



# MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL

## AGENDA

18 FEBRUARY 2026



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# MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL 18 FEBRUARY 2026



## **Welcome**

*Welcome to this Meeting of the Port Phillip City Council.*

*Council Meetings are an important way to ensure that your democratically elected representatives are working for you in a fair and transparent way. They also allow the public to be involved in the decision-making process of Council.*

## **About this meeting**

*There are a few things to know about tonight's meeting. The first page of tonight's Agenda itemises all the different parts to the meeting. Some of the items are administrative and are required by law. In the agenda you will also find a list of all the items to be discussed this evening.*

*Each report is written by a Council officer outlining the purpose of the report, all relevant information and a recommendation. Council will consider the report and either accept the recommendation or make amendments to it. All decisions of Council are adopted if they receive a majority vote from the Councillors present at the meeting.*

## **Public Question Time and Submissions**

*Provision is made at the beginning of the meeting for general question time from members of the public.*

*All contributions from the public will be heard at the start of the meeting during the agenda item 'Public Questions and Submissions.' Members of the public have the option to either participate in person or join the meeting virtually via Teams to ask their questions live during the meeting.*

*If you would like to address the Council and /or ask a question on any of the items being discussed, please submit a 'Request to Speak form' by midday on the day of the meeting via Council's website:*

[Request to speak at a Council meeting - City of Port Phillip](#)





## MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL

### To Councillors

Notice is hereby given that a **Meeting of the Port Phillip City Council** will be held in **St Kilda Town Hall and Virtually via Teams** on **Wednesday, 18 February 2026 at 6:30 PM**. At their discretion, Councillors may suspend the meeting for short breaks as required.

### AGENDA

- 1 **APOLOGIES**
- 2 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**  
[Minutes of the Meeting of the Port Phillip City Council 4 February 2026.](#)
- 3 **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**
- 4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUBMISSIONS**
- 5 **COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME**
- 6 **PETITIONS, JOINT LETTERS & DEPUTATIONS** ..... 5  
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- 9 **AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT CITY**  
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<b>17</b>	<b>CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS</b>	

*The information contained in the following Council reports is considered to be Confidential Information in accordance with Section 3 of the Local Government Act 2020.*

*17.1 St Kilda Pier Landside Works – Contract Variation and Budget Request 3(1)(g(ii)). private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.*

**Reason:** This report contains the assessment and recommendation arising from a confidential procurement process outlining options available to address a budget shortfall. The costings of these options are commercial in confidence. Disclosure of this information publicly may impact Council's ability to work with the recommended contractor in the delivery of the project.



**1. APOLOGIES**

**2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the minutes of the [Meeting of the Port Phillip City Council held on 4 February 2026](#) be confirmed.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

**4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUBMISSIONS**

**5. COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME**

**6. PETITIONS, JOINT LETTERS & DEPUTATIONS**

6.1 *Petition Response - Resident Permit Parking in Garden City* ..... 5



**6.1 PETITION RESPONSE - RESIDENT PERMIT PARKING IN GARDEN CITY**

A Petition containing 48 signatures, was received via OpenPetition.

**The Petition states the following:-**

*We, the undersigned residents of Port Phillip, call on the City of Port Phillip Council to protect existing residents' access to on-street parking by (a) issuing resident permit parking and (b) excluding the Barak Beacon redevelopment from eligibility for Council-issued resident parking permits. The Barak Beacon site is being redeveloped by the Victorian Labor Government into a large high density housing complex. This project has already caused severe parking disruption across Garden City, with construction workers occupying most available street spaces and creating congestion and access issues for long-term residents.*

*The problem will become far worse when the redevelopment is completed. Hundreds of new residents will compete for already limited street parking, and the situation will be compounded by the Fishermans Bend urban renewal area, which will bring further high-density development and traffic into the same precinct. Additionally, the new school on Williamstown rd will add daily traffic and parking pressure on Garden City's residential streets, an area never designed to accommodate this level of demand.*

*We therefore request that the Council:*

- 1. Implement residential parking permits in the Garden City area*
- 2. Ensure the residential parking permit boundaries exclude all new addresses created within the Barak Beacon redevelopment.*
- 3. Confirm publicly that new tenants or owners within the Barak Beacon project will not be eligible for local resident parking permits.*
- 4. Enforce construction parking management plans to prevent workers from occupying residential streets within Garden City.*
- 5. Develop a coordinated parking strategy that accounts for the cumulative impact of the Barak Beacon redevelopment, Fishermans Bend growth, and the new school.*

**OFFICER COMMENT**

Council officers appreciate that the Barak Beacon development in Port Melbourne presents a significant change for the local community in the Garden City area, with a significant increase in residential population.

Council has received a number of requests, including this petition, from local residents concerned about potential traffic and parking issues associated with the development, and the impacts this may have on their local amenity when it opens in late 2026.

In regards to parking at the new development, it provides a total of 242 on-site parking spaces to serve the 408 new dwellings. While the development has sought to encourage other modes of transport, notably by providing 519 bicycle parking spaces, the extent of unrestricted parking surrounding the development will require Council to carefully monitor and manage parking to ensure the impacts do not adversely affect amenity and access for nearby residents.



### **Strategic Network and Parking Assessment**

In response to heightened community interest and concern regarding the development, Council officers propose to conduct a strategic assessment of transport impacts of the Barak Beacon development in the Garden City area. This work will consider parking and traffic data collected by Council and consider expected impacts on safety, amenity and access for the neighbouring community. Post-occupation surveys will then help to inform the appropriate response from Council.

To inform this assessment, parking surveys on streets in close proximity to the development will be commissioned before and after occupation. Officers intend to undertake the first of these surveys on an industry rostered day off in March 2026 to provide a baseline understanding of community parking demand, without the presence of construction workers. This will enable appropriate comparisons to be made against future parking demand once the development is occupied. Traffic volume data will also be considered to further inform the assessment.

### **Parking Management Policy**

Council's Parking Management Policy provides officers with the framework to guide decisions relating to on-street parking. This includes the provision of residential parking permits, and the policy is publicly available on Council's website. If permits are considered warranted after assessment, the affected residents would be consulted to ensure broad community support, noting that this would incur an annual fee and limit residential parking to specific locations within a street.

Under the Parking Management Policy, any residential property built after 1 October 2002 that increases the number of dwellings on a property is ineligible for parking permits. This means that all residents of the Barak Beacon development will not be eligible for residential parking permits, unless they qualify under a narrow range of exceptional circumstances.

The current extent of unrestricted parking in the vicinity of the development allows anyone, including construction workers, to park without any limits on duration. While the current level of construction traffic is acknowledged to be placing an additional burden on nearby streets, it is understood that the level of construction workers on the site is at its peak and will begin to decline in the coming months as construction activity on the site declines.

### **Integrated Transport Strategy Review**

It is appreciated that the Barak Beacon development in Garden City coincides with ongoing changes in the nearby Fishermans Bend urban renewal area. The release of the Fishermans Bend Integrated Transport Plan by the State Government in September 2025 provides a foundation for Council to work with the Department of Transport and Planning to identify strategic opportunities to manage traffic and parking impacts within the precinct and its surrounds.

Following a Notice of Motion raised by Council at the meeting on 15 October 2025, and subject to annual budget considerations, Council officers would begin to update the Integrated Transport Strategy, starting in 2026/27. This will enable a strategic review of Council's parking objectives throughout the municipality and support the development of revised parking management practices through updated parking policies.

### **Interim changes**

In the interim, residents throughout the broader Garden City area can request the introduction of targeted parking restrictions be considered by Council officers through the provision of a letter signed by at least:

- 10 per cent of properties (or 4 properties – whichever is greater) in streets where there have been no changes to parking or parking consultation undertaken in the past 18 months, or

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- 50 per cent of properties in streets where a parking change or parking consultation have been conducted in the past 18 months.

Following any requests, Officers carry out consultation and assessment of the proposed restrictions. Any requests received by officers, will be considered in light of the Strategic Network and Parking Assessment to avoid any duplicative, or redundant changes to restrictions.

Further information on how to request changes are included on Council's website.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Petition.
2. Thanks the Petitioners for raising their concerns regarding potential impacts to parking in the Garden City area.
3. Requests Council officers to carry out a network and parking assessment, including parking surveys, in the area pre- and post-completion of the development. This would provide information on its impact and determine any changes to existing parking controls in line with Council's Parking Management Policy.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil



**7. PRESENTATION OF CEO REPORT**

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### 7.1 PRESENTATION OF CEO REPORT – DECEMBER 2025 ISSUE 124

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** ROBYN BORLEY, GENERAL MANAGER, GOVERNANCE AND PERFORMANCE

**PREPARED BY:** SAMUEL GEORGI, CORPORATE PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE ADVISOR

#### 1. PURPOSE

1.1 To provide Council with a regular update from the Chief Executive Officer regarding Council's activities and performance.

#### 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 The CEO Report is a key mechanism for providing Council with regular updates on organisational performance and activities. It reflects our commitment to transparency, accountability, and keeping our community informed.

2.2 The attached CEO Report – December 2025 Issue 125 – Second Quarter Review (Attachment 1) focuses on Council's performance for Quarter 2 (October to December) 2025.

#### 3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

3.1 Notes the CEO Report – December 2025 Issue 125 – Second Quarter Review (provided as Attachment 1).

3.2 Authorises the CEO or their delegate to make minor editorial amendments that do not substantially alter the content of the report.

#### 4. OFFICER MATERIAL OR GENERAL INTEREST

4.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have a material or general interest in the matter.

**ATTACHMENTS** 1. CEO Report - December 2025 Issue 124 - Second Quarter Review  



# CEO Report

Issue 124, Quarter Two, October to December 2025

Wominjeka. Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Kulin Nation. We acknowledge their legacy and spiritual connection to the land and waterways across the City of Port Phillip and pay our heartfelt respect to their Elders, past, present, and emerging.



## City of Port Phillip

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Welcome to the Q2 CEO report – an update on our progress towards the Plan for Port Phillip 2025–2035.

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# Message from the CEO

I'm pleased to present the Q2 CEO Report which provides an update on the priorities set by Council for me and the organisation. It also serves as a mid-year update on the Council Plan and Budget for 2025/26 highlighting key achievements on programs and projects in alignment with our organisational priorities.

## Deliver the Council Plan

We have made good progress in delivering the new Council Plan.

- **Overall project portfolio delivery status:** As of 31 December 2025, 80 per cent of projects were on track, 13 per cent at risk, and 7 per cent off track.
- **Capital projects:** Several key capital projects were completed that enhance community amenity and access to open space, including the Sol Green Reserve and St Vincent Gardens playground upgrades, providing modern, inclusive play environments. The upgraded sports grounds at JL Murphy Reserve were officially opened, and the primary construction phase of the Lagoon Reserve Pavilion was also completed.
- **Community Safety:** The Feel Safe. Be Safe. Community Safety Plan 2025–2029 was endorsed by Council on 10 December 2025 with several key actions identified to enhance the safety and resilience of our community.
- **Municipal Emergency Management Plan:** Following endorsement of the plan, focus

has shifted to implementation prioritising summer management activities. Development of a Secondary Impact Assessment process was also completed, strengthening Council's ability to identify and respond to broader community impacts during municipal emergencies.

- **Affordable housing and homelessness support:** Council adopted the Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy and implementation plan on 10 December 2025, with priority actions moving into delivery.
- **Supporting a vibrant and prosperous City:** The Nike Melbourne Marathon attracted nearly 25,000 runners, while the 2XU Wellness Run engaged 13,500 participants and raised over \$400,000 for Beyond Blue. The South Melbourne Market experienced record festive trading, with New Year's Eve marking its busiest trading day on record.

## Governance and Advocacy

Council continued to strengthen its governance and advocacy role, progressing initiatives that support community safety, inclusion, and effective decision-making.

- **Governance rules:** Council's updated Governance Rules, endorsed in September 2025 are now fully embedded, with councillors completing the required training. Implementation of Council's

Integrity Framework also continued, including reviewing delegations and authorisations and strengthening governance frameworks.

- **Advocacy:** Council led a joint mayoral statement condemning antisemitism, endorsed by most Victorian councils, reinforcing commitment to a safe, inclusive community. Local advocacy also addressed local safety and transport issues, such as proposing a personal watercraft exclusion zone along Port Phillip foreshore and increased frequency of the 606-bus service.

## Community, Stakeholder, and Customer

Council continued to prioritise customer experience and satisfaction in Q2 through reliable service delivery, strengthened community engagement and targeted communications to keep communities informed.

- **Customer service:** Council responded to 33,890 customer requests and complaints in Q2, averaging over 10,000 per month, with 90.8 per cent completed on time. High-volume service areas – including Waste Services, Parking Services, and Street and Beach – continued to deliver reliable services amid sustained demand.
- **Complaints:** Of the 1,898 complaints received, 1,493 related to waste services

(including missed bins, hard waste, and green waste collections), with 98.5 per cent resolved on time. The Customer Experience team collaborated with service areas to analyse feedback from online forms and Snap Send Solve ratings to improve customer satisfaction ahead of summer demand.

- **Community engagement:** The Community Engagement Policy and Commitment to Community Engagement were formally adopted by Council on 3 December 2025, providing clear guidelines to meet the needs of community and Council. Council's commitment to high-quality engagement was recognised when the Urban Forest Strategy engagement won the Environment category at the Engagement Institute Core Values Awards.
- **Communications:** Targeted campaigns supported summer safety messaging, the 2025–26 Summer Destination Campaign, and the rollout of new dog on- and off-leash signage and waste-bag dispensers. Major community events such as Carols at Gasworks, Chanukah celebrations, New Year's Eve, and trader and sporting events were promoted and supported.

## Finance, Assets, and Value for Money

Maintaining financial discipline remains a priority for the remainder of the financial year.

- **Risk rating:** Council continues to maintain a low-risk rating based on the Victorian Auditor General's Office financial sustainability indicators.
- **Efficiency savings:** In Q2, the organisation delivered further efficiency savings, bringing total full-year savings to \$1.76 million. Of this \$1.4 million, is ongoing and will be embedded in Budget 2026/17, exceeding the \$1.3 million target.

