MINUTES of the Ordinary Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.30pm on 24 February 2020.

Order of Business

PRESENT

Cr Mark Radford, Mayor, Cr Pam Clarke, Cr David Grimble, Cr Alethea Gulvin, Cr Josh Koenig, Cr Les Power, Cr John Robinson

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Sunil Bhalla, Chief Executive Officer; Graeme Harrison, Director Corporate Services; John Martin, Director Infrastructure Services; Angela Murphy, Director Development Services; Kevin O'Brien, Director Community Wellbeing; Sue Frankham, Governance Officer; Fiona Kelly, Executive Assistant to CEO and Councillors

Wendy Butler	Peter Butler	Noel Hopper	Davie Bowe
Allan Williams	Kath Dumesny	Denise Hobson	Jane Edwards
Neville McIntyre	Kaye Vincent	Simon Lynch	Trevor Butler
Gareth Hiscock	Andrea Hogan	Juanita Greville	Tamara Hallam-Brook
Bev Bell	David McDonald	Cherie Hutchinson	June Liddy
Matt Miller	Kevin Dellar	Greer Dellar	Di Bell
Gil Mulhallen	Peter Scott	Jeff Mulhallen	Colin Warrick
Leanne Christian	Bob Redden	Rodney Dumesny	Andrew Dorman
Anne-Maree Miller	Fletcher Millis	Brian Basham	Remo Luciani
Mandy Kirsopp	Neville Price	Greg Schultz	Leonie Thorne
Susan Jones	Glenn Coffey	Ash Hopper	Emma Hopper
Jenny Grimble	Prudence Beltz	Jessica Grimble	Craig Heard
Luke Hutchinson			

1. PRAYER

Chairman, Cr Mark Radford recited the following pledge on behalf of all Councillors:

Almighty God, we pledge ourselves to work in harmony for, the social, cultural and economic well-being of our Rural City. Help us to be wise in our deliberations and fair in our actions, so that prosperity and happiness shall be the lot of our people. AMEN

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY STATEMENT

Chairman, Cr Mark Radford read the following Acknowledgement of Country Statement:

The Horsham Rural City Council acknowledges the five Traditional Owner groups of this land; the Wotjobaluk, Wergaia, Jupagalk, Jaadwa and Jadawadjali people. We recognise the important and ongoing place that all Indigenous people hold in our community.

We pay our respects to the Elders, both past and present, and commit to working together in the spirit of mutual understanding and respect for the benefit of the broader community and future generations.

3. OPENING AND WELCOME

Chairman, Cr Mark Radford formally welcomed those in attendance to the meeting. The Mayor advised the public that the Council meeting will be recorded to maintain an audio archive.

4. APOLOGIES

Nil

5. LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS

Cr Pam Clarke and Cr Les Power requested leave of absence from the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on Monday 23 March 2020.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Josh Koenig, Seconded Cr John Robinson

That Cr Pam Clarke and Cr Les Power be granted leave of absence from the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on Monday 23 March 2020.

CARRIED

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Recommendation

That the minutes emanating from the Ordinary Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.30pm on 28 January 2020 be adopted.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Les Power

That the minutes emanating from the Ordinary Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.30pm on 28 January 2020 be adopted.

CARRIED

7. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr Mark Radford declared a conflict of interest for agenda item 9.7 Grampians Tourism Visitor Servicing Review. Conflict of Interest Declaration Form provided. Cr Radford left the meeting at 7.34pm and returned at 7.41pm. Cr Radford was absent while the matter was being discussed and considered.

Cr Alethea Gulvin declared a conflict of interest, Section 77(b) of the *Local Government Act 1989* for agenda item 9.1 City to River Masterplan. The nature of the interest being that Cr Gulvin's primary place of residence is in Jenkinson Avenue, Horsham. Cr Gulvin left the meeting at 6.09pm and returned at 6.47pm. Cr Gulvin was absent while the matter was being discussed and considered.

Cr Alethea Gulvin declared a conflict of interest, Section 77(b) of the *Local Government Act 1989* for agenda item 9.4 Sport and Recreation Victoria Local Sports Infrastructure Fund 2020/21 Program. Conflict of Interest Declaration Form provided. Cr Gulvin left the meeting at 6.56pm and returned at 7.08pm. Cr Gulvin was absent while the matter was being discussed and considered.

Cr Pam Clarke declared a conflict of interest, Section 77(b) of the *Local Government Act 1989* for agenda item 9.1 City to River Masterplan. Conflict of Interest Declaration Form provided. Cr Clarke left the meeting at 6.09pm and returned at 6.47pm. Cr Clarke was absent while the matter was being discussed and considered.

Cr Pam Clarke declared a conflict of interest, Section 77(b) of the *Local Government Act 1989* for agenda item 9.4 Sport and Recreation Victoria Local Sports Infrastructure Fund 2020/21 Program. Conflict of Interest Declaration Form provided. Cr Clarke left the meeting at 6.56pm and returned at 7.08pm. Cr Clarke was absent while the matter was being discussed and considered.

Council Meeting

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig

That the Council meeting be suspended for Public Question Time.

CARRIED

The Council meeting was suspended at 5.34pm for Public Question Time.

RESUME STANDING ORDERS

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Pam Clarke

That the Council meeting resume.

CARRIED

The Council meeting resumed at 6.08pm.

9. OFFICERS REPORTS

9.1 CITY TO RIVER FINAL MASTERPLAN

Cr Alethea Gulvin and Cr Pam Clarke left the meeting at 6.09pm.

Author's Name:	Angela Murphy	Director:	Angela Murphy
Author's Title:	Director Development Services	Directorate:	Director Development Services
Department:	Economic Development	File Number:	F15/A07/000017

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest In accordance with Local Government Act 1989 − Section 80C: ☐ Yes ☐ No Reason: Nil Status Information classified confidential in accordance with Local Government Act 1989 − Section 77(2)(c): ☐ Yes ☐ No Reason: Nil

Appendix

Horsham: City to River Vision and Masterplan – January 2020 (Appendix "9.1A") List of Amendments to City to River Masterplan (Appendix "9.1B")

Purpose

To receive and note the final City to River Masterplan, January 2020.

Summary

- In response to feedback received during an eight-week public engagement process (4 July to 30 August 2019), Council resolved to make a number of amendments to the City to River Masterplan and background documents, and take a number of actions.
- Amendments have since been made to the Masterplan in accordance with the changes resolved by Council at the 25 November 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting. The amended City to River Masterplan, January 2020 constitutes the endorsed Masterplan, allowing for the commencement of the Action and Implementation Plan.
- The City to River Masterplan Action and Implementation Plan will identify potential projects, their associated scope and estimated costs.
- The projects will be subject to prioritisation and consideration by Council as part of its annual and long-term capital works planning and budget allocation.

Recommendation

That Council:

 Receive and note the final City to River Masterplan, January 2020, excluding the proposed regional outdoor sports facility, amended in accordance with the changes resolved by Council at the 25 November 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting.

That Council:

2. Receive and note the final City to River Masterplan, January 2020, excluding the proposed regional indoor multi-purpose sports facility, amended in accordance with the changes resolved by Council at the 25 November 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting.

Council Meeting

SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig

That Standing Orders be suspended.

CARRIED

The Council meeting was suspended at 6.16pm.

RESUME STANDING ORDERS

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig

That Standing orders resume.

The Council meeting resumed at 6.23pm.

SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig

That the Council meeting be suspended.

CARRIED

The Council meeting was suspended at 6.31pm.

RESUME STANDING ORDERS

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig

That the Council meeting resume.

The Council meeting resumed at 6.43pm.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr David Grimble, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig

That Council defer agenda item 9.1 City to River Final Masterplan and seek legal advice on the Point of Order as raised by Cr Robinson.

CARRIED

Cr Alethea Gulvin and Cr Pam Clarke returned to the meeting at 6.47pm.

REPORT

Background

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 25 November 2019, Council resolved to make a number of amendments to the City to River Masterplan and background documents and take a number of actions following an eightweek public engagement process from 4 July to 30 August 2019. Council received 740 written submissions during that time.

Discussion

Amendments have been made to the City to River Masterplan in accordance with the changes resolved by Council at the 25 November 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting (Appendix "9.1A"). The amended City to River Masterplan, January 2020 constitutes the endorsed Masterplan, allowing for the commencement of the Action and Implementation Plan. Individual projects within each sub precinct are subject to detailed concept and schematic design, stakeholder and community consultation, and Council endorsement. The Masterplan will be progressively updated as the detailed concept and schematic design work is completed.

