must identify whose rights may be directly affected and provide an opportunity for that person (or persons) to convey those views regarding the effect on their rights and consider those views.

The development and adoption of the Asset Plan has not affected any persons’ rights and interests to the best knowledge of Council officers.

### Communications

Assuming Council resolves to adopt Asset Plan it will be made available online for community to view. In addition, community members may request a hard copy of the Asset Plan by contacting Customer Service (in person or on 9240 1111). Officers will also use social media to make sure that the community is aware that the Asset Plan has been adopted and is in force.

## 5. Officer Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Council officers involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest in this matter.

## 6. Financial and Resources Implications

The adoption and implementation of the Asset Plan has no direct financial and resource implications. The plan sets out the financial projection in capital and maintenance cost in each asset classes, which is in accordance with the adopted Financial Plan. The Asset Plan, once adopted, must be reviewed by 31 October in the year following a general election of the Council. The cost to achieve the 31 October 2025 milestone will depend on the level of engagement to be undertaken and additional technical support provided and would mostly be incurred in 2024-25 and therefore considered as the 2024-25 budget is prepared.

## 7. Implementation

Assuming Council will resolve to adopt the Asset Plan, the document will be published on Council’s website and will be promoted through Council’s social media channels. Physical copies will be made available on request.

The future capital works program will be guided by the Asset Plan and the 10 Year Financial Plan. Subsequent review of the Asset Plan will be done in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

## Attachment/s

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1**  | Asset Plan 2022-23 to 2031-32 | D22/132321 |  |