Detailed financial data is provided in the Q2 Financial Report, which was presented at the Council meeting on 18 February.

## Culture and Capability

Council continued to strengthen its culture and capability in Q2 through a focus on workforce safety, gender equality, and technology improvements that support productivity and performance.

- **Workforce safety:** We continued to strengthen our capable and high-performing workforce with the delivery of key actions under our Safety Plan including a gap analysis for compliance with new Psychological Health Regulations.

- **Gender equality:** Council submitted its Workplace Gender Audit on 1 December 2025 in accordance with the Gender Equality Act 2020. Work has commenced on the Progress Report and the next Gender Equality Action Plan due by 1 May 2026.
- **Technology and productivity:** Under Council's ICT Strategy and Clever Port Phillip Action Plan, technology improvements in Q2 saved an estimated 12.6 months of staff time through system upgrades, improved asset management, and enhanced data integration, reducing duplication and manual effort.

As we reach the mid-point of the financial year, these results demonstrate momentum across Council's priorities and position the organisation well to continue delivering for our community through the remainder of 2025/26.



**Chris Carroll**

CEO, City of Port Phillip



Strategic direction 1




# A healthy and connected community





We're improving beach access through our Accessible Beaches Program.

## Major initiatives 2025/26

Council delivers multiple projects that contribute to **a healthy and connected community**. Following are the major initiatives (priority projects) we are starting, continuing or completing in 2025/26.

Major Initiative	Stage	Status	Update	Completion Date	Forecast \$'000	Budget \$'000
<b>Accessibility Action Plan (AAP)</b> Review and develop a new Accessibility Action Plan.	Delivery		Review of the current Accessibility Action Plan is complete, and a proposed draft AAP developed. Councillors considered the draft and the proposed public exhibition approach at a December 2025 briefing. Officers have planned Q3 community engagement, with the draft to be released for consultation at the February 2026 Council meeting. Public consultation will also support recruitment for the Disability Advisory Committee.	Jun 2026	Operating Budget	
<b>Affordable housing and homelessness</b> Development of a new 10-year homelessness and affordable housing strategy	Delivery		Council adopted the new Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy on 10 December 2025, along with the associated implementation plan, following community engagement of the draft strategy in October 2025. Priority actions for the first year have been identified and focus has shifted to delivery of the implementation plan and priority actions.	Jun 2035	1,600	1,600
<b>Children's Facilities Upgrade Program</b> Redevelop six Council and community-managed childcare centres across the municipality to improve condition and functionality.	Discovery & Concept/ Planning & Design		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarendon Street &amp; Elwood: On Track: On Track - Building Permits have been lodged and awaiting MBS review</li> <li>The Avenue: On Track - Construction contract awarded</li> <li>Lilian Cannam: On Track - Preparation of 'tender' and 'for construction' drawings</li> <li>North St Kilda: On Track - Town Planning application has been lodged</li> <li>Eildon Road: At Risk - Construction contract awarded, awaiting provision of Building Permit. Significant progress made towards decanting service to North St Kilda. Decanting is now expected to occur in Q3.</li> </ul>	Nov 2031	2,860	3,014

Major Initiative	Stage	Status	Update	Completion Date	Forecast \$'000	Budget \$'000
<b>Children's Services Policy</b> Renew the Children's Services	Project Initiation		A resource has now been allocated to the project, and a governance group established. A project workplan is currently being developed.	Oct 2026	45	45
<b>Community Infrastructure Plan</b> Develop a municipal-wide Community Infrastructure Plan.	Project Delivery		The first stage of community engagement to inform the plan development officially commenced on 6 October 2025. A range of methods were used to gather input from community members and stakeholders, ensuring diverse voices are heard. This exploratory phase of engagement is now complete and the consultant SGS Economics and Planning will be preparing the draft Community Infrastructure Plan. The draft will be presented to Councillors in Q3 for consideration ahead of further community engagement.	Jun 2026	60	60
<b>Enhance community cohesion</b> Encourage greater levels of community connection and cohesion to uplift Council programs and support community-led approaches that reduce loneliness and isolation, increase social connection and combat discrimination, racism and antisemitism	Delivery		Council endorsed a budget of \$250K per year for five years to enhance social cohesion in the City of Port Phillip. To date specific budget allocations have focussed on supporting Southport Day Links to enhance the bus service including increased scheduling and contributed to an uplift in volunteerism in South Melbourne, Port Melbourne and Albert Park through enhanced volunteer coordination at Southport Community Centre. Officers will make additional budget allocation recommendations with the development of the Multicultural Strategy which will be presented to Councillors in March 2026.	Jun 2026	250	250

Major Initiative	Stage	Status	Update	Completion Date	Forecast \$'000	Budget \$'000
<b>St Kilda Adventure Playground Upgrade</b> A multi-year project to plan and deliver upgrade works to St Kilda Adventure Playground.	Planning & Design		The project remains well positioned, with key activities progressing and several important milestones now underway. While the landscape tender release occurred later than planned, it was successfully released on 9 December and will close on 30 January 26. Tender evaluation and shortlisting are scheduled for completion by mid-March. Preparation of the major works contract for the high-cost play equipment is nearing completion, with the order to be placed in late January 26. All lower cost play equipment items have been ordered, with deposits paid where required, ensuring early procurement of long lead components. A change request will be submitted to re-baseline milestones and ensure the program reflects the updated sequencing.	Jun 2027	1,160	1,438

**Legend**

● On Track/Complete

◆ At Risk

■ Off Track

## Affordable housing and homelessness

### Spotlight

The new 10-year Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy was endorsed at the Council meeting on 10 December 2025. Over the next decade, the City of Port Phillip will work toward achieving functional zero homelessness (where homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring). Where those most in need have access to safe, appropriate housing and the right supports to build stability and independence including wraparound supports such as mental health, alcohol and other drug (AOD) services, financial counselling, legal services, and peer/community-led models

We have already started and currently have moved 10 individuals who have been experiencing long-term chronic rough sleeping into long-term permanent supportive housing at Madden House. Here tenants have support workers and a peer worker on site to support them to maintain their tenancy and engage fully in the community.

## Aging and accessibility

### Positive Aging Policy

The Positive Ageing Policy continues to be implemented effectively across Council, supported by a range of initiatives delivered throughout the City. During the first two weeks of October, Port Phillip delivered the annual Seniors Festival in collaboration with over 25 partner local community groups and organisations. Additional funding and community codesign resulted in the largest Seniors Festival Program in more than 20 years. The Community Connector Program continues to provide valuable support to seniors and their families as they navigate the aged care system. Council libraries also deliver targeted programs for older residents, including technology and cyber-safety support to help reduce the risk of scams and digital harm.

For International Day of People with Disability (IDPWD), Council focused on neurodiversity and mental health. As part of this, Arte, a therapy dog, attended a calm and quiet story time session, providing children with a supportive environment to explore concepts such as anxiety. To mark the day, St Kilda Town Hall was illuminated in the official IDPWD colours of blue, orange and white, signalling the day's importance to the broader community. This was complemented by internal communications highlighting the significance of IDPWD and directing staff to further information.

### 2025 Senior Festival

The Seniors Festival was a vibrant celebration of community, featuring 55 community events, including 20 supported through the Seniors Festival Events Grants Program. Council played a key role by delivering 10 events and collaborating on 6 partnership initiatives with U3APP. To ensure accessibility, 1,500 printed programs were distributed across Council Assist Centres, libraries, community centres, and other venues throughout Port Phillip, with postal delivery available on request. The festival attracted an estimated total attendance of 1,800, highlighting its success in engaging and connecting older residents.

## Community building and inclusion

In Quarter 2, we completed eight Gender Impact Assessments, meeting obligations under the Victorian Gender Equality Act 2020. The Accessibility Action Plan remains on track, with remaining workforce actions progressed during Carers Week.

Seniors Festival events at the Victorian Pride Centre and the ongoing Queer Social Club strengthened inclusion for LGBTIQ+ communities. Multicultural Strategy engagement reached 330+ residents through targeted activities and co-design, with strong participation across multifaith and multicultural networks.

Following the Bondi terrorist attack, Council rapidly shared support resources and issued a Statement of Solidarity. Councillors completed First People cultural awareness training, and Carers Week activities—built workforce understanding of the Carer Recognition Act. Key campaigns included IDPwD, the 16 Days of Activism, and flag-raising for Transgender Day of Remembrance and World AIDS Day.



Mayor Alex Makin accepting the message stick from Hume Interfaith network members and Port Phillip Multifaith network members.

## Families and young people

### Family Services

The end of the year sees an increased need for food and material aid coinciding with the festive period and school holidays. This year Family Services distributed 15 food hampers and 18 boxes of toys provided by charities Mother's Supporting Families in Need and Our Village. A free Gift Drive event was held for parents to browse gifts that they could wrap for their children. Parents were welcomed to stay for morning tea to chat with Council's Family Support Workers and learn about school holiday events happening at the Adventure Playgrounds with the Middle Years team. Families unable to attend could make requests for gifts, which were wrapped and delivered. The event was a great success with planning underway for a bigger and better event in 2026.

### Middle Years and Youth Services

Since launching the Thrive – Youth Pathways Program in early 2025, Youth Services has delivered six accredited trainings to 76 young people aged 16 to 25, building their skills and confidence to enter the workforce. Funded through the Victorian Government's Engage! Grant, the program provides qualifications in First Aid/CPR, White Card, Barista, Food Handling and RSA, with a two-day Youth Mental Health First Aid course scheduled for January 2026. The program continues to grow, creating clear pathways to employment and empowering young people to gain real world experience during a challenging cost of living period. Partnership development has commenced so work experience, flexible placements and entry level job opportunities for participants can be offered in 2026.



White card training

## Health

In Quarter 2 2025, our team commenced the annual renewal process for the 1,317 food and public health premises operating across the municipality, with all businesses required to renew their registration by 1 January 2026. Over the year, officers completed the full inspection program for all food premises under the Food Act 1984, undertaking around 2,500 routine and follow-up inspections. All major and critical issues identified were rectified within required timeframes, ensuring every premises remains suitable for 2026 registration. The team also finalised annual inspections of accommodation premises—including rooming houses, backpackers, hotels and motels—as well as all registered beauty therapy, tattooing and public swimming pool facilities, in accordance with the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008.

## Maternal and child health

### Every Child, Our Future: Children's Service Policy

As part of our Children's Service Policy, we delivered the following in Quarter 2 of 2025:

- Three First Aid and CPR sessions were held in partnership with St John Ambulance, providing parents and caregivers with essential life-saving skills.
- The Maternal and Child Health Outreach Nurse, working in partnership with a Lead Family Worker, attended the Breakfast Club program on Fridays at Park Towers where health advice and support was offered to residents in this community setting.

### Food for Beginners Program

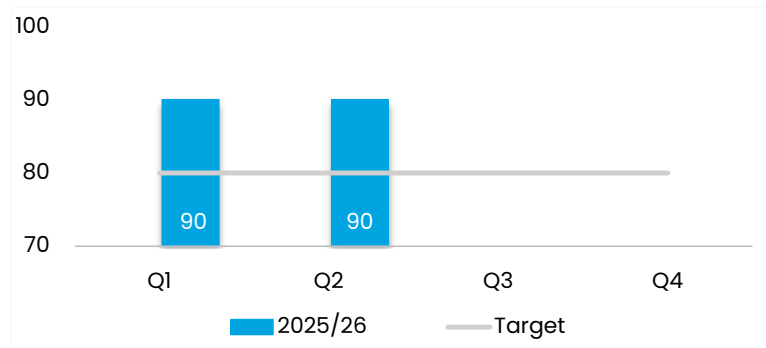
Expansion of the Food for Beginners program has significantly improved accessibility and engagement with families.

Previously sessions were held at South Melbourne Market but with a capacity of only 10 participants often families missed out. The move to the much larger Multipurpose Room at Middle Park Community Centre has enabled the program to be much more inclusive.

The November session was a great success, attracting 30 participants, and the December session was also fully booked. Families provided positive feedback, praising the program's content and the opportunity to attend.

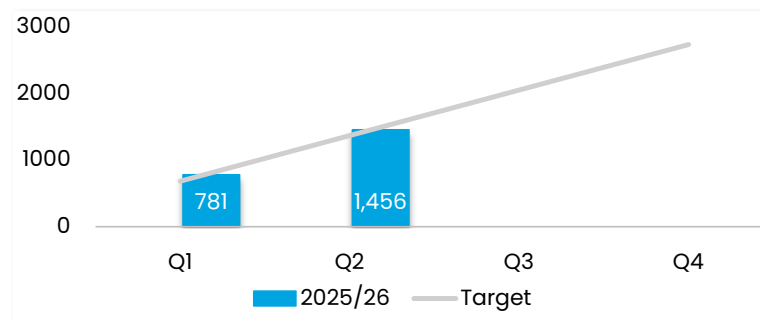
## Service performance measures

Percentage of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) actions on track



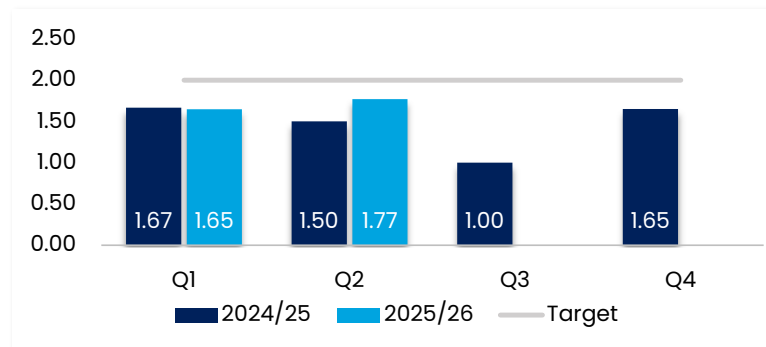
In Q2 2025, 90 per cent of actions across DEI action plans are on track. This surpasses our target for this period of 80 per cent on track

Number of Integrated Family Service (IFS) hours delivered in line with funding requirements



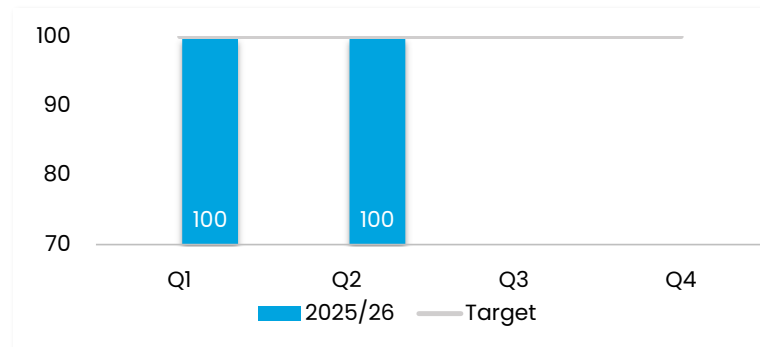
In Q2 2025, 675 hours of IFS hours were delivered in line with funding requirements. This is slightly below our target for this period of 684.5 hours due to vacant positions which have now been filled, however our year-to-date hours is now 1,456 which is exceeding our year-to-date target of 1,369 hours.