Financial Implications

The City to River Masterplan Action and Implementation Plan will identify potential projects, their associated scope and estimated costs. The projects will be subject to prioritisation and consideration by Council as part of its annual and long-term capital works planning and budget allocation.

Links to Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan

Goal 1 – Community and Cultural Development: Develop Horsham and the municipality as a diverse, inclusive and vibrant community

Four-Year Outcomes:

- 1.1 Contribute to building a vibrant, diverse and resilient community
- 1.2 Develop a safe, active and healthy community, encouraging participation
- 1.3 Contribute to cultural activities that enhance our community
- 1.4 Develop the municipality as a desirable place to live, work and enjoy for people of all ages and abilities

We'll track progress in terms of:

- Securing funding for CBD Revitalisation Project Stage 1 improved urban design
- Develop plans for a Town Square by December 2018

Four-Year Priorities:

- 1.2.09 Activate the Wimmera River Precinct for the community and visitors (including lights and greater presentation)
- 1.2.10 Plan and progressively construct shared cycling and walking track paths along the Wimmera River from Riverside Bridge to Horsham Weir both sides, including improvements to lighting and other facilities
- 1.2.12 Encourage the development of a riverside café
- 1.2.13 Support planning for review of use of the Riverside Recreation Hub precinct as part of the Wimmera River strategy

Goal 2 - Sustaining the Economy: Lead in sustainable growth and economic development

Four-Year Outcomes:

- 2.2 Cultivate opportunities for the municipality to prosper and pursue possibilities for new development
- 2.3 Support initiatives for improved transport services in and around the municipality
- 2.4 Increase visitors to the municipality
- 2.5 Promote Horsham as a regional city

Horsham Rural City Council on an ongoing basis will:

- Encourage linkages with local business and tourism associations to assist growth and prosperity of the retail, commercial and tourism sectors
- Facilitate the attraction of major sporting events
- Promote and encourage safe bicycle use as a sustainable alternate mode of transport, including provision of bicycle parking facilities

Goal 3 – Asset Management: Meet community and service needs through provision and maintenance of infrastructure

Four-Year Priorities:

- 3.1.09 Identify and develop new off street parking areas on CBD fringe
- 3.1.10 Develop a master plan of streetscape themes and service levels for existing streets and new developments
- 3.2.02 Confirm and undertake design and planning for the relocation of the municipal depot including potential co-location of Tech Services planning and delivery staff
- 3.4.05 Develop improved entrances to all towns (street signage and landscapes)

Horsham Rural City Council on an ongoing basis will:

Continue the Horsham central business district upgrade of streetscaping

Goal 4 – Governance and Business Excellence: Excel in communication, consultation, governance, leadership and responsible use of resources

Four-Year Outcome:

4.1 Continuously improve communication and engagement with the community through effective consultation

The City to River Project links to the following Council Plans and Strategies:

- Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017–2021
- Horsham Municipal Strategic Statement
- Sport and Recreation Strategy 2013–2018
- Horsham CAD Revitalisation Strategy 2017
- Horsham CAD Strategy 2013
- Imagine Horsham, Community and Stakeholder Engagement Key Findings Summary 2016
- Tourism Master Plan 2016 2020, 2018 review
- Horsham Economic Development Strategy 2017–2021
- Horsham Municipal Bicycle and Shared Path Plan 2012–2016
- Horsham Municipal Parking Strategy 2017
- Horsham CBD Urban Design Framework
- Wimmera Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design 2017
- Horsham Growth Management Framework 2012

Council Meeting

Consultation/Communication

Council made a strong commitment as part of preparing the Draft City to River Masterplan to deliver a genuine and thorough engagement process. This included using the results of earlier engagement activities undertaken in the study area and incorporating ideas already identified by the community.

Risk Implications

Risks associated with the implementation of the City to River Masterplan will be considered at an individual project level.

Environmental Implications

Environmental implications associated with the implementation of the City to River Masterplan will be considered at an individual project level.

Human Rights Implications

This report complies with the rights listed in the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.*

Conclusion

The amendments and actions made to the Draft City to River Masterplan directly respond to key concerns on fundamental ideas and design detail considerations raised through the 2019 community engagement process. The amended City to River Masterplan, January 2020 constitutes the endorsed Masterplan.

9.2 HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL INNOVATE RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

Author's Name:	Kevin O'Brien	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Director Community Wellbeing	Directorate:	Community Wellbeing
Department:	Arts, Culture and Recreation	File Number:	F10/A02/000001

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest	Status
In accordance with Local Government Act 1989 –	Information classified confidential in accordance
Section 80C:	with Local Government Act 1989 – Section 77(2)(c):
☐ Yes ☒ No	☐ Yes ☒ No
Reason: Nil	Reason: Nil

Appendix

Horsham Rural City Council Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan Progress Report (Appendix "9.2A")

Purpose

To provide an update to Council on progress made on the implementation of actions contained in the Horsham Rural City Council Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan.

Summary

- Background
- Actions completed/progressed

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the progress of actions contained in the Horsham Rural City Council Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig

That Council receive and note the progress of actions contained in the Horsham Rural City Council Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

In July 2016, Council resolved to establish the Horsham Rural City Council Aboriginal Advisory Committee (AAC) and adopted a Terms of Reference for this committee.

One of the objectives of the AAC is as follows:

• Provide input into the development, implementation and review of the first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

The Innovate RAP was endorsed by Reconciliation Australia in January 2019. The RAP is for the period December 2018 to December 2020.

Discussion

There are 73 individual actions in the Innovate RAP:

- 11 actions have been completed
- 32 actions are completed and are also considered ongoing
- 7 actions have commenced
- 23 actions are still to commence.

Actions completed are as follows (some of these actions are considered ongoing):

- Events conducted during National Reconciliation Week
- Aboriginal and Torres Star Islander trainees
- Participation in and support of NAIDOC Week events
- Cultural Awareness training for staff
- Support of Wimmera River Challenge
- Welcome to Country for major community events
- · Acknowledgement of Country for significant staff meetings
- Display of Aboriginal and Torres Islander flags on major Council facilities
- Establishment of Internal RAP Working Group
- Virtual yarns monitor at Horsham and Grampians Visitor Information Centre
- Creation of opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander businesses through Council's procurement procedures.

Financial Implications

There is an allocation of \$50,000 in the Council Budget to support RAP initiatives with a particular focus on Aboriginal traineeships.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan

Goal 1 - Community and Cultural Development

Four-Year Priority 1.1.07 – Develop an Indigenous Reconciliation Action Plan

Council Meeting

Consultation/Communication

The RAP was developed by the RAP Working Group (Aboriginal Advisory Committee) through a workshop and input from across all Council business areas who have provided ideas for inclusion in our RAP and who are all committed to working towards positive reconciliation outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, families, young people, organisations and businesses.

The RAP is being implemented though the RAP Internal Working Group. Regular reports are provided to the Aboriginal Advisory Committee.

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Human Rights Implications

This report complies with the rights listed in the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.*

Conclusion

Progress is being made on actions contained in the innovate RAP. There are some actions that are ongoing and there are some actions which are still to commence. Discussions are occurring with staff internally and also with the AAC to advance these actions.

9.3 GENDER EQUITY IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

Author's Name:	Renee Hollier	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Gender Equity Officer	Directorate:	Community Wellbeing
Department:	Community Wellbeing	File Number:	F10/A04/000008

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest	Status
In accordance with Local Government Act 1989 –	Information classified confidential in accordance
Section 80C:	with Local Government Act 1989 – Section 77(2)(c):
☐ Yes ☒ No	☐ Yes ⊠ No
Reason: Nil	Reason: Nil

Appendix

Gender Equity Community Engagement Audit Toolkit (Sections A and B) (Appendix "9.3A") Horsham Engagement Data and Advisory Committee Report (Appendix "9.3B") Increasing Methods of Participation (Appendix "9.3C")

Purpose

To provide a final update on the Gender Equity in Community Engagement Project.