Time taken to action food complaints (days)



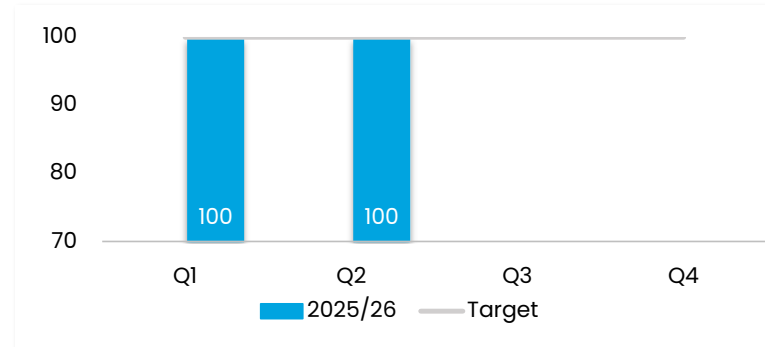
In Q2 2025, the response time to action food complaints is 1.77 days which meets our target of actioning complaints within 2 days.

Required food safety assessments undertaken



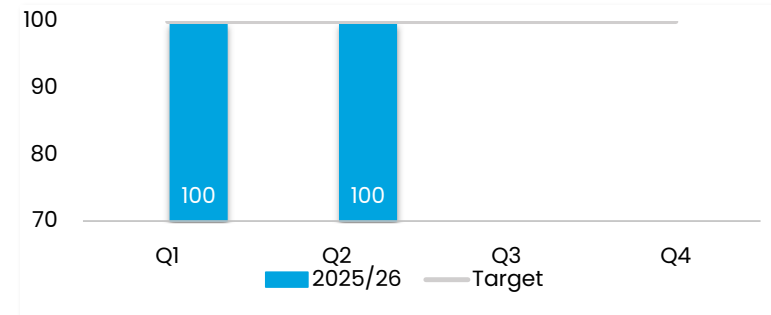
In Q2 2025, all food premises with a Food Safety Program have had an assessment within the registration period.

Critical and major food safety non-compliance outcome notifications



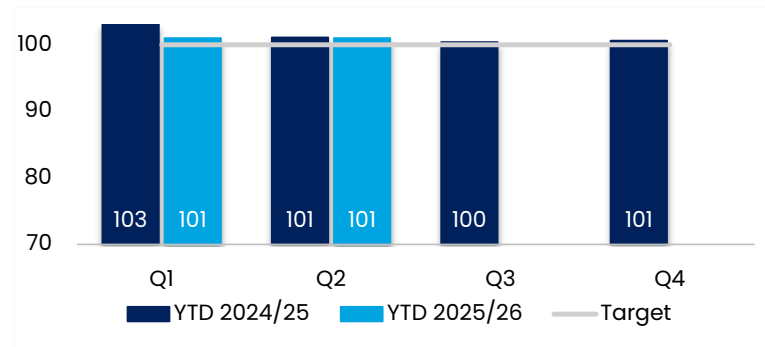
In Q2 2025, all major and critical notifications identified for the calendar year have been followed up.

Percentage of food samples obtained per required number of food samples (LGPRF)



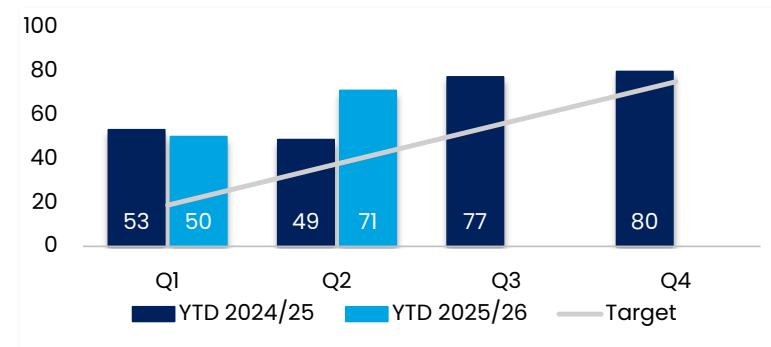
The Food Act 1984 specifies through government gazette the number of food samples required to be taken within a calendar year. In Q2 2025, all food samples required for the year have been obtained.

Infant enrolments in maternal and child health services



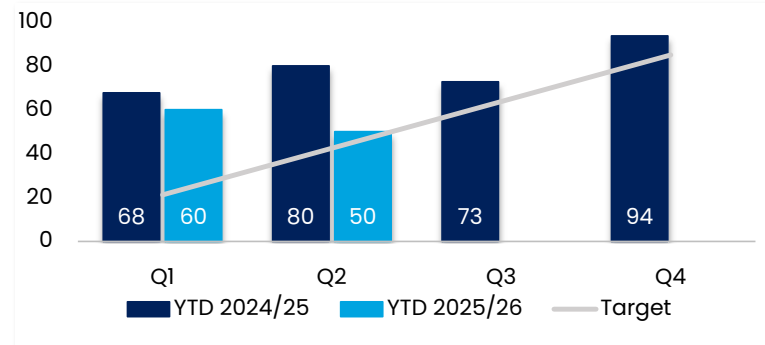
In Q2 2025, 101 per cent of infants are enrolled from receipt of birth have received a home visit. This figure exceeds 100 per cent due to visits made to infants who transferred from another local government area without a birth notice, and to those whose birth notice was received in the previous period, but the visit occurred this quarter.

Participation in maternal and child health services



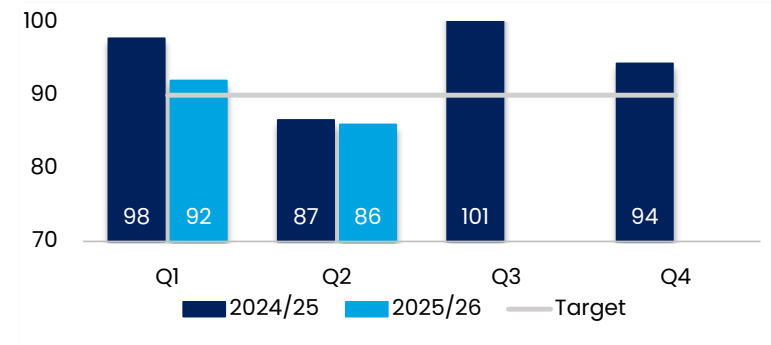
In Q2 2025, 71 per cent of children enrolled in the MCH service received a visit. We are on track to meet our annual target of more than 75 per cent participation. Not all enrolled children were due to be seen in Q2.

Participation in maternal and child health services by Aboriginal children



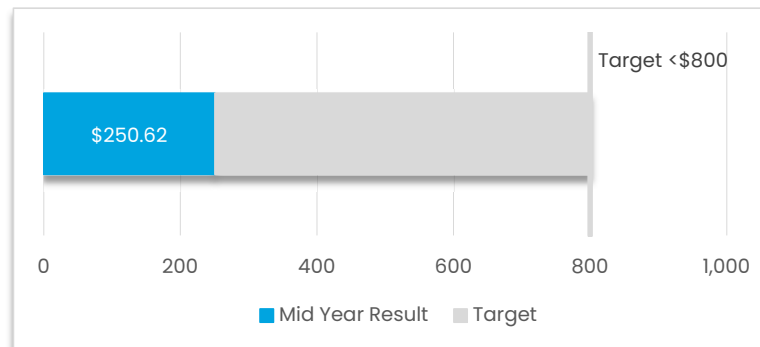
In Q2 2025, 50 per cent of aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service received a visit. Not all enrolled children were due to be seen in Q2.

Participation in 4-week Key Age and Stage visit



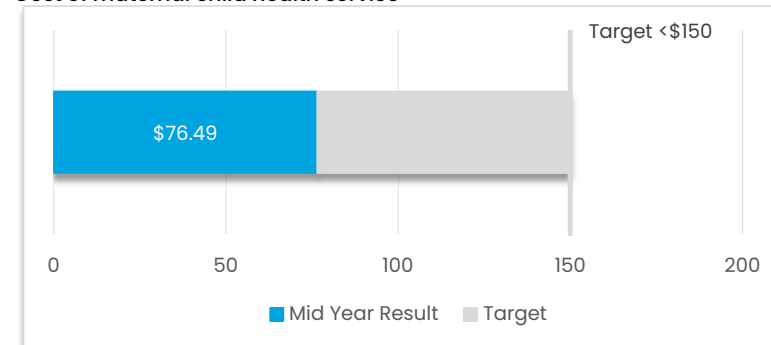
In Q2 2025, there was an 86 per cent participation rate in the 4-week Key Age and Stage (KAS) visit. Most infants enrolled from birth notifications received have completed their 4-week KAS visit. This percentage is reduced slightly because some families move to another municipality after the birth, meaning those infants never enrol in the service. Additionally, not all enrolled children were due for their 4-week visit in Q2.

Cost of food safety service per food premise



As of 31 December 2025, the cost of our food safety service per premise is \$250.62 which is on track to fall below our annual target of \$800.

Cost of maternal child health service



As of 31 December 2025, the cost of MCH service is \$76.49 which is on track to meet our annual target of \$150.



Strategic direction 2




## An environmentally sustainable and resilient City



Nature strips are important green spaces which enhance our streets with trees, rainwater absorption, and added biodiversity.

## Major initiatives 2025/26

Council delivers multiple projects that contribute to **an environmentally sustainable and resilient community**. Following are the major initiatives (priority projects) we are starting, continuing or completing in 2025/26.

Major Initiative	Stage	Status	Update	Completion Date	Forecast \$'000	Budget \$'000
<b>Greening Port Phillip</b> Implement the Urban Forest Strategy by delivering urban forest projects across the municipality, increasing canopy cover, greening and biodiversity while reducing the urban heat island effect.	Discovery & Concept/ Planning & Design		The program is at risk due to project delays. Two urban forest precinct plans have been drafted, with community engagement to begin in late February 2026. Procurement for the remaining six precinct plans is complete, and work has commenced. Community engagement has occurred for Alexandra Street, with feasibility and preliminary assessments underway for other street tree planting projects. Over 600 trees have been ordered in advance for the April 2026 planting season.	Ongoing	1,563	1,563
<b>HVAC, Air and Energy</b> Deliver the HVAC Air and Energy Improvement Program to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions of Council assets.	Project Initiation / Planning & Design/ Delivery		The HVAC replacement at Port Melbourne Town Hall is complete and in the defect liability period. Electrical sub-meters at St Kilda Library and the South Melbourne Operations Centre are installed, with final connection to Council's communications module delayed due to resourcing but expected early Q3. The remaining FY2025/26 project – Gas Cooktop Replacement – has been resourced to begin delivery in January.	Jun 2029	493	509
<b>Integrated Waste Management Strategy</b> Renew our Integrated Waste Management Strategy to reduce the amount of waste we create, reuse and recycle as much as possible, and treat what is left in the most sustainable way to ensure alignment with the state's circular economy strategy and service standards.	Complete		Key actions in the City of Port Phillip's Waste Management Strategy have been delivered, including FOGO and separated glass recycling, introduction of a separate waste charge, completion of the 2022–2025 strategy review, and adoption of the Don't Waste It! Waste and Recycling Strategy 2025–2028. The new strategy was endorsed on 19 November 2025 following community engagement earlier in the year. These actions establish a strong foundation for ongoing service delivery and future waste-reduction initiatives.	Ongoing	Operating Budget	

Major Initiative	Stage	Status	Update	Completion Date	Forecast \$'000	Budget \$'000
<b>Provision of Kerbside Collection Contract</b> Provision of Kerbside Collection Contract including specification, development, procurement, transition and implementation of new waste and recycling collection contract.	Discovery & Concept	●	Councils' decision at the 15 October Council meeting to not award a new tender and extend the current contract instead. A deed of variation has been prepared to extend the contract from 1 October 2026 to 30 November 2030, and this is currently with the contractor who are reviewing and providing comments to be addressed prior to signing. Once the deed is executed, the project will be readied for closure.	Nov 2026	49	85
<b>Stormwater Harvesting</b> Feasibility and concept designs of stormwater harvesting schemes across the municipality and make sure existing assets are maintained and renewed.	Project Delivery	●	The Elwood Park Expansion Stormwater Harvesting Scheme and Elwood Canal Planting projects are on track and scheduled for completion in June 2028. Both projects are now at the detailed design stage.	Jun 2034	425	425
<b>Waste Transformation Program</b> Implement the revised Integrated Waste Management Strategy, including roll-out of the Recycling Victoria four-service model.	Delivery	●	The business case was updated to reflect the scope and timing of the newly adopted strategy and presented to the Executive Governance Group, however further work to refine the business case has been requested. New Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) units have been ordered for the extension of the CDS program and preparation is underway for annual audit reports due in January.	Jun 2028	685	685
<b>Water Sensitive Urban Design</b> Annual program to deliver raingarden investigations, new raingardens and renewal of existing raingardens to ensure they function effectively to clean stormwater runoff.	Project Initiation / Delivery	●	Contractor appointed for the construction of a bioretention swale on Pickles Street, South Melbourne. Concept designs for WSUD infrastructure on Little Page Street, Albert Park and Dorcas Street, Southbank are underway. Investigations for WSUD infrastructure in St Kilda, Balaclava and Ripponlea are underway.	Jun 2034	255	255

**Legend** ● On Track/Complete ◆ At Risk ■ Off Track















































































































**8. A HEALTHY AND CONNECTED COMMUNITY**

8.1 *Future for Aged Care Service Delivery*..... 83

8.2 *Elwood St Kilda Neighbourhood Learning Centre Community Grant Project Variation* ..... 127



**8.1 FUTURE FOR AGED CARE SERVICE DELIVERY**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER: KYLIE BENNETTS, GENERAL MANAGER, COMMUNITY WELLBEING**

**PREPARED BY: BRIDGET MONRO-HOBBS, MANAGER COMMUNITY SERVICES  
ROHAN BOND, HEAD OF ACCESS AND INCLUSION**

**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To present to Council the findings of community engagement undertaken in late 2025 around the future of Council's Aged Care service delivery and seek a Council decision on a preferred way forward.

**2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1 For some time, the Commonwealth has been implementing major aged-care reforms, including transition to the Support at Home Program (SHP) by 1 July 2027, at this stage.
- 2.2 *The Aged Care Act 2024* introduces new compliance obligations, enforceable duties, stronger quality standards and increased governance requirements for all registered providers, including local government.
- 2.3 Since its implementation over a year ago, Council's Village Model (social support, community transport, delivered meals, Hop On Hop Off bus (Council funded), and Community Connectors (Council funded)) has delivered community benefits but despite best efforts and for a range of reasons continues to underperform on services funded by the Commonwealth:
  - 2.3.1 Delivered meals: meeting 19% of Commonwealth funded service targets.
  - 2.3.2 Social connection: meeting 39% of Commonwealth funded service targets.
  - 2.3.3 Transport: meeting 70% of Commonwealth funded service targets, noting that almost all of this target has been achieved by transporting clients to the social connection services outlined in 2.3.2.
- 2.4 Council acquits its performance each year to the Commonwealth and has been required to return unspent funds to the Commonwealth where funding has not been expended and service targets have not been achieved.
- 2.5 It is expected that future Commonwealth funding will shift from block funding to activity-based funding, significantly increasing financial risk for Council given the fixed cost nature of its service model. This was not known at the time Council made decisions around the Village Model in 2023/24.
- 2.6 Based on current performance of the Village Model, changes to the Aged Care Act and the expected future funding model for CHSP services the following options were developed for Council to consider in 2025:
  - 2.6.1 Option 1- Stay in the delivery of all current services and optimise performance.
  - 2.6.2 Option 2- Relinquish delivered meals, retain the remaining Village Model services.
  - 2.6.3 Option 3 – Provide the Community Connector Service only.



- 2.6.4 Option 4 – Deliver some Village Model services through a values aligned partner.
- 2.6.5 Option 5 – Relinquish all CHSP services, retain the community connectors, provide a fully Council funded model and create a Positive Ageing Team.
- 2.7 At a confidential Council Meeting on 8 October 2025, Council endorsed undertaking community consultation on Option 5. This Option provided for the:
  - 2.7.1 Creation of a dedicated Positive Ageing Team focused on older people.
  - 2.7.2 Investment by Council of an additional \$106,000 per annum to expand Council funded social connection services outside the CHSP system.
  - 2.7.3 Continuation of the hop-on hop-off bus service.
  - 2.7.4 Step away from the delivery of CHSP-funded services (social support, transport, and delivered meals) with these transferred to an appropriately qualified aged care provider.
- 2.8 Engagement was undertaken on this proposed model at the end of 2025.
- 2.9 Engagement activities included a survey with 150 responses, four library drop-in sessions with 19 attendees, a meeting with the former Older Persons Advisory Committee, and six written submissions.
- 2.10 A petition with 34 signatures was also received as part of community feedback requesting that the City of Port Phillip maintain funding for the Social Inclusion/Better Together Program in 2026–27. The petition stated that the program is essential to Council’s commitments to social equity, inclusion, reducing loneliness, and supporting older people, people with disability, and culturally diverse communities. Petitioners highlighted that no specialist aged-care providers can deliver this community-led model and that defunding it would undermine Council’s ability to meet the goals outlined in the Plan for Port Phillip and the 2025–35 Council Plan. The petition was received by Council 3 December 2026 and is to be considered by Council through this report.
- 2.11 Community feedback received through the above engagement processes highlighted the important role Council plays in aged care services. Through this engagement Council’s role in delivering CHSP funded services in Port Phillip was seen as highly valued as are the staff that work hard to deliver these services.
- 2.12 Despite this positive community feedback, there are viability challenges for Council to continue to deliver these Commonwealth funded services, which will be heightened once funding model changes are implemented from block to activity-based funding. While Council provides a quality service, new Aged Care Act provisions also impose much stronger compliance obligations which would require Council to invest additional rates funding to assure it was meeting these obligations. Meanwhile the ability to grow Council’s client base to meet Commonwealth service targets is constrained as only those assessed as eligible under the CHSP can access these services and Council is operating in an increasingly competitive aged care market place. If Council was to step back from this service, the Commonwealth Government would fund other approved specialist aged care organisations to meet the assessed need.
- 2.13 On balance it is recommended that Council moves to a Positive Ageing Model that can support a broader range of older people in Port Phillip comprising of a larger Linking Neighbours program offering social activities and outings; an ongoing Community



Connector support service to help people navigate available services; continued operation of the Hop On Hop Off bus and a dedicated Positive Ageing Team to design and deliver local programs.

- 2.14 It is also recommended that Council steps back from the delivery of community-based Commonwealth funded programs as it is increasingly unviable for a provider like the City of Port Phillip to deliver these services into the future.
- 2.15 The recommended Positive Ageing model responds to community engagement feedback by enhancing the Linking Neighbours program and creating a dedicated Positive Ageing team to continue to support people to access services and supports locally, as well as continuing to deliver the hop on hop off bus service which will be optimised to ensure it is efficient and meets the needs of the community that use this service.
- 2.14 The Positive Ageing model also responds to feedback about barriers to access, and support to navigate aged care services with the continued inclusion of the Community Connector team who will continue to assist residents to connect with services locally.
- 2.15 Transitioning to a Council funded service model removes barriers of access for older people as it will not require people to be eligible for CHSP services to participate in the Council service. Clients receiving Commonwealth funded aged care services (including CHSP services currently delivered by Council) could attend and participate in the new Council service, if the level of care they require means it is safe for them to do so. Council officers will also look at ways to continue the connection current clients have to each other through the expanded Linking Neighbours Program.
- 2.16 This model will also provide the opportunity for Council to work more closely with other local providers such as South Port Day Links to compliment the hop on hop off bus service and ensure a robust and coordinated community transport response is provided to our community.

### 3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Reaffirms its ongoing commitment to supporting older people to age positively in our community. Notes the feedback from clients, community, OPAC members and community groups received through the formal consultation process as outlined in Attachment 1 and thanks them for their participation in this engagement activity.
- 3.2 Notes the Chief Executive Officer undertook engagement with staff and union representatives in line with Council's Enterprise Agreement.
- 3.3 Notes that the Commonwealth Aged Care Reforms, implementation of the Aged Care Act, 2024 and performance to funded targets drove a need for Council to review the way it delivers services to older people to ensure it is viable, relevant, efficient, and demonstrates best value for money to the community.
- 3.4 Endorses the implementation of a Positive Ageing model which includes:
  - 3.4.1 A larger Linking Neighbours program offering social activities and outings.
  - 3.4.2 Ongoing Community Connector support to help people navigate available services.
  - 3.4.3 Continued operation of the Hop On Hop Off bus.



- 3.4.4 A dedicated Positive Ageing Team to design and deliver local programs.
- 3.5 Notes that Council will make changes to its 10-year financial plan, including an annual increase of \$106k to aged care service delivery as part of the 2026/27 Council Plan and Budget.
- 3.6 Endorses the commencement of the process to relinquish Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) funded support services (social support group, transport and delivered meals) back to the Commonwealth at a date agreed with the Commonwealth.
- 3.7 Requests the Chief Executive Officer to write to the Commonwealth Government confirming, Council's intention to relinquish CHSP in-home services and Council's commitment to work together to ensure a smooth transition for clients to Commonwealth approved providers.
- 3.8 Writes to the lead petitioner of the 'Continuation of Social Inclusion Funding 2026.27 Petition' to advise them of the outcome of Council's decision on this matter.
- 3.9 Thanks staff, for their professionalism and commitment to the delivery of aged care services in Port Phillip.

#### 4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

##### **Commonwealth and State Government Policy Background**

- 4.1 In 1984 the Home and Community Care (HACC) Program was established, providing an integrated service system to support people with disability and older people to remain living at home. In Victoria, a tripartite agreement was in place between the Federal, State and Local Governments to support older people and people with disability to remain active and independent within their local communities.
- 4.2 With the roll out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) that occurred during July 2016 through to June 2020, the HACC program ceased, with the Commonwealth Government assuming responsibility for funding older people through the implementation of the National My Aged Care assessment service and the delivery of the Commonwealth Support at Home Program (CHSP) for older people. The State continued to fund disability support services for people who were in eligible for the NDIS.
- 4.3 In practice this split the one program into four, which included the NDIS, the CHSP, the Home and Community Care Program for Younger People (HACC PYP) and the Regional Assessment Service (RAS).
- 4.4 Splitting the program into four as well as a shift in State and Commonwealth responsibilities started to make it difficult for local government providers in Victoria. This was also compounded by the introduction of My Aged Care, meant that local government providers could no longer receive direct referrals from clients, family members of GP's, with all referrals and requests for assessments required to go through a National single point of contact with referral to service broadcast out to the marketplace rather than going directly through to a specific service provider such as local government.
- 4.5 In light of the above the Commonwealth and State Government agreed to retain block funding and continue the delivery of RAS to support local government providers in Victoria to transition to the new funding environments. These provisions were not



provided to other States and Territories who had to adjust to activity-based funding arrangement much earlier.

- 4.6 The most recent aged care reforms are due to the report of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety which was handed to the Commonwealth Government on the 26 February 2021 and made public on 1 March 2021.
- 4.7 Implementation of the Report's recommendations has been in train for several years and implementation has been extended multiple times by the Commonwealth Government. At this stage it is anticipated these changes will be fully implemented by 2027. These changes will see the CHSP transition to the SHP.
- 4.8 The key features of the reforms are increased client choice and control, individualised funding that is portable and a nationally consistent assessment, service provision and funding model.
- 4.9 The reformed aged care service system will replace the CHSP and will be known as the SHP. Full implementation is currently expected to commence on the 1 July 2027. It is worth noting that the timeframe for implementation has been extended on several occasions, and it has been difficult for the aged care sector and local government to receive clear and consistent policy advice from the Commonwealth Government.
- 4.10 There are several changes within the new model which will have a significant impact on local governments in Victoria. These include funding transitioning from block funding to activity-based funding, payment in arrears for services delivered, additional reporting requirements, increased governance and strengthening of the Aged Care quality standards, as well as the centralisation of assessment services into a single nationally consistent assessment service and the creation of a demand driven response to aged care services and client care needs.

#### **Port Phillip Decision Making Background**

- 4.11 In February 2023 a project commenced that aimed to understand what the Commonwealth policy change would mean for service delivery in the City of Port Phillip.
- 4.12 At the time Council was funded \$3.4 million by the Commonwealth Government to deliver in home and community-based services to approximately 650 older people. These supports included domestic assistance, personal care, respite care, property maintenance, home modifications, delivered meals and community transport. This profile of service delivery was consistent with other Victorian local governments at the time.
- 4.13 In 2023, several factors were identified that were making it difficult for Council to remain in the delivery of several in-home supports. Key factors included:
  - 4.13.1 *Inability to meet targets* - the project found that Council was not meeting its service delivery targets and it was projected by 30 June 2023, that the cost of under delivery would be no less than \$1.7M. This inability to meet targets was due to a decline in referral rates with the introduction of My Aged Care as well as a lack of suitably qualified and experienced direct care staff and challenges in recruiting care workers as well as limitations on the total numbers of home care hours that could be delivered within a workday due to occupational health and safety limitations.



- 4.13.2 *Operating Span of Control*- the project found that Council's operating model required an extraordinary span of operating infrastructure, and that the marketplace could maintain a span of 1:18 as a minimum. Ultimately the project found that indirect costs (supervisory and administrative support staffing ratios) were significantly higher than industry standards, and a reduction in indirect costs would be required to move to a competitive and sustainable business model.
- 4.13.3 *Fixed Costs and Enterprise Bargaining Agreement* - the project found that Council's fixed costs and EBA had an impact on Council's ability to be competitive in an open marketplace, with the rate per hour costs to deliver services exceeding what it costs the marketplace circa 34% higher.
- 4.14 The project then considered the financially prudent role Council could play in an increasingly marketised environment to support older people to age in place. Three options were developed for Council to consider. These options were:
- 4.14.1 Continue to deliver all CHSP services.
- 4.14.2 Exit all CHSP funded services.
- 4.14.3 Relinquish all in home services back to the Commonwealth and continue to deliver community-based services including the introduction of a Community Connector role (known as the Village Model).

### **The Village Model Proposal**

- 4.15 The Village Model proposal on 9 November 2023 involved Council continuing to deliver community based CHSP services including transport, social support and delivered meals as well as retaining the Council funded Hop on Hop off bus service.
- 4.16 As a part of the Village Model proposal, Council relinquished back to the Commonwealth high-volume in-home supports (domestic assistance, personal care, respite care property maintenance, home modification and shopping assistance).
- 4.17 Council also invested in a new Community Connector service that would support older people to connect into the Commonwealth aged care service system as well as into other local services and supports they may need to assist them to age well.
- 4.18 At a Council meeting on the 1 November 2023 Council endorsed the Village Model for public, staff and client consultation throughout November and early December 2023.
- 4.19 The key themes from this community consultation included:
- 4.19.1 The need for quality assurance (29%)- that any change of service delivery was carefully managed.
- 4.19.2 Issues to manage (18%)- this was related to quality assurance but also concern for the impact on staff and the loss of meaningful relationships between clients and staff.
- 4.19.3 The value placed on Council services (17%).
- 4.19.4 Affordability of services (13%) -the need to carefully consider the cost of service and impact this might have on clients.
- 4.19.5 Managing the change (11%)- the importance of carefully managing and transition to a new provider.