Summary

- The project achieved all objectives at Council.
- The project occurred within the allocated timeframe and budget.
- The Gender Equity Community Engagement Audit Toolkit is available for Council and other Victorian Councils to use to improve participation of women and girls, of varying abilities and backgrounds within community engagement.
- It is anticipated that Council will further embed gender equity changes required into the Community Engagement Policy and Procedure when the new Framework is developed.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Gender Equity in Community Engagement Project report and its implications for Council's Community Engagement Policy and Framework.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Alethea Gulvin, Seconded Cr Pam Clarke

That Council receive and note the Gender Equity in Community Engagement Project report and its implications for Council's Community Engagement Policy and Framework.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

"Gender Equity in Community Engagement" was a twelve month project between Horsham Rural City (Council) and Hindmarsh, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack Shire Councils. This project received funding from the Victorian Government.

Discussion

All project objectives were achieved within the allocated project timeframe. The project was underpinned by eight core objectives. An overview of the objectives are as follows:

- A report was developed that analysed the presence of gender equality within Council's community engagement processes.
- The Gender Equity Community Engagement Audit Toolkit was developed by Gwood Creative (Appendix "9.3A"). The audit when/if completed, should indicate which community engagement practices and processes require improvement and which are being performed well.
 - A report was developed that identified methods to increase participation from women of varying abilities and backgrounds in community engagement (Appendix "9.3B).
- A gender lens was applied to Council's current Community Engagement Policy and Procedure. The report has been shared with Council's Governance and Information Department, so these elements can be incorporated into the future Policy and Procedure (Appendix "9.3C").
- Gender equity training was administered by Women's Health Grampians. This occurred with both staff and advisory committee members. In total, 21 people received the training.
- A gender lens was applied to the Horsham Rural City Council Advisory Committee Terms of Reference template. An Expression of Interest Form template was also developed. These have been embedded within Council processes.
- A support pathway has been developed that identifies support options for those experiencing domestic and family violence.

Financial Implications

The project was funded by the Victorian Government. The project has adhered to the allocated budget.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan

Goal 1 - Community and Cultural Development

Four-Year Priorities:

1.2.06 – Support family violence prevention programs and initiatives

1.2.15 – Support behaviours that reinforce respect and equality for women and address rising levels of family violence

2017-2021 Health and Wellbeing Plan

Preventing Family Violence Objective 2 – Address key drivers of gender inequality leading to violence against women

Consultation/Communication

Consultation occurred with the International Association for Public Participation, Women with Disabilities, Youth Affairs Council Victoria, Engage Victoria and Equality Advocates in the development of the Increasing Methods of Participation report.

Council Meeting

All project objectives were reviewed by Women's Health Grampians. The Gender Equity Community Engagement Audit Toolkit and the Terms of Reference template were discussed and reviewed by the Gender Equity in Community Engagement Project Control Group.

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Human Rights Implications

This report complies with the rights listed in the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.*

Conclusion

Council has satisfactorily completed the objectives for the Gender Equity Community Engagement Project. It is expected that the changes made within Council and the resources developed as a result of the project, will increase the participation of women and girls of varying abilities and backgrounds in Council's community engagement activities.

Council Meeting

9.4 SPORT AND RECREATION VICTORIA LOCAL SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE FUND 2020/21 PROGRAM

Cr Alethea Gulvin and Cr Pam Clarke left the meeting at 6.56pm.

Author's Name:	Susan Surridge and Carolynne Hamdorf	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Co-ordinator Community Relations and Advocacy	Directorate:	Community Wellbeing
	Manager Arts Culture and Recreation		
Department:	Community Relations and Advocacy	File Number:	F10/A01/000001

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest	Status
In accordance with Local Government Act 1989 –	Information classified confidential in accordance
Section 80C:	with Local Government Act 1989 – Section 77(2)(c)
☐ Yes ☒ No	☐ Yes ☒ No
Reason: Nil	Reason: Nil
Appendix Nil	

Purpose

To receive and note the submission of funding applications to the Sport and Recreation Victoria Local Sports Infrastructure Fund 2020/21 program.

Summary

This report identifies the following projects for application to the Local Sports Infrastructure Fund 2020/21 program:

- Horsham Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility Study to progress development of the feasibility study following Council's endorsement of the final City to River Masterplan on 25 November 2019.
- Coughlin Park Bowls Club (two new synthetic greens) a community driven project that has been developed in consultation with Council's Recreation Team to replace two lawn bowling greens with synthetic greens.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Receive and note the submission of the Horsham Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility Study funding application to the Sport and Recreation Victoria Local Sports Infrastructure Fund 2020/21 program.
- 2. Receive and note the submission of the Coughlin Park Bowls Club (two new synthetic greens) funding application to the Sport and Recreation Victoria Local Sports Infrastructure Fund 2020/21 program.

Council Meeting

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig

That Council:

- 1. Receive and note the submission of the Horsham Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility Study funding application to the Sport and Recreation Victoria Local Sports Infrastructure Fund 2020/21 program.
- 2. Receive and note the submission of the Coughlin Park Bowls Club (two new synthetic greens) funding application to the Sport and Recreation Victoria Local Sports Infrastructure Fund 2020/21 program.

CARRIED

Cr Alethea Gulvin and Cr Pam Clarke returned to the meeting at 7.08pm.

Council Meeting

REPORT

Background

The Sport and Recreation Victoria Local Sports Infrastructure Fund 2020/21 was open for application until the closing date of 14 February 2020.

This is Sport and Recreation Victoria's annual funding program that covers a range of funding areas with specific funding criteria for each area:

- Planning
- Female Friendly Facilities
- Community Facilities
- Strategic Facilities
- Aquatic Centres and Indoor Stadiums.

The funding round is only open to applications from Local Government across the State. Not-for-profit sporting clubs can make applications through Council as an auspice body (i.e., Coughlin Park Bowls Club).

Discussion

Following release of the new funding guidelines, Officers have assessed any current projects that are application-ready and suitable for funding through this program.

The following two projects are recommended for a funding submission:

Horsham Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility Study

Council's endorsement of changes to the City to River Masterplan on 25 November 2019 included the requirement to undertake an independent feasibility study to consider the preferred location for the Horsham Regional Multi-Sport Precinct. Council's resolution directed the independent study to determine the economic and social impacts of the facility, be informed by the technical feasibility of each site, operational model and costs, and involve engagement with the Showgrounds Committee and Greyhound Racing Victoria to determine the cost of relocation.

Feedback from Sport and Recreation Victoria recognises that the new Feasibility Study will be informed by previous work completed by Council, including the Business Case and Feasibility Study of the Indoor Sports Stadium. The new study will explore the feasibility of a regional multi-sport facility (inclusive of indoor and outdoor sports) and will be required to undergo a site assessment process across multiple locations, just as the original Indoor Sports Stadium Feasibility did. This pre-condition ensures best practice and considers factors impacting a larger site footprint for both indoor and outdoor facilities. The crown land area at the Showgrounds precinct and the site near Jenkinson Avenue will be included in the site assessment process. Sport and Recreation Victoria have advised that, without undergoing this broader work, it is unlikely the project will be funded.

Pre-application discussion with Sport and Recreation Victoria has confirmed that the Planning Grant application must focus on four key principles to attract funding:

- Increased multi-sports programming
- Increased sporting participation
- Social benefits
- Economic benefits.

Sport and Recreation Victoria co-funded the Wimmera Regional Indoor Stadium Study in 2017. The proposed Horsham Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility Study will build on the analysis completed for the 2017 study to look at the co-location of indoor and outdoor sports in a multi-sports precinct.

This is a comprehensive and detailed piece of work that involves a range of considerations:

- Programming opportunities for a range of sports
- Impact on participation numbers for a range of sports
- Economic and social impact analysis of a new regional sports precinct in a range of possible locations

 this analysis will include a funding and operational business plan that considers the cost/benefits of development on either purchased freehold or crown land including the impacts of any potential relocation of current user groups
- Detailed technical feasibility study of all possible sites including traffic management, geological conditions and flooding issues
- Engagement with a range of key stakeholders to assess the impact of the facility in each location
- Detailed concept designs and quantity surveying estimates for facilities at each location.

This work will be informed by a number of key strategic planning documents as follows:

- Wimmera Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design Report December 2017
- City to River Masterplan December 2019
- Horsham CAD Wimmera River Technical Report May 2019
- Horsham Sports Facility Demand Study Assessment December 2020
- Wimmera River Precinct and Central Activity District Background Report May 2019
- Open Space Strategy December 2019
- Social Infrastructure Plan (draft) 2020.

The total budget for this planning work is \$60,000. The funding application is seeking a maximum Sport and Recreation Victoria Planning Grant of \$30,000, matched by a proposed 2020/21 operating budget contribution from Council of \$30,000.