4.19.6 Resistance to change (11%)- prefer no change, concerns about a worse outcome for clients if the change went ahead.

4.20 In response to the consultation process and an understanding of the drivers for change at a Council meeting on the 21 February 2024 a decision was made to relinquish back to the Commonwealth the delivery of high-volume in-home supports and implement the Village Model.

#### **Transition out of CHSP services and implementation of Village Model**

4.21 The Commonwealth established a panel of approved providers that could meet the unique characteristics of the Port Phillip community, that had an already established local presence, experience in the delivery of high-quality aged care services and the ability to meet future clinical governance and reporting requirements of the new SHP.

4.22 The panel of providers for Port Phillip was made up of six providers who included Bolton Clarke, MECWA care, Better Health Network, Southport Daylinks, Jewish Care and Annecto (who subsequently announced their closure as of July 2025).

4.23 A transition team of Council staff was established to work with the approved panel of providers to support clients to transition to a provider of their choice. Clients were provided with details of the providers and in situations where clients wanted to choose providers not formally part of the panel, information was provided on how these organisations could be contacted.

4.24 Two expos were delivered so clients could meet the new providers, understand how their services worked and what they could offer.

4.25 All clients had service continuity throughout the transition, and the transition took approximately four months.

4.26 The transition period also resulted in 50 staff departing from the City of Port Phillip. These staff either sought continued local employment from the panel of providers, transitioned to a new career or retired.

4.27 The transition process received positive feedback from the Commonwealth as a best practice example due to its care for clients and staff and for strong relationships it built with incoming providers.

#### **The Current Status of the Village Model**

4.28 The Village model has now been in operation since the 1 September 2024.

4.29 The Village Model is comprised of:

4.29.1 Delivered Meals service providing delivered meals to clients in their own homes which is subcontracted to Choice Fresh Meals (CHSP funded).

4.29.2 Social Connection service which provides group-based community outings, programming and activities (CHSP funded).

4.29.3 Community transport which transports clients to the outings, programs and activities provided by the social connection service (CHSP funded).

4.29.4 Hop on Hop bus service (fully Council funded).

4.29.5 Community Connector service which supports older people to access local supports and navigate the Commonwealth Aged care service system (fully Council funded).



**Delivered Meals (CHSP funded)**

- 4.30 Council's delivered meals service, funded through the CHSP, has evolved from the meals on wheels service which was established in the 1970s. Meals are delivered chilled and individually packaged and meet the minimum nutritional requirements for older people to maintain their health and wellbeing.
- 4.31 Council received CHSP funding to deliver 110,403 meals across the 2024/2025 financial year. The meals are delivered to 136 clients every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
- 4.32 Council currently subcontracts Choice Fresh meals to prepare, pack and deliver meals to clients as well as the completion of monitoring and welfare checks with concerns around client health and wellbeing reported back to Council. This subcontracting arrangement is in place until October 2026.
- 4.33 The delivered meals service is performing at 19% to target, delivering 21,531 meals per annum rather than the 110,403 meals Council is currently funded to deliver by the Commonwealth in the 2024/25 financial year. This is similar to performance in previous years.
- 4.34 Low performance is attributed to lack of client demand (as all referrals come through My Aged Care), increasing competition in the marketplace, as well as the lack of culturally appropriate meals options such as Kosher certified meals options with the current provider.
- 4.35 One of the key changes under the new Aged Care Act 2024 sees provider obligations strengthened with increased reporting and compliance obligations. For the delivered meals service this brings a significant change. Where currently risks are delegated to the provider (Choice Fesh Meals), under the new Aged Care Act, all obligations and associated risks including quality assurance and client monitoring will be the sole responsibility of Council. In practice Council would need to be satisfied that all aspects of quality, including components which are contracted out to the provider are monitored and managed.
- 4.36 This would see a significant change to the contract management process, with Council needing to increase the time investment and monitoring processes to ensure compliance. Conservatively, this would require at a minimum an additional \$64,000 per annum for additional staffing to ensure compliance with standards are met. Council's ability to increase use of the service is linked to eligibility criteria and the aged care central assessment system.

**Social Connection Service (CHSP funded)**

- 4.37 The social connection service is known as the Better Together program.
- 4.38 This service delivers a range of programming and activities to clients who are referred through My Aged care and are CHSP eligible. Activities provided by this service include day trips, exercise programs, social lunches, as well as transport from their home to the activity.
- 4.39 Council is funded by the Commonwealth to deliver 20,763 hours of social support annually. 8,155 hours are being delivered representing 39% of the target. This equates to approximately 60 clients who access this service on a regular basis. To optimise this service, a target of 100-120 clients would enable Council to meet its funded targets. Performance of this service has remained consistent for the last three years despite



measures over the last six months to broaden the appeal of the service as well as actively promoting the service through a number of channels including direct mailout, library pop ups, home visiting library service and through the community connector role.

#### **Community Transport (CHSP funded)**

- 4.40 The Community Transport service is used to provide individual transport to clients who attend the social connection program.
- 4.41 Council receives funding to deliver 6,711 trips per annum, with current performance sitting at 70% of the funded target.
- 4.42 Performance to this target is tied to the number of participants that attend the social connection activities.

#### **Hop on Hop off bus service (Fully Council funded)**

- 4.43 The Hop on Hop off bus service is an initiative that commenced in 1982 prior to the amalgamation of Councils to form the City of Port Phillip. This initiative was designed to mimic public transport routes in the city providing a free and accessible alternative to traditional transport services.
- 4.44 The service operates from the hours of 8.30-3pm Monday to Friday. The service operates two minibuses with a seating capacity of nine, with 3 main bus routes that cover 100 stops.
- 4.45 Peak usage occurs during the morning with popular destinations including the South Melbourne Market, Port Melbourne Coles, St Kilda Library and Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre.
- 4.46 Trip data indicates low utilisation on some of the bus routes with approximately 4,300 round trips provided each year. There is an opportunity to maximise usage of this service by building on popular destinations and identifying other places that the community would like to access.

#### **Community Connector role (Fully Council funded)**

- 4.47 The Community Connector is a new role that Council funded when it made the decision to relinquish in-home services back to the Commonwealth. It provides a single point of access for older people and or their families, who need support to navigate the formal aged care service system or link into other services and supports older people may need to age well.
- 4.48 Since the formal commencement of the connector service on the 1 September 2024 over 170 individual community members have been supported to access the services and supports, they need to age well in the City.

#### **What is impacting the Village Model performance?**

- 4.49 The implementation of the Village Model since 1 September 2024 has provided Council the opportunity to have a continued and visible role supporting a small number of older people in the absence of high-volume in-home supports which were transitioned to specialised aged care providers in 2023.
- 4.50 A challenge for Council in meeting performance targets has been the centralisation and implementation of the single assessment service. This change, and significant waitlists



for assessments and referrals for services has compounded the issue, as well as low numbers of referrals being received through My Aged Care for Council's services.

- 4.51 Since the implementation of the Village Model, more information has come to light as the Commonwealth gets closer to the full implementation of the SHP and the implementation of the new Aged Care Act 2024 about what the future funding and compliance arrangements of community-based services will be.
- 4.52 When the establishment of the Village Model was endorsed, the Commonwealth had advised that moving forward, community-based services would continue to be block funded.
- 4.53 Officers now understand that Council will transition from block funding to activity-based funding, where payments are made in arrears based on actual service hours delivered. This shift impacts Council's ability to sustain the current service model.
- 4.54 Fixed costs combined with under performance of service targets will result in reduced income through client fees and government funding, leading to a risk of a higher Council contribution into the future if the current service delivery model is maintained and performance is not able to be improved.
- 4.55 Despite optimisation activities occurring (promotion of current services, improved claiming for services delivered, increased variety of programs and activities, and promotion of services through the Connector Service) and due to further changes in the SHP environment including increased governance it will be very challenging for Council to deliver services within a \$360,000 budget moving forward.
- 4.56 As such at a confidential Council meeting on 10 October 2025, Councillors were provided with several options to consider for an option to be endorsed for community, client and staff consultation.

#### **Service Delivery Model Options provided**

- 4.57 Council considered the following options:
  - 4.58.1 **Option 1 - Stay in the delivery of all CHSP funded services** - Continue to deliver the current services contained within the Village Model and identify opportunities to optimise the model and invest additional resources.
  - 4.58.2 **Option 2 - Relinquish delivered meals and retain the remaining Village Model services** - Relinquish delivered meals, retain the Community Connector role and retain and optimise the social support and community transport services.
  - 4.58.3 **Option 3- Community Connector Service only** - exit all Council and Commonwealth funded services (hop on hop off bus service, delivered meals, social connection program and community transport) within the Village Model and retaining the Community Connection function.
  - 4.58.4 **Option 4- Deliver Village Model services through a values aligned partner** - Deliver existing CHSP services to Port Phillip residents in partnership with another local provider (through a service agreement) that may have greater capacity to navigate the changed aged care environment (however CoPP would retain obligations under the Aged Care Act, 2024).
  - 4.58.5 **Option 5- relinquish all CHSP services, establish a Positive Ageing team that incorporates the Community Connectors, retention of a hop on hop**



**off bus service and an enhanced Linking Neighbours Programs** - Create a dedicated positive ageing team, bringing together roles across the Community Wellbeing Division which support older people including OPAC, Seniors Month an enhanced Linking Neighbours program, and retention of Council's hop on hop off bus service.

- 4.58 The Options were assessed against the below criteria:
- 4.58.1 Provide support to Port Phillip residents to successfully age in place particularly when it is not readily available in the marketplace or there are barriers to access.
  - 4.58.2 Support members of the Port Phillip community who may typically be disadvantaged in the aged care service system.
  - 4.58.3 Meet aged care and clinical governance requirements under the Aged Care Act 2024.
  - 4.58.4 Meet competitive neutrality requirements.
  - 4.58.5 Enable Council to deliver services efficiently and effectively to achieve value for money from Council's investment.
- 4.59 In October 2025, Option 5 was approved by Council for community engagement.
- 4.60 The proposed "Positive Ageing model" included:
- 4.60.1 Establishing a dedicated Positive Ageing Team to consolidate roles and activities supporting older people.
  - 4.60.2 Increasing Council investment by \$106,000 per annum to enable enhanced social connection services delivered outside the CHSP system.
  - 4.60.3 Continuing the delivery of the hop on hop off bus service.
  - 4.60.4 Concluding Council's delivery of CHSP-funded social support, transport, and delivered meals.
- 4.61 Features of Option 5 included: -
- 4.61.1 Establishes a fully Council-funded service model, enabling Council to maintain its focus on supporting older residents while responding more quickly to changing community needs.
  - 4.61.2 Council has full control over eligibility, enabling a more flexible and locally responsive service system. It also removes access barriers such as the requirement for My Aged Care assessments, supporting residents who need help but are not yet eligible for Government-funded aged care.
  - 4.61.3 Reduces the compliance burden introduced under the new Aged Care Act 2024, allowing Council to operate with greater flexibility and focus its resources on service quality and innovation rather than extensive reporting requirements.
  - 4.61.4 Enables the service to move beyond the structural constraints of CHSP and design a service that is fully aligned with local priorities and needs without the pressures of a competitive market and external referral pathways.
  - 4.61.5 It will also provide the opportunity to work closely with other local providers such as South Port Day Links to compliment the hop on hop off bus service and



ensure a robust and coordinated community transport response is provided to our community.

## 5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 At the Council meeting on the 8 October 2025 endorsement was provided to commence a formal consultation process on the proposed new service deliver model for older people- the “Positive Ageing Model”.  
(<https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/supporting-positive-ageing-port-phillip>)
- 5.2 Engagement on the Positive Ageing model occurred between the 6 November and the 7 December 2025. The purpose of this engagement was to talk with clients, staff, and the community more broadly about the age care reforms and the impact they are having on Council’s ability to continue to deliver funded services and to introduce the proposed Positive Ageing model for feedback.
- 5.3 It also aimed to collect specific and general feedback on the proposed Positive Ageing model and any concerns or ideas for improvement as well as what elements would be important for future support of older people to age well at home.
- 5.4 In total 148 participants provided feedback. 100% of respondents were aged 60 or over, with most aged 70-84 years (63.5%). 73% of the respondents currently receive Council services. (See Attachment 1 for full Engagement report).
- 5.5 The consultation provided strong insights into the importance of robust transition arrangements and continuity of care in services that are transferred to another provider, the importance of the quality approved panel providers and their ability to offer a range of quality services. The importance of retaining the Hop on Hop of bus service and concerns about losing trusted relationships with staff and peers through the relinquishment of the social connection service were clearly outlined.
- 5.6 There was also support for the expansion of the Linking Neighbours program and continuation of the community connector roles in supporting older people to combat social isolation and loneliness and having support to connect into services and supports they need to age well.
- 5.7 A primary principle for the engagement was that we heard from as many clients as possible and ensured that we were flexible in how we supported older people to participate in the engagement process.

### **Client, Community and Advisory Committees Engagement**

- 5.8 A range of activities and engagement opportunities were utilised to let community and clients know about the proposed changes to aged care services deliver model and to provide opportunities for feedback on the Village model.
- 5.9 Information and engagement opportunities on the Village model included:
  - 5.9.1 254 letters were sent to clients advising of the proposed service model and providing a frequently asked questions document and advising of the survey.
  - 5.9.2 A survey seeking feedback on the model and other considerations for Council in the provision of aged care services was undertaken. Surveys were available in both online and paper forms and were translated into four languages. Hard copies were sent to all active clients currently receiving Council’s CHSP services.



- 5.9.3 A Have Your Say web page was set up to provide details of the engagement opportunities and proposed changes.
- 5.9.4 Information was made available in public places such as local libraries, the ASSIST counter and through the hop on hop off bus service.
- 5.9.5 Information was made available in three community newsletters providing details of the proposed changes.
- 5.9.6 Four drop-in sessions were held at libraries for clients and interested people.
- 5.9.7 Past OPAC members were engaged in a 1.5-hour workshop on the proposal.
- 5.10 The key themes from the consultation process included:
  - 5.10.1 Participants told us they view these services as essential and that they want essential services to continue without interruption, especially social support programs and delivered meals. Many were worried (68 respondents) about service gaps during any changes and wanted current arrangements to remain stable.
  - 5.10.2 Some (29 respondents) asked about the quality and range of social programs from other providers, and a few (28 respondents) were concerned that social groups might break apart if several agencies were involved. A few others (5 respondents) welcomed ideas like expanding the Linking Neighbours program.
  - 5.10.3 Respondents also said trusted relationships with staff and peers are very important for reducing loneliness and supporting mental health. Many preferred Council-run services and questioned whether new providers could keep the same quality and safety standards. Other feedback included concerns about transport access and the cost of services.
  - 5.10.4 We asked respondents if they have suggestions for services. We received 116 responses to this question and categorised them into a range of themes, outlined below.
  - 5.10.5 Community feedback (55 comments) focused on practical and social supports that enable older people to live independently and stay connected
  - 5.10.6 The most frequent suggestions included maintaining and expanding social connection programs (29 comments), providing practical help at home such as cleaning, gardening, and minor maintenance (20 comments), and improving accessible transport options to support participation in activities (13 comments). Respondents also emphasised the need for clear, printed communication and regular updates, stronger navigation support through community connectors, and lists of trusted providers.

#### **Other Stakeholder Engagement**

- 5.11 At key stages of the development of options for service delivery, high level discussions were held with key stakeholders regarding Councils' ongoing role in the provision of direct services to older people including funded services under CHSP.
- 5.12 Council officers have engaged with the Commonwealth to seek advice and guidance on the proposed model and transition arrangements that can be put in place should Council decide to endorse the Positive Ageing model and relinquish any services.



- 5.13 Feedback from the former Older Persons Advisory Committee emphasised the importance of improving access to local activities, gentle exercise options, and practical supports, while strengthening communication through clearer promotion and a dedicated seniors newsletter. Participants also highlighted opportunities to enhance social connection through programs like Linking Neighbours and partnerships with community organizations.
- 5.14 A petition was received by Alfonso Salonga at the Council meeting on the 10 December 2024.

### **Response to Feedback**

5.15 The Positive Ageing model responds to this feedback by:

- 5.15.1 Increasing Council's direct investment in social connection by enhancing the Linking Neighbours program and creating a dedicated Positive Ageing team to continue to support people to access services and supports locally, as well as continue to deliver the hop on hop off bus service.
- 5.15.2 Prioritising social support, wellbeing, and reducing isolation through investing in expanding the Linking Neighbours program to include a more diverse range of programs and activities aligns with community feedback.
- 5.15.3 Helping to reduce barriers of access, and support through navigating aged care services with the inclusion of the Community Connector team who will assist residents to connect with services locally.
- 5.15.4 Transitioning to a Council funded service model eliminates the barriers of access for older people as it will not require people to be eligible for CHSP services to participate. Clients receiving Commonwealth funded aged care services (including current clients of Council) would remain eligible to attend and participate, if the level of care they require means it is safe for them to do so within the expanded Linking Neighbours programs and the broader services delivered by the Positive Ageing team.

## **6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 A comprehensive risk assessment and mitigation plans have been developed throughout this process.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPACT**

- 7.1 The current 10-year Financial Plan includes \$0.36m annually to support the delivery of services to older people through the Community Services budget. It is proposed that Council addresses the increase in funding associated with the recommended option as part of the 26/27 Council Budget process.
- 7.2 The Commonwealth Government has informed Council that one off transition costs (transition team, collateral, translations services, back of house administration etc) could be claimed back through the existing funding agreement. Redundancy costs, however, cannot be claimed.
- 7.3 Council makes an acquittal to the Commonwealth against its performance each year and has returned funds to the Commonwealth due to targets not being met.



## 8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

8.1 There are no direct environmental impacts arising from this paper.

## 9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

9.1 If Council endorse the Positive Ageing model it will result in changes for current clients, however every effort would be made to ensure continuity of care if CHSP services are transitioned to specialist aged-care providers under the Commonwealth reforms. Older people would retain choice and control over their preferred provider, and all providers must meet strict Commonwealth requirements to ensure qualified, locally based and appropriate support.

9.2 Detailed transition planning will be undertaken if the Positive Ageing model is endorsed for implementation. The older person will be well supported by Council through any transition.

9.3 Discussions have occurred with the Commonwealth Government about the proposed model and the best way to transition services and support current clients if the proposed Positive Ageing model is endorsed by Council.

9.4 The Commonwealth Government would work with Council if it chose to exit any services to ensure continuity of care for clients and allow for an appropriate range of qualified specialist aged care providers to be made available.

## 10. GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 A Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) has been completed in the development of the Aged Care reform proposal, a requirement of the Victorian *Gender Equality Act 2020*. The GIA drew on client gender data and gender-analysed findings from community engagement, to consider impacts of the reforms on clients of different genders, ages, and backgrounds.

## 11. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

11.1 The Positive Ageing model aligns to a healthy and connected community. Through the continuation of community-based services and the establishment of the positive Ageing team, Council will support our diverse older population to get access to the services and supports they need to age well and retain important connections within the community.

## 12. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

### 12.1 TIMELINE

12.1.1 If Council endorse the Positive Ageing model Council will inform the Commonwealth of its intention to relinquish funded CHSP services. This will include the provision of a detailed transition plan.

12.1.2 The Commonwealth will then establish a panel of approved providers to transition service delivery.

12.1.3 Timing for the completion of the transition and implementation of the Positive Ageing model would be confirmed once confirmation is received from the Commonwealth around the timing of transition arrangements. Council stepping back from the delivery of CHSP services is unlikely to be earlier than June 2026.



## 12.2 COMMUNICATION

12.2.1 If Council endorses the Positive Ageing model, letters and a frequently asked questions document will be sent to clients in their preferred language. The letter would inform clients of the Council decision. This would then be followed up with follow up communication throughout the transition period. Intensive communication would occur with clients and approved service providers once the Commonwealth has approved suitable specialist aged care providers.

12.2.2 Staff and Unions would also be informed with staff and individual meetings set up to discuss individual impacts.

12.2.3 The Council decision would be made available on the website.

12.2.4 More extensive communication to community would also occur as the transition progresses, and through the establishment of the Positive Ageing model.

## 13. OFFICER MATERIAL OR GENERAL INTEREST

13.1 Officers involved in this report have line management responsibility for the services and functions outlined in this report and are also subject to responsible person requirements under the Aged Care Act.

13.2 A related party of an officer involved in this report works for the Commonwealth Government. The related party is not involved with City of Port Phillip matters.

## ATTACHMENTS 1. Supporting Positive Ageing Engagement Report



























































**8.2 ELWOOD ST KILDA NEIGHBOURHOOD LEARNING CENTRE  
COMMUNITY GRANT PROJECT VARIATION**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER: KYLIE BENNETTS, GENERAL MANAGER, COMMUNITY  
WELLBEING**

**PREPARED BY: EMMA BLACKFORD, TEAM LEADER GRANTS AND FUNDING  
CHRISTINE DENING, MANAGER COMMUNITY BUILDING AND  
INCLUSION**

**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To seek Council's endorsement of a project variation for the Community Grants 2025/26 recipient, Elwood St Kilda Neighbourhood Learning Centre (ESKNLC), from the approved *Galiamble – Digital Futures Program* to the *Galiamble – Mental Wellbeing Program*.

**2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The Community Grants 2025–26 Program was approved by Council on 17 September 2025, including \$5,000 in funding for ESKNLC's *Galiamble – Digital Futures Program*.
- 2.2 ESKNLC has requested that this project be replaced with the *Galiamble – Mental Wellbeing Program*, a culturally informed initiative run by Ngwala Willumbung Aboriginal Corporation providing weekly mindfulness-based therapy and excursions to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men recovering from drug and alcohol addiction.
- 2.3 A trial of the program in September 2025 received positive participant feedback, and officer assessment confirms that the revised program aligns with Community Grants Guidelines and would likely have been competitive for funding.
- 2.4 As the request represents a significant change in scope, Council endorsement is required, and approval is recommended based on demonstrated benefit and continued engagement with the same cohort of participants.

**3. RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

- 3.1 Endorses the project variation for the Community Grants 2025/26 recipient, Elwood St Kilda Neighbourhood Learning Centre (ESKNLC), from the approved *Galiamble – Digital Futures Program* to the *Galiamble – Mental Wellbeing Program*.

**4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES**

- 4.1 The Community Grants Program supports not-for-profit groups and organisations to respond to identified community needs, strengthen local networks, encourage participation in community life, foster innovation, and promote access, inclusion and acceptance of diversity.
- 4.2 The Community Grants 2025–26 Program recommendations were approved by Council on 17 September 2025. As part of this program, ESKNLC received funding for four projects, out of a total of fifty-three successful applications.



- 4.3 The Galiamble – Digital Futures Program was allocated \$5,000 in Council funding. The original Digital Literacy Program was a partnership between ESKNLC and Galiamble designed to teach essential computer and smart device skills, build confidence and independence, and equip participants for real-world readiness beyond rehabilitation.
- 4.4 ESKNLC has requested that the approved project, Galiamble – Digital Futures Program (Attachment 1), be changed to the Galiamble – Mental Wellbeing Program (Attachment 2).
- 4.5 The Galiamble – Mental Wellbeing Program, run by Ngwala Willumbung Aboriginal Corporation, provides weekly culturally sensitive meditation and mindfulness-based cognitive therapy to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men in their recovery from drug and alcohol addiction. The program complements clinical rehabilitation by building practical mental health and wellbeing skills that participants can use long-term. Excursions within the City of Port Phillip strengthen connection to community and country while reinforcing the techniques learned. Developed with Ngwala Willumbong Aboriginal Corporation, the program will support 72 St Kilda-based participants to improve recovery outcomes and reduce isolation.
- 4.6 The details of the Galiamble – Mental Wellbeing Program align with the Community Grants 2025–26 Guidelines. Had this program been submitted as part of the original grant round, it would have been assessed against the applicant pool and met all eligibility criteria. Officer assessment indicates it would likely have been recommended for funding, as it aligns with two of the program’s six objectives:
- 4.6.1 enabling access to inclusive and accessible events, programs and services—particularly for older people, LGBTIQ+ communities, people with disability, people from multicultural backgrounds, First Peoples, people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, and those experiencing social or economic disadvantage
- 4.6.2 building social connections, valuing diversity, and addressing health and wellbeing inequities within the community
- 4.7 Due to the significance of the proposed change, Council endorsement is required. A process exists for managing minor changes to funded projects—such as adjustments to delivery timeframes or reductions in activity scope when grant amounts differ from what was requested. In these cases, applicants liaise with the Grants and Funding Team, and if the variation is reasonable, a project variation form is completed.
- 4.8 However, this process has not historically covered substantial changes, including a complete change in project scope. Such requests fall outside standard variation procedures, necessitating formal Council approval.
- 4.9 A trial of the Galiamble – Mental Wellbeing Program has already been undertaken and has demonstrated notably positive impacts for participants.
- 4.10 It is therefore recommended that Council approve the Mental Wellbeing Program as a variation to the existing Digital Literacy Program. This recommendation is based on the program’s strong alignment with community priorities and its continued engagement with the same cohort of Indigenous men, ensuring continuity of support and community benefit.
- 4.11 The Community Grants Policy will be reviewed as part of the Community Grants review and will be updated to include clear guidance on project variations and Council decisions. This will help establish a consistent approach for managing both minor and substantial changes in scope going forward.



**5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS**

- 5.1 ESKNLC trialled the program with the proposed participants from the Galiamble Recovery Centre. The participants have indicated that they are in favour of changing the program
- 5.2 Galiamble Recovery Centre, the program partner, have provided a letter supporting the project variation (Attachment 3).

**6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no identified risks.

**7. FINANCIAL IMPACT**

- 7.1 It has been proposed that the funding, \$5,000, allocated to the Galiamble - Digital Futures Program be re-allocated to the Galiamble – Mental Wellbeing Program.
- 7.2 There are no additional costs for Council.

**8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

- 8.1 There are no environmental impacts identified.

**9. COMMUNITY IMPACT**

- 9.1 The trial of Galiamble – Mental Wellbeing Program has proven to have a positive impact on participants' emotional regulation, confidence, coping capacity and overall wellbeing.
- 9.2 The Galiamble – Mental Wellbeing Program will not be able to proceed without the \$5,000 in funding.

**10. GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 10.1 The Community Grants Program embeds equity focus throughout its design and application process, including:
  - 10.1.1 Inviting applications that enhance diversity, and contribute to the building of healthy, strong and inclusive communities.
  - 10.1.2 Identifying a key objective of the program to enable access to inclusive and accessible events, programs and services. This includes sections of the community which may be vulnerable to exclusion.
  - 10.1.3 Guidelines that encourage applicants to consider how they can ensure events are safe, welcoming and inclusive.
  - 10.1.4 Require applicants to demonstrate consideration for how their project is inclusive and accessible for all participants.

**11. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY**

- 11.1 The ESKNLC project aligns with Council Strategic Direction 1. A Healthy and Connected Community: The proposed Mental Wellbeing Program complements clinical rehabilitation, offered by Galiamble, by promoting healing, recovery, and equipping participants with lifelong skills for reintegration into the community.

# MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL 18 FEBRUARY 2026



## **12. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

### 12.1 TIMELINE

12.1.1 ESKNLC will be notified of Council's decision by email 19 February 2026.

### 12.2 COMMUNICATION

12.2.1 ESKNLC will be notified of Council's decision by email 19 February 2026.

## **13. OFFICER MATERIAL OR GENERAL INTEREST**

13.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report has declared a material or general interest in the matter.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- 1. Galiamble - Mental Wellbeing Program**
- 2. Letter of Support Galiamble**

















**9. AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT CITY**

Nil

**10. A SAFE AND LIVEABLE CITY**

10.1 *Broadway Bridge Superstructure Deck Replacement, Elwood - RFT000384 - PJ1168* ..... 139



**10.1 BROADWAY BRIDGE SUPERSTRUCTURE DECK REPLACEMENT, ELWOOD - RFT000384 - PJ1168**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER: PAUL WOOD, ACTING GENERAL MANAGER, CITY INFRASTRUCTURE**

**PREPARED BY: CHRISTOPHER COOK, MANAGER PROJECT DELIVERY  
ATILIO NUMA, HEAD OF CIVIL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS  
KIMANI GITAU, SENIOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT MANAGER**

**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To present the Evaluation Report for Tender RFT000384 - PJ1168 Broadway Bridge Superstructure Deck Replacement and to recommend the awarding of the Contract to Waratah Constructions (VIC) Pty Ltd for a total award value of \$1,919,340.94 excluding GST (\$2,111,275.03 including GST).

**2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1 Broadway Bridge was constructed between 1905 and 1907 with an expected design life of 100 years. Council has undertaken detailed assessments which showed that each of the bridge's structural spans could no longer adequately support the weight of heavy vehicles due to deterioration of its steel deck structure.
- 2.2 The project scope works under this contract involves the replacement of the bridge superstructure deck.
- 2.3 Undertaking this project bridge road renewal work in a planned and timely fashion reduces the liability risks to Council, lowers ongoing maintenance costs and the rate of asset deterioration which would otherwise lead to increased reconstruction cost in the longer term.
- 2.4 A public procurement process has been undertaken to identify a suitable contractor for the bridge works, in accordance with Council's procurement policy and the agreed evaluation plan.
- 2.5 The Tender Evaluation Panel (TEP) recommends Council enter Contract with Waratah Constructions (VIC) Pty Ltd for the Broadway bridge works at Elwood for lumpsum price of \$1,919,340.94 excluding GST (\$2,111,275.03 including GST).

**3. RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

- 3.1 Awards tender RFT000384 - PJ1168 Broadway Bridge Superstructure Deck Replacement Contract to Waratah Constructions (VIC) Pty Ltd for a total award value of \$1,919,340.94 excluding GST (\$2,111,275.03 including GST).
- 3.2 Approves contingency value outlined in Confidential Attachment No. 1.
- 3.3 Authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or their delegate) to approve variations up to the total proposed approval amount, including contingency, outlined in Confidential Attachment No. 1.
- 3.4 Notes that the works are expected to commence in May 2026 and completed by November 2026.
- 3.5 Authorises the Chief Executive Officer, or their delegate, to execute the Contract Document on behalf of Council.



**4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES**

**4.1 Relevant Background**

- 4.1.1 Council has undertaken detailed assessments of the Broadway Bridge which showed that each of the bridge’s structural spans could no longer adequately support the weight of heavy vehicles due to deterioration of its steel deck structure.
- 4.1.2 Undertaking this project bridge road renewal work in a planned and timely fashion reduces the liability risks to Council, lowers ongoing maintenance costs and the rate of asset deterioration which would otherwise lead to increased reconstruction cost in the longer term.

**4.2 Proposed Scope**

- 4.2.1 The proposed project scope works under this contract involves the replacement of the bridge superstructure deck.

**4.3 Summary of Procurement Process**

- 4.3.1 A detailed outline of the procurement process, evaluation and recommendation is appended to this report.
- 4.3.2 An independent Probity Advisor was engaged as part of the procurement process. The probity advisor report is appended to the confidential report.
- 4.3.3 Prior to the release of the tender on Tenderlink, the evaluation criteria and weightings were determined and the tender evaluation panel (TEP) was appointed.
- 4.3.4 The procurement plan included the following evaluation criteria:

<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
Insurances	Pass/Fail
Occupational health and safety management – (a formal written management system that meets Council's requirements).	Pass/Fail
<b>Weighted Criteria</b>	<b>% Weighting</b>
Price	35%
Capacity and methodology to meet the requirements of the specification	27.5%
Relevant experience and proven track record	27.5%
Environmental Management System (EMS)	5%
Corporate Social Responsibility	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>



Criterion	Assessment
<b>Commercial Criteria</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
Agreement to Council's proposed terms and conditions	Acceptable/Not Acceptable
Financial capacity	Acceptable/Not Acceptable
Reference Checking	Acceptable/Not Acceptable

## 5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 The community has been informed about the bridge condition and the bridge works over the past years during the project investigation and design stages through City of Port Phillip Website and social media.
- 5.2 The community will be further informed about the project construction works through multiple communication channels, such as:
- On-site signage
  - Letters
  - City of Port Phillip Website and social media
- 5.3 Melbourne Water have been consulted, and information has been provided to accelerate the permit process once the contractor is engaged.
- 5.4 Other key relevant service authorities have been consulted during the design process and have provided feedback during the design process.

## 6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The recommended tenderer holds and maintains all required insurances in accordance with the contract terms and conditions. This includes:
- WorkCover insurance
  - Plant and Motor Vehicle Comprehensive Insurance
  - Contract Works Insurance covering at least 100% of the contract sum
  - Public Liability Insurance with a minimum cover of \$20 million
- 6.2 Performance security: a bank guarantee of 5% (2 x 2.5%) of the contract sum must be provided.
- 6.3 A probity advisor, RSM Australia Pty Ltd provided probity advice throughout the procurement process and reviewed the tender and evaluation process to ensure that probity principles were adhered to.
- 6.4 As outlined in the attached confidential report, a financial risk assessment has been undertaken with the preferred tenderer.



- 6.5 As outlined in the attached confidential report, a financial risk assessment has been undertaken of the preferred tenderer.
- 6.6 Other legal and Risk Implications - Not proceeding with the project risks that the bridge's condition will continue to deteriorate, potentially increasing future maintenance costs and safety concerns. In addition, failure to address the identified issues may impact Council's reputation for effective asset management and timely project delivery.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPACT**

- 7.1 The estimated contract sum of \$1,919,340.94 excluding GST (\$2,111,275.03 including GST) falls within the projected budget allocation for this service.
- 7.2 Notes that Council has successfully secured Federal Government funding contributing up to 50% toward the project, through Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program (SLRIP).

## **8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

- 8.1 The contractor is required to manage all activities on site in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act and all other legislation.
- 8.2 The Broadway Bridge works will ensure longer asset lifespan and minimal maintenance which will result in lower environmental impact.

## **9. COMMUNITY IMPACT**

- 9.1 The Broadway Bridge works will ensure that the community will continue to have access through this bridge road.
- 9.2 The Broadway Bridge will be closed during the construction period to allow for efficient delivery of the works and to ensure the safety of both the public and construction workers.
- 9.3 Residents occasionally might be affected by construction operation noise.
- 9.4 A traffic management plan will be prepared to assist the safe movement of vehicles, pedestrians and cyclist.

## **10. GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 10.1 This project will improve accessibility for all genders.

## **11. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY**

- 11.1 The project aligns to Strategic Direction 3 of the adopted Council Plan 2025-35:
- Outcome - Our City supports new development that is appropriate, well-designed, and sustainable
  - Outcome - A City that is resilient and prepared for emergencies.
- 11.2 Council Officers sought collaborative opportunities with our neighbouring City of Stonington, however, they advised that they do not have any planned bridge works with an opportunity to collaborate.

## **12. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

### **12.1 TIMELINE**

- Contract finalisation and execution as soon as possible.

# MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL

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- Mobilisation works will commence upon notification to successful contractor, with construction works programmed to commence on site in May 2026.
- Construction commencement date is subject to obtaining the relevant permit as follows:
  - Melbourne Water Site Environmental Management Plan Permit (in-principle approval granted).

### 12.2 COMMUNICATION

12.2.1 Subject to Council's decision, the following will occur:

- Contract documentation will be prepared and forwarded to Waratah Constructions (VIC) Pty Ltd within 10 business days.
- All unsuccessful tenderers will be notified in writing and offered a telephone debrief with the TEP chairperson.
- A letter to residents, a website with regular updates about the project progress will go live, on-site signage will be installed, and social media will be used to inform the community.

### 13. OFFICER MATERIAL OR GENERAL INTEREST

13.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report has declared a material or general interest in the matter.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**    1. *Confidential*- Tender Evaluation Report



**11. A VIBRANT AND THRIVING COMMUNITY**

11.1 *South Melbourne Market Strategic Plan 2026-30 Adoption* ..... 145



**11.1 SOUTH MELBOURNE MARKET STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-30  
ADOPTION**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER: NELLIE MONTAGUE, ACTING GENERAL MANAGER, CITY DEVELOPMENT**

**PREPARED BY: SOPHIE MCCARTHY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SOUTH MELBOURNE MARKET**

**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To present the **South Melbourne Market Strategic Plan 2026-30** for adoption, a plan to guide Council's management of the South Melbourne Market to ensure its long-term success.
- 1.2 To present the **South Melbourne Market Strategic Plan Engagement Report**, a summary of the outcomes from a community consultation to inform the final Plan with key insights from the community and Market traders.

**2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1 South Melbourne Market's draft 2026–30 Strategic Plan (**the Plan**) sets a bold and community-driven direction for the next five years, guiding the Market through its 159th to 163rd years of operation.
- 2.2 The Plan builds on the foundations of the 2021–25 South Melbourne Market Strategic Plan, embedding financial sustainability and operational excellence into decision-making.
- 2.3 The Plan is structured around a renewed Vision, Purpose and four key priorities:
  - 2.3.1 Vision: To be a thriving, authentic local market for generations to come.
  - 2.3.2 Purpose:
    - To provide a vibrant marketplace where shoppers have access to a choice of quality, fresh produce and groceries, and a wide range of goods, services and dining experiences from thriving, knowledgeable, independent small businesses.
    - To provide a welcoming and inclusive place for people to eat, meet, connect, socialise and shop
  - 2.3.3 Priority 1: A Thriving Market – Supporting independent traders through fair appointment processes, expanded incubator programs, and a curated retail mix that reflects community needs. This includes a renewed focus on the fresh produce, grocery, essential goods and services categories, to ensure the Market continues to meet the needs of our local community.
  - 2.3.4 Priority 2: A Vibrant, Community Market – Enhancing social connection and discovery through activations, educational programs, and robust community engagement.
  - 2.3.5 Priority 3: An Authentic, Welcoming Market – Celebrating cultural heritage, improving accessibility, and fostering inclusivity and safety for all.
  - 2.3.6 Priority 4: A Sustainable and Resilient Market – Delivering major capital works (Project Connect), advancing environmental sustainability, advocating for



improvements beyond the Market's footprint, and ensuring financial and operational resilience.

- 2.4 Between 25 August and 28 September 2025, we sought input into the development of the Plan from our community including Market traders, workers, shoppers, visitors, residents, and local businesses via Council's Have Your Say platform, community engagement sessions and workshops, to inform the final draft.
- 2.5 The engagement program provided the following key community insights:
- 2.5.1 Support for the strategic direction outlined in the Plan was overwhelming, with an average of 89% of respondents supportive or very supportive of the Vision, Purpose and the four proposed Priorities.
- 2.5.2 The major themes captured through the Community engagement related to:
- Prioritising the needs of the local community: There was strong support for the Strategic plans' focus on remaining relevant to the local community – a key action within Priority 2 – A Vibrant, Community Market.
  - Increasing trading hours: In meeting the expectations of the local community, the trading hours and days are regularly reviewed. They will be reviewed in alignment with the delivery of the Market's major capital works program – Project Connect – with an option to opening an additional day when improvements to the infrastructure have been delivered. The delivery of Project Connect, and benefit realisation is a key action within Priority 3 – A Sustainable and Resilient Market.
  - Addressing traffic and visitor congestion and accessibility: Vehicle congestion receives significant negative feedback from the community. This ongoing concern is cited most often by our local's. This has been addressed in the Strategic Plan under Priority 4 – A Sustainable and Resilient Market where we will be '*advocating for improvements to transport options around the Market, including public transport upgrades and improved traffic conditions (addressing congestion) around the Market.*'

### 3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Notes the South Melbourne Market Strategic Plan Community Engagement Report that has informed the final draft of the Strategic Plan 2026-30. **(Attachment 2)**
- 3.2 Adopts the South Melbourne Market Strategic Plan 2026-30, a document that will guide the Market and support the vision to be a thriving, authentic local market for generations to come. **(Attachment 1)**
- 3.3 Authorises the Chief Executive Officer, or their delegate to make minor changes to the Strategic plan that do not materially alter its intent.

### 4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

#### 4.1 Background

The South Melbourne Market Strategic Plan 2026–30 builds upon the 2021–25 Strategic Plan, which focused on post-COVID recovery through financial sustainability and operational excellence. Most initiatives from that period are embedded in daily



decision-making, influencing and informing the retail mix, marketing and customer experience, and asset improvements.

Rooted in its legacy as a cherished public market since 1867, the Plan reaffirms the Market's commitment to being a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable destination for locals and visitors

#### 4.2 **Development Process**

The Plan was developed through a collaborative process involving:

- Market research and analysis
- Workshops with the South Melbourne Market Committee, traders, and the management team
- Community engagement via the City of Port Phillip's *Have Your Say* platform

This approach ensured the Plan reflects the aspirations and needs of the Market's diverse stakeholders.

#### 4.3 **Strategic Vision**

The Plan reaffirms the Market's commitment to being a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable destination for locals and visitors alike. While the primary focus remains on serving the local community, the Plan also seeks to attract destination shoppers, local workers, families, and tourists.

This Plan positions South Melbourne Market to remain an authentic, community-first destination, honouring its rich history while embracing innovation and future growth.

#### 4.4 **Key Measures**

Strategic measures include:

- Financial Operating Profit
- Occupancy (stalls under agreement)
- Trader satisfaction
- Visitor satisfaction
- Residents' satisfaction
- Waste diversion from landfill

#### 4.5 **Strategic Priorities:**

The Strategic Plan has identified four strategic priorities to ensure the successful future of the Market:

**Priority 1: A Thriving Market:** Focus: Support independent traders and maintain a curated retail mix.

##### **Key Actions:**

- Enhance the Trader Support Program with workshops, mentoring, and advocacy.
- Maintain strong two-way communication through portals, meetings, and newsletters.
- Implement a fair, transparent trader appointment process informed by research.
- Review and update the Retail Mix Framework, prioritising grocery and essential goods.