Coughlin Park Bowls Club (two new synthetic greens)

Over the past five years, bowling clubs within Horsham have transitioned from lawn greens to synthetic surfaces for a number of reasons including: drought and water supply issues, maintenance costs, burden on ageing volunteers, all year round useability, and ability to engage qualified and experienced green keepers. Council has supported successful funding applications through Sport and Recreation Victoria for the installation of two synthetic greens at Horsham City Bowling Club and Sunnyside Bowling Club. Horsham Golf Bowls Club have recently transitioned their single green from grass to synthetic. Coughlin Park has Horsham's last natural grass surface and they are now seeking to transition to two new synthetic greens.

The project scope includes conversion of two natural grass greens to new synthetic greens including accessible ramps. The total cash budget of \$335,000 will be funded by the maximum grant application of \$250,000, Coughlin Park cash contribution of \$75,000 and a \$10,000 request from Council. In addition to their cash contribution, Coughlin Park Bowls Club will provide in-kind support of \$75,000 (including the construction of two accessible ramps).

Note: It is proposed that the \$10,000 contribution by Council be allocated from the 2019/20 Community Grants Program, where there is allocation available to assist funding applications. Council provided \$10,000 to Sunnyside Bowls Club in the 2018/19 Community Grants Program funding round, and \$20,000 to the Horsham City Bowling Club in the 2017/18 round.

Financial Implications

As noted above, if the two applications are successful, Council will be required to contribute the following:

- \$30,000 in the 2020/21 operating budget for the feasibility study
- \$10,000 from the 2019/20 Community Grants Program.

Links to Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

Horsham Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility Study

2019-2023 Council Plan

Four-Year Outcomes:

- 1.1 Contribute to building a vibrant, diverse and resilient community
- 1.2 Develop a safe, active and healthy community, encouraging participation
- 1.4 Develop the municipality as a desirable place to live, work and enjoy for people of all ages and abilities
- 2.3 Increase visitors to the municipality
- 3.1 Determine infrastructure needs and expectations through consultations with developers and the community
- 3.4 Deliver works to develop and maintain Council's physical assets for long term sustainability, amenity and safety
- 5.1 Promote sustainability by encouraging sound environmental practice

Coughlin Park Bowls Club (two new synthetic greens)

2019-2023 Council Plan

Four-Year Priorities:

- 1.2.07 Development of positive ageing initiatives
- 1.2.15 Support behaviours that reinforce respect and equality for all members of the community
- 3.1.05 Develop a prioritised plan for upgrade of community recreation facilities
- 3.4.01 Develop infrastructure that encourages greater participation and use of alternate transport options to the city (e.g., walking, cycling and public transport)

Horsham Rural City Council on an ongoing basis will:

Support sporting and community organisations to develop and upgrade community sport and recreation facilities through relevant funding programs in accordance with the Sport and recreation Plan and other Council Plans

Consultation/Communication

These projects have been fully developed to application stage through extensive consultation and engagement:

- Feasibility study City to River engagement process, workshops and Councillor Briefings, Sport and Recreation Victoria
- Coughlin Park Bowls Club the Recreation team have developed this project to 'shovel ready' stage through consultation with the Bowls Club, Coughlin Park Committee of Management, and Sport and Recreation Victoria.

Risk Implications

Horsham Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility Study – required by a resolution of Council on 25 November 2019. There is a reputational risk to Council of not allocating funding to this planning work.

Coughlin Park Bowls Club (two new synthetic greens) – minimal financial risk with \$10,000 community grant allocation. Council has considerable experience in working with local bowls clubs to install synthetic greens.

Environmental Implications

Synthetic greens will significantly reduce the watering required on the current grass greens and reduce drawing of water from the Wimmera River.

Council Meeting

Human Rights Implications

This report complies with the rights listed in the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.*

Conclusion

The Horsham Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility Study and Coughlin Park Bowls Club (two new synthetic greens) project, were assessed as ready and suitable for a funding application to the Local Sports Infrastructure Fund 2020/21. Applications were submitted by the due date of 14 February 2020.

9.5 QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT – JULY TO DECEMBER 2019

Author's Name:	Graeme Harrison	Director:	Graeme Harrison
Author's Title:	Director Corporate Services	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Corporate Services	File Number:	F18/A10/000001

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest	Status
In accordance with Local Government Act 1989 –	Information classified confidential in accordance
Section 80C:	with Local Government Act 1989 – Section 77(2)(c):
☐ Yes ☒ No	☐ Yes ☒ No
Reason: Nil	Reason: Nil
Appendix	
Quarterly Performance Report - July to December 20	019 (Appendix "9.5A")

Purpose

To receive and note the Quarterly Performance Report for the six months to 31 December 2019.

Summary

- The new Quarterly Performance Report is part of the continual improvement process of reporting back to Council and the community.
- The Quarterly Performance Report brings together a range of previous reports into a single document that is easy to read and understand.
- It reports all items over a consistent quarterly reporting timeline.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Quarterly Performance Report for the six months to 31 December 2019.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig

That Council receive and note the Quarterly Performance Report for the six months to 31 December 2019.

CARRIED

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr David Grimble, Seconded Cr John Robinson

That Council seek clarity from the Municipal Association of Victoria around the validity of the Council Plan as highlighted by a member of the public, and that advice be provided as a report to Council and to the Audit and Risk Committee.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

Council's operations are large and complex, with over 80 different broad service delivery areas from road maintenance and construction, waste collection, parks, building and planning, to early years, visual and performing arts. This diversity in services creates challenges in many facets of Council's operations, which then create challenges in reporting on these to Council and the broader community.

There are a number of statutory obligations under various legislation to report to Council and the community within specific timeframes:

- The Local Government Act 1989 requires quarterly financial reports at a meeting open to the public.
- The Local Government Act 1989 requires a half yearly review of Council's performance against actions in the Council Plan.
- Reporting Regulations Provide at least a half yearly report on progress against the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework.

Council has in place a Financial and Performance Reporting Framework that provides some guidance on Council's reporting processes. These guidelines state the following:

"Councillors take ultimate responsibility for the performance of Council and are accountable to the ratepayers and community of the municipality. As Councillors are not involved in the day-to-day operations of the Council, they rely on policies, procedures and internal controls to provide assurance about the information reported to them and in turn reported to the community and other stakeholders."

The provision of relevant information on a regular basis is an important part of that internal control process and is necessary for the various levels of Council to carry out their responsibilities and obligations to the community in the management of Council business.

Central to Council's Financial and Performance Reporting Framework, are the following objectives:

- Council is committed to providing accurate, correct and quality information to the Community around its performance.
- Council is committed to providing high quality relevant internal and external reporting, in a timely manner.
- Council is committed to providing regular targeted reporting to Management, its Audit and Risk Committee, Council and the Community.
- Council is committed to sound governance through the alignment of performance reporting with its strategic direction.
- Performance reporting is not just a compliance exercise but is integral to better understanding of how Council is performing in its delivery of key strategies and operations from the Council Plan.

Discussion

As a part of the continual improvement process, this report takes a new approach to reporting back to Council and the community on these key strategic items, in what is hopefully a clear and concise manner that is readable and informative.

Council Meeting

Horsham Rural City Council

The report contains the following sections:

- 1. CEO Overview
- 2. Council Plan Actions and Local Government Performance Reporting Framework
- 3. Customer Service Targets
- 4. Business Improvements
- 5. Capital Works
- 6. Audit and Risk
- 7. Financials

The format for this reporting will evolve over time, but essentially will be mindful of the need to be relevant, reliable, comparable and understandable.

This first Quarterly Performance Report is essentially bringing together and aligning a number of reports that have been provided individually to Council in the past, but with different timeframes.

Financial Implications

This report is prepared using existing staff resources.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan

Goal 4 - Governance and Business Excellence

Four-Year Outcome 4.1 – Continuously improve communication and engagement with the community through effective consultation

Consultation/Communication

The Quarterly Performance Report has been developed by the Governance Team, in consultation with the Executive Management Team and Departmental Managers. It has been reviewed by Council's Audit and Risk Committee and by Council, at a Council Briefing Meeting.

Risk Implications

Provision of good quality, regular reporting of financial and non-financial information to the community mitigates against the risk of poor financial governance and possible financial mismanagement. The Municipal Association of Victoria's Good Governance Guide states "the Council is ultimately accountable for the financial management ... it should not have a hands-on role ... but it needs to ensure that it has sufficient information to be satisfied that finances are in order and that budgetary and financial planning goals are being met".

Environmental Implications

Not applicable, although reporting on Council's environmental targets could possibly be incorporated into the Quarterly Performance Report, once strategies have been updated during 2020.

Human Rights Implications

This report complies with the rights listed in the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.*

Conclusion

The new report format will provide a regular quarterly report for Council and the community to assess how Council is performing financially and against its key objectives.

9.6 CUSTOMER SERVICE STANDARDS

Author's Name:	Kerrie Bell	Director:	Graeme Harrison
Author's Title:	Manager Governance and Information	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Governance and Information	File Number:	F06/A05/000001

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest	Status
In accordance with Local Government Act 1989 –	Information classified confidential in accordance
Section 80C:	with Local Government Act 1989 – Section 77(2)(c):
☐ Yes ☒ No	☐ Yes ☒ No
Reason: Nil	Reason: Nil
Appendix	
Customer Commitment Charter (Appendix "9.6A")	
Customer Service Standards Procedure (including ser	vice commitments) (Appendix "9.6B")

Purpose

To receive and note the revised Customer Commitment Charter and Customer Service Standards Procedure, including service commitments.

Summary

- The revised and enhanced Customer Commitment Charter has been developed in an easy-to-read format for the public.
- The Customer Service Standards Procedure provides specific actions and timeframe commitments for individual service responses across Council.
- These commitments will help embed an improved customer focused culture into the organisation.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Customer Commitment Charter and Customer Service Standards Procedure.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig

That Council receive and note the Customer Commitment Charter and Customer Service Standards Procedure.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

A number of projects were identified by the Leadership Group as suitable for cross-departmental collaboration, and four of these projects were given priority. A small team, led by the Director Development Services, volunteered to be a part of the working group which reviewed the Customer Service Standards Procedure and the Customer Service Charter, in accordance with the vision and values of the organisation and the needs of the community.

Other members of the review working group were: Director Community Wellbeing, Manager Governance and Information, Team Leader Customer Service, and Business Administration Trainee.

Discussion

The previous Customer Service Charter was amended and refreshed to become the Customer Commitment Charter (Appendix "9.6A"). Amendments included alignment with Council's recently adopted vales and behaviours, and simple to read instructions for the making of service requests, feedback and complaints.

The previously adopted "Staff Standards and Procedures for Managing Customers" Procedure was reviewed and amended to the "Customer Service Standards" Procedure (Appendix "9.6B").

This Procedure now includes service commitments across a range of identified services. These service commitments identify specific actions and timeframes that staff have developed as acceptable levels of responses to services across Council. They will be monitored on an ongoing basis and reported back to Council and the community.

Financial Implications

Costs to develop the revised Customer Charter and Procedure included staff time and graphic design costs, which were covered within existing budgets.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan
Goal 4 – Governance and Business Excellence

Consultation/Communication

Staff were consulted and asked to provide feedback to the service commitments via their Department Managers. The working group also considered feedback from the 2019 Community Satisfaction Survey and data obtained from Council's customer request system (Merit) and the after-hours call centre.

Staff will be trained in the content and delivery of the Customer Service Standards Procedure and Customer Commitment Charter. These documents will also be made readily available to Council customers both in hard copy and via the website.

Risk Implications

Reputational risk to Council if customer service standards are not reviewed and continuously improved.

Council Meeting

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Human Rights Implications

This report complies with the rights listed in the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.*

Conclusion

A customer focused organisational culture is embedded by continuous improvement, driven by listening and actioning feedback from Council customers via a variety of channels.

The Customer Service Standards Procedure and Customer Commitment Charter provide clear and consistent expectations for Council staff and our customers.

9.7 GRAMPIANS TOURISM VISITOR SERVICING REVIEW

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Alethea Gulvin, Seconded Cr Les Power

That Cr Pam Clarke be appointed as Temporary Chair.

CARRIED

Cr Pam Clarke took the Chair at 7.34pm.

Cr Mark Radford left the meeting at 7.34pm.

Author's Name:	Angela Murphy	Director:	Angela Murphy
Author's Title:	Director Development Services	Directorate:	Development Services
Department:	Economic Development	File Number:	F15/A15/000001

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest

In accordance with Local Government Act 1989 –

Section 80C:

 \square Yes \boxtimes No

Reason: Nil

Status

Information classified confidential in accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 77(2)(c):

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Grampians Tourism Visitor Servicing Review Report (Appendix "9.7A")
Grampians Tourism Visitor Servicing Review 2019 (Summary) (Appendix "9.7B")
Proposed Parking Plan (Appendix "9.7C")

Purpose

To receive and note the Grampians Tourism Visitor Servicing Review Report.

Summary

- Grampians Tourism commissioned a review of regional visitor servicing in March 2019.
- The review considers the provision of visitor servicing through Visitor Information Centres and the growing ease of access to online information.
- The report makes recommendations for future provision of visitor servicing across the Grampians tourism region.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Receive and note the Grampians Tourism Visitor Servicing Review Report.
- 2. Enter into a service level agreement to:
 - (a) Consolidate Horsham Rural City Council tourism marketing activities with Grampians Tourism across all distribution channels.
 - (b) Ensure Horsham specific market is delivered.
- 3. Implement the recommendations for the relocation of Horsham Visitor Information Centre and establish the Horsham Visitor Servicing Inspiration Centre at the Horsham Town Hall, including noting the proposed parking arrangements and development of a Key Stakeholder Communication Plan addressing steps and timelines.

Council Motion

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Koenig

That Council:

- 1. Receive and note the Grampians Tourism Visitor Servicing Review Report.
- 2. Enter into a service level agreement to:
 - (a) Consolidate Horsham Rural City Council tourism marketing activities with Grampians Tourism across all distribution channels.
 - (b) Ensure Horsham specific market is delivered.
- 3. Implement the recommendations for the relocation of Horsham Visitor Information Centre and establish the Horsham Visitor Servicing Inspiration Centre at the Horsham Town Hall, including noting the proposed parking arrangements and development of a Key Stakeholder Communication Plan addressing steps and timelines.

MOTION LAPSED

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Alethea Gulvin, Seconded Cr David Grimble

That the Grampians Tourism Visitor Servicing Review Report be deferred.

CARRIED

Cr Mark Radford returned to the meeting at 7.41pm.

Cr Pam Clarke stepped down from the Chair at 7.41pm.

Cr Mark Radford assumed the Chair at 7.41pm.

REPORT

Background

- A Victorian State-wide review of visitor servicing was undertaken in 2018. The review concluded that there was a clear need to pool visitor servicing resources in regions.
- In March 2019, Grampians Tourism commissioned a report to consider the role and relevance of Visitor Information Centres and the visitor services operating model with a view to improving cost efficiencies, exploring partnership and co-location opportunities.
- The report is the culmination of work following extensive industry and Local Government stakeholder consultations.

Discussion

- In the year ending December 2018, Visitor Information Centres in the Grampians had a total of 155,955 visitors. Horsham had 16,294 for the same period.
- Domestic overnight visitors to the Grampians Tourism region were 1.1 million (up by 11.7% on the previous year).
- Visitor Information Centres in the Grampians had a total of 155,955 visitors representing less than 15% of domestic overnight visitors.
- Visitors that use Visitor Information Centres value the service highly, 99% of visitors will recommend an accredited Visitor Information Centre to friends and family (Victorian Accredited Visitor Information Servicing Survey, Half Yearly Results 2018/19).
- Access to information has changed with increased use of the internet and, more recently, mobile technology.
- The report recommends the Horsham Visitor Information Centre be relocated into the arts precinct and incorporates stronger links to online information (through a Grampians-wide Omnichannel Strategy).
- A Grampians Omnichannel Strategy would consolidate tourism marketing across the region, providing clarity for visitors and reduce duplicated effort, including for tourism operators.
- Tourism operators are asked to participate in multiple opportunities. Currently:
 - Horsham Rural City Council manages a visitor focused website, www.visithorsham.com and produces a number of hard copy brochures and guides
 - Grampians Tourism manages a website, <u>www.visitgrampians.com</u>, Facebook page, Instagram,
 Twitter and a Youtube channel Additionally they produce a number of hard copy brochures and guides.
- Utilising the marketing channels managed by Grampians Tourism will provide access to greater levels of professional resourcing and external funding.
- Consolidated online information is a pre-requisite of any relocation of visitor servicing.

Financial Implications

Horsham Visitor Information Centre has an annual budget of approximately \$240,000.

Moving Visitor Servicing functions to integrate with other existing Council services will provide ongoing operational efficiencies.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan

Goal 2 – Sustaining the Economy

Four-Year Outcome 2.3 – Increase visitors to the municipality

Goal 3 – Asset Management

Horsham Rural City Council on an ongoing basis will:

• Improve and enhance facilities in Horsham including the Horsham and Grampians Visitor Information Centre, Horsham Aquatic Centre and Botanical Gardens to attract more visitors to the municipality

Consultation/Communication

The Grampians Tourism Visitor Servicing Review engaged directly with Councils, volunteers, operators and State agencies.

Discussions between visitor servicing and Horsham Town Hall staff is ongoing to begin assessment of options and issues associated with any potential integration.

Consultation has occurred with the Tourism Advisory Committee and ongoing dialogue is occurring with volunteers.

The accreditation guidelines for visitor information services states that the facility be accessible (i.e., easy access for visitors to access via public transport or their own vehicle) and have adequate car and coach parking in close proximity to meet demand.

Definition of close proximity:

- (a) Within five minute walk of the facility
- (b) If a shared tenancy is in place, designated visitor parking with adequate signage is required
- (c) Where the facility is located in a highly populated area, drop off zones are required in front or as close to the Visitor Information Centre building as possible.

Consultation with neighbours regarding long vehicle parking in the vicinity of the Horsham Town Hall has occurred, and a proposed layout is attached For Council's information (Appendix "9.7C"). There is also a drop off zone and coach parking available.

Risk Implications

Management of any changes to the operations of the Visitor Information Centre have potential reputational risks, particularly where these impact on volunteers.

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Human Rights Implications

This report complies with the rights listed in the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.*

Council Meeting

Conclusion

Globally, visitors are finding information from a range of sources, and the nature of visitor servicing is changing. Traditional models of Visitor Information Centres are catering for a small market sector.

Adopting a regional visitor servicing model has service benefits for operators and visitors. It also has the potential to increase the economic value of tourism in the Grampians Region.

9.8 SMALL BUSINESS FRIENDLY COUNCILS INITIATIVE

Author's Name:	Angela Murphy	Director:	Angela Murphy
Author's Title:	Development Services	Directorate:	Development Services
Department:	Economic Development	File Number:	F15/A01/000001

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest	Status			
In accordance with Local Government Act 1989 –	Information classified confidential in accordance			
Section 80C:	with Local Government Act 1989 – Section 77(2)(c):			
☐ Yes ☒ No	☐ Yes ☒ No			
Reason: Nil	Reason: Nil			
Appendix				
Small Business Friendly Councils Charter (Appendix "9.8A")				

Purpose

To sign the Small Business Friendly Councils (SBFC) Charter and commit to achieving the initiatives within 12 months.

Summary

- The SBFC Charter is an initiative of the Victorian Small Business Commissioner (VSBC) and aims to increase the effectiveness of interactions between Local Governments and small businesses.
- The SBFC Charter is an initiative to increase communication and positive interactions between Local Government and small businesses.
- Signing the Charter commits Council to achieving the following six elements within 12 months:
 - Work with small businesses disrupted by infrastructure projects
 - Support the creation of small business networks across Victoria
 - Faster permit approvals processes for small businesses
 - Prompt payment to small businesses
 - Easy to read, easy to understand, information for Victorian small businesses
 - Open channels of communication between the VSBC and local Councils.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Commits to supporting small businesses by signing the Small Business Friendly Councils Charter.
- 2. Undertakes business improvement initiatives to achieve the commitments of the Small Business Friendly Councils Charter within 12 months of signing.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Alethea Gulvin, Seconded Cr Pam Clarke

That Council:

- 1. Commits to supporting small businesses by signing the Small Business Friendly Councils Charter.
- 2. Undertakes business improvement initiatives to achieve the commitments of the Small Business Friendly Councils Charter within 12 months of signing.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

The Victorian Small Business Commissioner launched the SBFC Charter in May 2019. At that time, Horsham Rural City Council was undertaking process improvements as part of the Victorian Governments Better Approvals initiative.

Discussion

The SBFC Charter sets out six areas for Councils to increase their communication and effective support for Victorian small businesses. Horsham Rural City Council already undertakes activities that meet some of the requirements of the Charter, for instance, faster permit approvals through the Better Approvals project.

Committing to the Charter will send a strong signal that Horsham Rural City Council supports local small businesses and intends to continually improve its service provision where possible, to provide better outcomes for these businesses.

By signing the Charter, Council commits to:

- Work with small businesses disrupted by infrastructure projects
 - Refer to the VSBC's Small Business Engagement Guidelines when planning new works and request that external project managers do the same
 - Provide small businesses with the VSBC's Guide for Small Businesses on Managing Disruption.
- Support the creation of small business networks across Victoria
 - Distribute the VSBC's guide to building Stronger Networks
 - Actively engage with small business networks and identify new opportunities for development
 - Include representatives of associations in conversations concerning small businesses.
- Faster permit approvals processes for small businesses

Work towards faster permit approvals for new small businesses. This may mean:

- Registering with the Better Approvals Project and completing this as scheduled (completed)
- Implementing strategies to streamline permit approvals processes for small businesses.
- Prompt payment to small businesses
 - Initiate processes to ensure invoices from small businesses are paid promptly
 - Commit to signing up to the Australian Supplier Payment Code to pay small businesses within 30 days.
- Easy to read, easy to understand, information for Victorian small businesses
 - Link your business with the resources available at www.business.vic.gov.au
 - Provide the VSBC Retail Lease Checklist to prospective tenants
 - Identify opportunities for the development of new resources for your business.
- Open channels of communication between the VSBC and local Councils
 - Notify the VSBC of issues affecting local small business communities
 - Refer commercial disputes to the VSBC dispute resolution team as appropriate
 - Provide details of the VSBC's dispute resolution services on its website.

Council Meeting

Financial Implications

There will be a need for a Project Officer to oversee the implementation across multiple business units. It is anticipated this can be provided through current staffing levels without additional cost.

Council already pays promptly, often in less time than the 30 day timeframe included in the Charter. It is not anticipated that this element will have a negative effect on Council.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan Goal 2 – Sustaining the Economy

Consultation/Communication

Internal discussions with the Corporate Service directorate to identify any issues with the prompt payment requirement.

Risk Implications

Horsham Rural City Council has a potential reputational risk as a Council that supports business if it does not become a signatory to the Charter.

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Human Rights Implications

This report complies with the rights listed in the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.*

Conclusion

Signing the SBFC Charter will be a public commitment by Council to support local small businesses.

Council is already meeting or exceeding a number of the requirements of the Charter.

There is no additional cost to Council but potential cost, and other benefits to local small businesses.

9.9 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Author's Name:	Joel Hastings	Director:	Angela Murphy
Author's Title:	Acting Manager Economic Development	Directorate:	Development Services
Department:	Economic Development	File Number:	F15/A06/000001

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest In accordance with Local Government Act 1989 − Section 80C: ☐ Yes ☒ No	Status Information classified confidential in accordance with Local Government Act 1989 − Section 77(2)(c): □ Yes ⊠ No
Reason: Nil	Reason: Nil
Appendix Nil	

Purpose

To receive and note the Economic Development Report for January 2020.

Summary

The Economic Development Report provides a summary of economic development activities in the municipality during the reporting period.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Economic Development Report for January 2020.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Alethea Gulvin, Seconded Cr Pam Clarke

That Council receive and note the Economic Development Report for January 2020.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

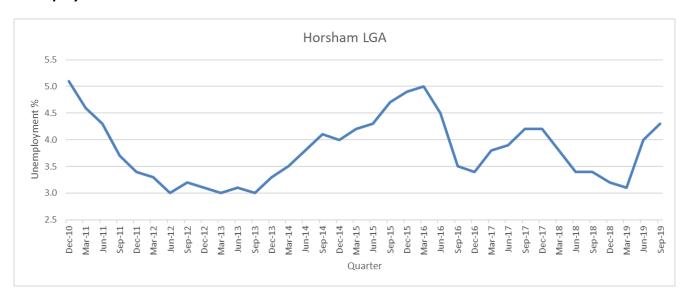
At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 26 August 2019, it was resolved that a regular Economic Development Report be tabled on the Ordinary Council Meeting agenda.

Discussion

Key items of interest for the report period are provided below.

Economic Benchmarks and Data

Unemployment



Region	Unemployment
Australia	5.1%
Victoria	4.7%
Horsham (LGA)	4.3%

Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Businesses; Small Area Labour Markets – September quarter 2019

Planning Applications Determined

	Number	Cost	YTD	YTD cost of development
January 2020	10	\$2,620,215	76	\$13,789,173
January 2019	0	\$-	50	\$-
Change	10	+\$2,620,215	26	+\$13,789,173

Building Permits Issued

	Number	Total cost of development	YTD	YTD cost of development
Council	7	\$371,400	58	\$3,955,109
Private surveyors	7	\$3,368,098	106	\$30,333,456
Total	14	\$3,739,498	164	\$34,527,556

Summary of building permits issued YTD

	Total Number		Commercial		Domestic	
		Value	No	Value	No	Value
Council	58	\$3,955,109	12	\$1,868,485	46	\$2,086,624
Private Surveyor	106	\$30,333,456	26	\$12,614,211	80	\$17,719,245
Total	164	\$34,527,556	38	\$14,482,696	126	\$19,805,869

Business Engagement

Direct business engagement

	Number	YTD
General business	4	122
New or expanding business	0	26
Event organisers	12	63
Total	16	211

Networking and business event breakdown

	Number	YTD
Networking & business events	0	22

Networking attended	Attendees	Details
WDA – Climate Change Forum	20	Attended presentation by Ross Garnaut and WDA forum to assist with planning for a regional approach Climate Change.
Total	20	

Council Meeting

Horsham Rural City Council

Facilitated business events	Attendees	Details
Total	-	

Tourism and Events

	Number	YTD
Notice of intention to hold an event applications	11	72
Visitor information Centre visits	988	8,448
Visithorsham.com web visits	3,567	24,264

Strategic Planning

Horsham South Structure	The project is needed in order to ensure that South Horsham develops in a
Plan	 The project is needed in order to ensure that south horsham develops in a coordinated way, ensuring infrastructure needs such as traffic and transport connectivity, sewer, water and drainage to be developed in a sequenced way, avoiding land use conflicts and development limitations in the future Over November-December 2019 the community were invited to be involved in developing the vision and strategic directions. Approximately 61 people chose to participate in the process. Feedback has been reviewed and changes to the draft vision and strategic directions are being prepared. Development scenarios, used to realise the vision and strategic directions are currently being drafted and the community will be consulted on the draft development scenarios in March-April 2020.
Horsham Aerodrome	An assessment of both the previous Aerodrome Business Plan and Aerodrome Masterplan has been undertaken along with stakeholder engagement.
Business Plan review	 The full master plan is required to establish a business case for future growth and planning protections. Further strategic planning will be subject to the 2020 budget process.
City to River	 On 25 November 2019, Council resolved to make a number of amendments to the City to River Masterplan and background documents and take a number of actions following an eight-week public engagement process from 4 July to 30 August 2019. Council received 740 written submissions during that time. Following the 25 November 2019 Ordinary Council meeting, amendments were made to the City to River Masterplan and supporting documents in accordance with the changes resolved by Council. The amended City to River Masterplan, January 2020 constitutes the endorsed Masterplan, allowing for the commencement of the Action and Implementation Plan.
Horsham Rural City Flood Amendment	 Discussion with DELWP and Wimmera Catchment Management has occurred. Preliminary amendment preparation has been initiated

Infrastructure Development

Enhanced Broadband Project (Connecting Regional Communities Program)	 Funding of \$1.7million has been announced in 2019 to install high speed broadband at one gigabit per second in both directions in the Horsham Rural City Council area The telecommunications towers and other infrastructure has been completed at a number of sites across Horsham. Spirit Telecom has begun advertising services to businesses.
Horsham Regional Livestock Exchange roofing	 Successfully received funding under the Building Better Regions Fund to roof the Livestock Exchange for \$1.49million towards a total project of \$3.03million to improve animal and human welfare, value of sheep from improved shelter conditions, water savings and efficiencies in cleaning the facility. A tender was awarded and construction is currently underway.

Projects and Programs

Environmental Upgrade agreements	 Council has agreed to offer Environmental Upgrade Agreements (EUA's) that assist businesses and commercial property owners in Horsham by providing access to Environmental Upgrade Finance. This scheme gives access to finance for energy and environmental efficiency upgrades to buildings with repayments made through council's rates system. Interest has been positive and further agreements are expected.
Wimmera Business Centre	 A review of the centre and its operations is being undertaken to look at the current offerings from the Business Centre, review practices in other centres and to identify start up trends. Engagement through this process has quantified a level of interest in a co-working space in Horsham. Further workshops with small and home based businesses are being arranged.
Horsham Visitor Information Centre	 The VIC review is continuing in association with Grampians Tourism who are undertaking a Grampians wide Visitor Servicing review. The final report has now been received and is being evaluated.

Business Development, Tourism and Events

Major Sporting Events	Horsham will be hosting a double header series of National motocross championships over one weekend in May 2020. This events is estimated to be worth close to \$500,000 in income to Horsham and the region.		
Localised	• The Localised project aims to raise awareness of local businesses, prevent spending leakage from the region and facilitate business to business communication. This has been a major business engagement tool with currently 82 profiles across the Wimmera.		
Tourism	Visit Victoria tourism review is looking at revising the number of regional tourism boards across Victoria.		

Financial Implications

Not applicable

Council Meeting

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan Goal 2 – Sustaining the Economy

Consultation/Communication

Not applicable

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Human Rights Implications

This report complies with the rights listed in the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.*

Conclusion

The Economic Development report for January 2020 is provided for the information of Councillors.

Meeting Date: 24 February 2020

9.10 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S OPERATIONAL REPORT

Author's Name:	Sunil Bhalla	Director:	Not applicable
Author's Title:	Chief Executive Officer	Directorate:	Not applicable
Department:	Chief Executive Office	File Number:	F06/A01/000001

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest	Status
In accordance with Local Government Act 1989 –	Information classified confidential in accordance
Section 80C:	with Local Government Act 1989 – Section 77(2)(c):
☐ Yes ⊠ No	☐ Yes ☒ No
Reason: Nil	Reason: Nil
Appendix	
Nil	

Purpose

To receive and note the Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for February 2020.

Summary

The Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report highlights issues and outcomes affecting the organisation's performance and matters which may not be subject of Council reports or briefings.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for February 2020.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig

That Council receive and note the Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for February 2020.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

At the 24 June 2019 Ordinary Meeting of Council, it was resolved that the Chief Executive Officer provide an operational report to Council.

Discussion

Key items of interest for the report period are summarised below.

A. Advocacy/Funding Announcements

Dr Anne Webster: The Chief Executive Officer and Mayor met with Dr Anne Webster, Member for Mallee on Wednesday 22 January 2020. Among the items for discussion were the City to River project, passenger rail for Horsham, mining development and the Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal.

Regional Emergency Management Funding: Advice has been received from Minister Somyurek that funding for the Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program (MERP) is ongoing and funding agreements are being renewed to 30 June 2024.

B. Community Engagement

Premier's Active April: The Recreation and Open Space Planning Team are part of a working group, including health services, schools, and sports clubs, to plan improved co-ordination and increased participation in this year's Premier's Active April event.

Dogs in the Botanical Park Survey: At the December 2019 Council meeting, Council resolved to conduct a survey to gauge public sentiment on the issue of allowing dogs in the Horsham Botanic Gardens. The survey is currently being conducted and will provide Council with current information drawn from the community, to make an informed decision on this issue. Surveying is being undertaken by Operations and Recreation and Open Space Planning staff.

Wimmera Australians in Retirement: The Chief Executive Officer was guest speaker at a recent Wimmera Australians in Retirement meeting and provided to the group an update on key Council priorities and projects.

Mount Arapiles Information Session On Wednesday 29 January 2020, Parks Victoria held information sessions about cultural heritage rediscoveries at Mount Arapiles-Tooan State Park. Mount Arapiles-Tooan State Park contains Aboriginal cultural places and as further information about these values is revealed through cultural heritage assessments, Parks Victoria will continue to keep the community informed through regular updates and community meetings. Further information is available on the Parks Victoria website.

C. Projects and Events

Australian Road Research Board Tour: Members of the Western Highway Action Committee (WHAC) recently inspected the Australian Road Research Board (ARRB) facility in Port Melbourne. Council's representative on the WHAC Cr David Grimble, along with Strategic Asset Manager, Krishna Shrestha and John Martin, Director Infrastructure, participated in the tour. The ARRB facility features a road materials testing laboratory, garaging for the fleet of pavement testing vehicles, and experts investigating road safety, new technology and a range of other advances in roads and transport.

Installation of Solar Panels: Solar panels were recently installed on the Wimmera Regional Library Corporation roof consisting of 66 panels and a 28.3KW system, and the Horsham Aquatic Centre, which consists of 249 panels and a 99.64KW system. Both installations are being done by KUGA electrical from Melbourne.

Council Meeting

The Horsham Town Hall solar panel installation is also complete, comprising of 268 panels and a 69.6KW system. This installation was undertaken by Wade's, in partnership with CHS Electrical.

These three installations are being funded through a grant from Sustainability Victoria as well as Council's Sustainability Reserve.

Shop Art Re-Opening: The Gallery Shop at the Horsham Regional Art Gallery has been reconfigured into a new and improved space, showcasing local artists and artisans and was relaunched on 31 January.

D. Staff Matters

60 Years of Wimmera Rock: The Horsham Town Hall staff worked in partnership with the 60 Years of Wimmera Rock group to host a community festival on 7 to 9 February 2020. The festival celebrated the region's long history and passion for live music. It is 10 years since the very successful 50 Years of Wimmera Rock, which saw enthusiasm from bands to return to Horsham and perform. This event was held at multiple venues in Horsham including the Soundshell, Horsham Town Hall Theatre, Heritage Hall and other local venues.

Cultural Awareness Workshop: The Executive Management Team attended a Cultural Awareness workshop on 10 February 2020, which was delivered by Joanne Clarke, Barengi Gadjin Land Council accredited trainer. Topics discussed included: significant cultural heritage sites, Native Title, Treaty, Australia Day and projects proposed on the Wimmera River as part of the City to River Project. The discussion that took place was greatly valued by participants, maturing the Executive's knowledge in relation to these topics.

Financial Implications

Not applicable

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan
Goal 4 – Governance and Business Excellence

Consultation/Communication

Not applicable

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Human Rights Implications

This report complies with the rights listed in the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.*

Conclusion

That Council receive and note the Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for February 2020.

Meeting Date: 24 February 2020

10. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cr Mark Radford, Mayor

- 28 January 2020 Meeting with David Eltringham to discuss the WW2 Memorial
- 28 January 2020 Council Ordinary Meeting
- 29 January 2020 ABC radio interview
- 29 January 2020 Launch of the new bus routes with Minister Horne
- 29 January 2020 Community Transport at Centre of Participation with Minister Horne
- 29 January 2020 Wimmera River Improvement Committee
- 29 January 2020 Mt Arapiles information session at Natimuk
- 30 January 2020 City to River film clip
- 30 January 2020 Media briefing
- 31 January 2020 ABC TV interview regarding the government grants process
- 31 January 2020 Triple H radio interview with Di Trotter
- 2 February 2020 Letter to 60 Years of Rock organisers
- 3 February 2020 ABC radio interview re aged and disability changes
- 3 February 2020 Welcome to visitors from China
- 3 February 2020 Aboriginal Advisory Committee
- 3 February 2020 Council Briefing
- 4 15 February 2020 Tasmania trip
- 15 February 2020 Farewell to Police Superintendent Paul Margetts
- 17 February 2020 ABC radio interview
- 17 February 2020 Letters for Overland Train retention
- 17 February 2020 Budget Meeting
- 18 February 2020 50th Anniversary of Tidy Towns at Government House
- 20 February 2020 Community information sessions for aged and disability services
- 20 February 2020 Ovarian Cancer Morning Tea
- 20 February 2020 Horsham Community and Police Consultative Committee Meeting
- 22 February 2020 CFA Victorian Fire Brigade State Junior Championships

SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS

Moved Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Pam Clarke

That Standing Orders be suspended for Verbal Councillor Reports and Acknowledged.

CARRIED

The time being 8.02pm, the Council meeting was suspended.

RESUME STANDING ORDERS

MOVED Cr Alethea Gulvin, Seconded Cr Les Power

That Standing Orders resume.

CARRIED

The time being 8.07pm, the Council meeting resumed.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Pam Clarke

That the Councillor Reports and Acknowledgements be received.

CARRIED

Council Meeting

SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS

MOVED Cr Alethea Gulvin, Seconded Cr Pam Clarke

That Standing Orders be suspended.

CARRIED

The time being 8.08pm, the Council meeting was suspended.

RESUME STANDING ORDERS

MOVED Cr Josh Koenig, Seconded Cr Pam Clarke

That Standing Orders resume.

CARRIED

The time being 8.10pm, the Council meeting resumed.

Council Meeting

11. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

Meeting Date: 24 February 2020 Page 47

Council Meeting

12. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

Nil

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13. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

13.1 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS – RECORD OF MEETINGS

Council Briefing held on Monday 3 February 2020 at 5.00pm in the Reception Room, Civic Centre, Horsham Council Briefing held on Monday 10 February 2020 at 5.00pm in the Reception Room, Civic Centre, Horsham Council Briefing held on Monday 17 February 2020 at 5.00pm in the Reception Room, Civic Centre, Horsham Refer to **Appendix "13.1A"**

13.2 SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

Section 173 Agreement for 2 Lot Subdivision, 121 Bunworths Road, Laharum

13.3 INWARD CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

13.4 COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting held on Wednesday 12 February 2020

Refer to Appendix "13.4A"

Recommendation

That Council receive and note agenda items:

- 13.1 Assembly of Councillors Record of Meetings
- 13.2 Sealing of Documents
- 13.3 Inward Correspondence
- 13.4 Council Committee Minutes.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig

That Council receive and note agenda items:

- 13.1 Assembly of Councillors Record of Meetings
- 13.2 Sealing of Documents
- 13.3 Inward Correspondence
- 13.4 Council Committee Minutes.

CARRIED

14. NOTICE OF MOTION

14.1 NOTICE OF MOTION NO 178

Given by Cr David Grimble

TAKE NOTICE that it is my intention to move the following motion at the Ordinary meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council to be held at the Civic Centre, Roberts Avenue, Horsham, on Monday 24 February 2020.

"Council resolve to include a financial sum of \$150,000 in the 2020/21 budget development and consideration phase as its contribution to the State Government for planning an alternative truck route, in the form of a South West Link through Horsham's industrial area and associated Wimmera River crossing."

RATIONALE:

At its Ordinary Meeting on 27 January 2019, Council adopted the Horsham Urban Transport Plan. Council resolved to:

"Advocate to and collaborate with relevant State Government agencies and other stakeholders, including Barengi Gadjin Land Council, to determine the most appropriate route for removal from Horsham's CBD of through truck traffic from the Western, Wimmera and Henty Highways, including consideration of a possible south west link through Horsham's industrial area."

Significant regional and Horsham urban transport objectives as identified can be achieved initiating this local transport planning work.

It creates opportunity to leverage funds from other government sources whilst actively establishing a key position in a collaborative way.

It progresses the community and industry identified priorities:

- Reduction in truck traffic in the CBD whilst improving safety, amenity and congestion
- Additional River crossing
- South West link generating freight efficiency and access in to the Industrial area.

Cr David Grimble

CIVIC CENTRE HORSHAM 3400 20 February 2020

Council Meeting

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr David Grimble, Seconded Cr John Robinson

Council resolve to include a financial sum of \$150,000 in the 2020/21 budget development and consideration phase as its contribution to the State Government for planning an alternative truck route, in the form of a South West Link through Horsham's industrial area and associated Wimmera River crossing.

CARRIED

Cr David Grimble called for a division of Council

In favour of the motion:

Cr John Robinson

Cr Josh Koenig

Cr David Grimble

Cr Mark Radford

Against the motion:

Cr Pam Clarke

Cr Les Power

Cr Alethea Gulvin

15. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Josh Koenig, Seconded Cr Alethea Gulvin

That the meeting close to the public to consider Confidential Matters.

CARRIED

The time being 8.27pm, the meeting closed to the public.

The time being 8.33pm, the meeting opened to the public.

15.1 PROPOSED PROPERTY SALE – 2 ELMES STREET, NATIMUK

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig

That Council endorse the sale of the land known as CA A2\PP5578 Township of Natimuk Parish of Natimuk – 2 Elmes Street, by private treaty, to the adjoining registered freehold proprietor at a price not less than current market valuation as provided by Council's independent valuer.

CARRIED

CLOSE

The meeting closed at 8.33pm.

The Mayor, Cr Mark Radford Chairperson

Meeting Date: 24 February 2020