- Explore the expansion of the SO:ME Space Incubator program to include new categories such as food.

**Priority 2: A Vibrant, Community Market:** Focus: Deepen community engagement and create meaningful experiences.

**Key Actions:**

- Strengthen feedback channels for locals and update engagement frameworks.
- Promote the benefits of market shopping and trader expertise.
- Develop a Community Connection Plan with health and wellbeing programs.
- Expand market tours and kids' educational activities on food provenance and sustainability.
- Foster partnerships with aligned brands and organizations.

**Priority 3: An Authentic, Welcoming Market:** Focus: Celebrate heritage, inclusivity, and accessibility.

**Key Actions:**

- Align with Council's Reconciliation Action Plan and embed First Nations culture.
- Archive and share the Market's history through storytelling initiatives.
- Deliver a comprehensive Place Plan, including York Street redevelopment, retail precinct planning, and public space activation.
- Implement an Accessibility Action Plan and prioritize safety and cleanliness.

**Priority 4: A Sustainable and Resilient Market:** Focus: Futureproof infrastructure, lead in sustainability, and ensure strong governance.

**Key Actions:**

- Develop a Corporate Social Responsibility framework alongside the Environmental Sustainability Strategy.
- Deliver Project Connect capital works to improve compliance, access, and public realm.
- Invest in asset management and base build works for stall changeovers.
- Maintain robust financial, risk, and governance frameworks.
- Advocate for improved transport and congestion management around the Market.

4.6 **Strategic Shifts:**

4.6.1 **Retail Mix:**

The Plan identifies proposed strategic shifts in the retail mix over the next five to ten years to ensure the market's relevance to the local community and maintain the strong focus on grocery. This includes:

- **Grocery Category:**

Local grocery shoppers remain the Market's primary target audience, with grocery stalls representing 26% of total stalls and 61% of visitors citing grocery shopping as their main reason for visiting. Despite this strong demand, the number of grocery stalls has remained static over the past decade. To strengthen the Market's core proposition and better meet customer needs, an



increase of approximately 6% in grocery stall numbers is recommended over the next five to ten years as opportunities arise.

- General Merchandise Category:

The General Merchandise category currently accounts for 51% of stalls, yet only 6% of visitors identify it as their primary reason for visiting, and more than half of surveyed customers (53%) report insufficient knowledge of this category to provide a rating. This highlights an opportunity to raise awareness of the Market's non-food offer and encourage full market exploration and experiences. To maintain a balanced and relevant retail mix, and in alignment with the proposed 6% increase in grocery stalls, a strategic reduction of approximately 6% in non-food stalls is recommended over the next decade as opportunities arise.

- Food and Beverage Category:

Food and beverage (F&B) offerings currently represent 23% of stalls and have experienced the strongest growth in visitor appeal, with the proportion of customers citing F&B as their primary reason for visiting increasing from 20% to 32% over the past decade. The strategy recommends maintaining the current quota of F&B outlets to preserve balance across categories, while reviewing individual offers as F&B stalls change to ensure continued alignment with visitor expectations.

#### 4.6.2 Business Incubator Program:

The SO:ME Space Small Business Incubator has proven highly successful in supporting small General Merchandise businesses, enabling them to grow from incubation to permanent stalls. Building on this success, the strategy recommends exploring additional opportunities for incubator initiatives to foster entrepreneurship and ensure a dynamic, evolving retail mix that reflects community needs and emerging trends.

#### 4.6.3 Capital Works:

Retrofitting safety and compliance upgrades within the historic South Melbourne Market presents significant challenges, requiring essential infrastructure works to be delivered with minimal disruption to daily operations. The upcoming Project Connect construction phase will be closely managed to keep traders and the community informed and engaged. While disruptive, these capital works will enable an additional trading day, improve back-of-house facilities, and enhance trader productivity. The development of a new precinct along York Street offers a unique opportunity to celebrate the Market's heritage while embracing future growth, reinforcing its role as the community's preferred destination for shopping, connection, and experience.

#### 4.6.4 Corporate Social Responsibility:

It is essential for South Melbourne Market to embrace its role as a socially responsible community market, operating in a way that promotes health and wellbeing while remaining environmentally conscious and committed to leaving the planet in a better condition for future generations. Ethical business practices and strong governance are critical to meeting community and Council expectations, ensuring the Market remains relevant, trusted, and valued.



#### 4.6.5 Place Planning:

A comprehensive Place Plan is critical to ensuring South Melbourne Market's continued success as a vibrant public market and community hub. The plan will integrate placemaking principles to create inviting, inclusive spaces that foster social connection and cultural expression, while addressing congestion and prioritizing customer experience through intuitive wayfinding, engaging programming, and enhanced amenities. Retail precinct planning will maintain a balanced, future-ready category mix, and the design and activation of public spaces will support both everyday use and special events. Together, these elements will position the Market as a community-centric destination delivering economic, social, and cultural value.

### 4.7 Target Markets

4.7.1 Understanding and identifying our core target customers informs how we manage our marketing and curate our retail mix and has a direct impact on trader experience, and customer experience.

4.7.2 The following target markets have been identified through the work undertaken as part of the 2021-25 Strategic Plan and remain our core target markets for the 2026-30 Strategic Plan:

#### 4.7.3 Primary: Local Community

Our primary target audience is our regular shoppers that live locally, are fiercely loyal and have a regular and consistently high spend. This group consists of residents from South Melbourne and surrounding suburbs who visit the Market weekly for grocery shopping. Our strategic priority is to retain our loyal, regular shoppers, and convert more locals to do their regular grocery shop at the Market.

#### 4.7.4 Secondary: Destination Shoppers (Explorers); Young Professionals (Workers) and Youth and Children (Next Gen)

Each of our secondary target audiences are important and have unique attributes including high visitation and exploration across all categories (Explorers), regular visitation (Workers) and the ability to be converted into future 'locals' (The Next Gen).

#### 4.7.5 Tertiary: Tourists

Our tertiary audience forms an important part of our customer base and is driven by social media, word-of-mouth marketing and publicity, and they seek out an authentic market experience loved by locals.

## 5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

### 5.1 Community Engagement

5.1.1 The *Engagement Summary Report* (attachment 1) presents the findings of the community engagement in relation to the Plan. Below is a summary of the findings:

5.1.2 The survey asked people to rate their support for the draft vision of the Market:

***DRAFT VISION:***

*A world-class, thriving, local market for generations to come*



- **Feedback:** Overwhelming support (90% supportive or very supportive) for the proposed Vision, with key themes including supporting prioritising the needs of the local community and a significant amount of scepticism toward the term 'world class'.
- **Outcome:** We have adjusted our Vision and changed 'world-class' to 'authentic'. We believe this resonates better with the community, while world-class benchmarking will continue to inform areas such as sustainability, waste management practices and food education.

**Updated VISION: To be a thriving, authentic local market for generations to come**

5.1.3 The survey asked for feedback on our draft purpose for the Market:

**DRAFT PURPOSE:**

- *"To provide a vibrant marketplace where shoppers have access to a choice of quality, fresh produce and groceries, and a wide range of goods, services and dining experiences from knowledgeable independent small businesses.*
- *To provide a welcoming and inclusive place for people to eat, meet, shop, connect and socialise"*
- **Feedback:** Overwhelming support (92% supportive or very supportive) for the proposed Purpose. Participants again highlighted the importance of the Market serving the everyday needs of the local community. A significant number of respondents noted the importance to focus on fresh produce and grocery shopping over dining, retail and experiences. Many participants also highlighted price and affordability as missing from the proposed Market purpose.
- **Outcome:** The focus on fresh produce and grocery shopping is a key priority within the Strategic Plan, ensuring that the Market remains relevant to our local community and the Market is their first choice when shopping. Price and affordability are important in the retail mix, and needs to be balanced with quality, care and knowledge from local experienced traders.

5.1.4 The survey asked people to rate how supportive they were of our four proposed priorities over the next five years.

- **Priority 1: A Thriving Market:** 89% supportive / very supportive.  
The major themes related to the mix of stalls, prioritising the needs of the local community, increasing trading hours and addressing traffic congestion and accessibility.

There was strong support shown in relation to the Market providing a place where small, independent businesses can thrive and prosper, and strong support for the renewed focus on the grocery offer at the Market. Some respondents noted that the Market needs to prioritise the needs of the local community so they can continue to support the Market, and others noted the impact that overheads, rent and competition can have on product pricing.

This feedback is addressed in the Strategic Plan in the following areas:



- *A Thriving Market: A review and update of the Retail Mix in alignment with research and community feedback, with a renewed focus on grocery, essential goods and services categories, to ensure the Market continues to meet the needs of the local community*
- *A Vibrant, Community Market: Remaining relevant to the local community, and this includes reviewing trading hours.*
- *A Sustainable and Resilient Market: Advocating for improvements to transport options around the Market, including public transport upgrades, and improved traffic conditions to address congestion around the Market*

- **Priority 2: A Vibrant Community Market** – 89% supportive / very supportive.

There was strong support shown in relation to listening to the locals and the Market being a place for social connection.

This feedback is addressed in the Strategic Plan under *A Vibrant, Community Market*. We'll achieve this by:

- *Listening to our locals, making it easier for locals to provide constructive feedback on their market both in person and online.*
- *Review and update the Market Research and Community Engagement framework to ensure all relevant information, feedback and data is collated to inform Market decisions*

In line with other questions, there was also commentary around there being no need for change, addressing both traffic and visitor congestion, and increasing trading hours.

As in Priority 1, this feedback is addressed in the Strategic Plan.

- **Priority 3: A Sustainable and Resilient Market** - 88% supportive / very supportive.

A predominant theme related to environmental sustainability, namely, to reduce the amount of single-use plastic used by traders, increasing and/or promoting recycling efforts and incentivising sustainability initiatives for shoppers and traders. There was a mix of feedback in relation to transport, with some respondents noting the importance of shopping by car, and others calling for incentivisation and better facilities (such as bike racks) for those that cycle, walk or catch public transport.

This feedback is addressed in the Strategic Plan under *A Sustainable and Resilient Market* as follows:

- *Delivering initiatives and actions in line with the Market's Environmental Sustainability Strategy.*
- *Delivering Project Connect the major Capital Works program which will ensure building compliance by increasing the number of toilet facilities, aisle regrading, improved access to the rooftop carpark, and increased/improved public realm on York and Coventry Streets.*
- *As above, Advocating for improvements to transport options around the Market*



- **Priority 4: An Authentic, Welcoming Market** – 85% supportive / very supportive.

The predominant themes related to support for celebrating and sharing the history and culture of the Market, not modernising or changing the Market unnecessarily and providing a market / venue that is accessible and inclusive.

This feedback supports actions under this Strategic Priority, that we'll be a market:

- *That recognises and acknowledges traditional owners of the land on which the market rests*
- *That celebrates, protects and showcases its rich history and the people that have made this market a village*
- *Where everyone is welcome, respected, and feel included in all aspects of the market community*

## 6. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 6.1 The SMM 2026-30 Strategic Plan includes the requirement to be a responsibly managed and financially sustainable market.
- 6.2 It outlines the Market's requirement to have prudent financial management and high-quality risk management framework in line with Council and legislative requirement.

## 7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.1 The SMM 2026-30 Strategic Plan supports the Market's goal to be a leader in environmental sustainability in collaboration with traders, stakeholders and the community.
- 7.2 This includes delivering initiatives and actions in line with the Market's Environmental Sustainability Strategy which has set target for wiping out waste, transitioning towards a zero-carbon operation and reducing water use.

## 8. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 8.1 The Plan is a vision for a market that is much more than a shopping destination. It provides the community with social connection, a sense of discovery, a surprise around every corner, and cultural, seasonal and meaningful activations and events for the whole community to enjoy.
- 8.2 This Plan gives our commitment to our community that we will engage with them, ask for feedback, and conduct research to find out what they want from their local market; and we will provide added value to market shoppers via promotions, activations, education and information.
- 8.3 It also outlines the Market's intention to align to Council's Reconciliation Action Plan and strengthening our relationship with the Wurundjeri Corporation to embed the rich cultural history of the land and first nations people into the Market's future.

## 9. GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 A Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) is currently being drafted to support the Strategic Plan 2026–30. This assessment will ensure that all actions within the Plan are



considered and implemented through a gender and equity lens, promoting inclusivity and fairness in decision-making, programming, and infrastructure development.

- 9.2 By embedding gender-responsive practices, the Market will strengthen its commitment to creating a welcoming and equitable environment for all members of the community.

## 10. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

### 10.1 A healthy and Connected Community

The Council aims for a welcoming, diverse, collaborative community with equitable access to health, housing, and services. The Strategic Plan's focus on being an *Authentic, Welcoming Market* including cultural acknowledgment, inclusivity, accessibility initiatives directly support this. It fosters community cohesion, removes barriers for all visitors, and strengthens social connection.

### 10.2 An Environmentally Sustainable and Resilient City

Council prioritises climate resilience, expanded green space, biodiversity, community-led environmental efforts, emission reduction, and responsible waste management. This aligns with the Plan's *Sustainable and Resilient Market* priority, which outlines the goals of the Market's Environmental Sustainability Strategy setting targets for zero waste, carbon and water efficiency, and broader environmental sustainability—demonstrating leadership in ecological responsibility within the precinct.

### 10.3 A Safe and Liveable City

Council's vision includes safety, well-maintained infrastructure, appropriately designed development, ease of movement, emergency preparedness, and neighbourhood character. SMM's *Thriving Market* and *Authentic, Welcoming Market* priorities support this through infrastructure improvements (like Project Connect and streetscape enhancements), navigational wayfinding, advocating for effective traffic and safety management, to create a safer, more appealing Market environment.

### 10.4 A Vibrant and Thriving City

Council seeks vibrant arts, culture, lifelong learning, diversity, and a strong economy. The Plan's *Vibrant Community Market* and *Thriving Market* priorities reinforce this by nurturing independent retailers, incubator opportunities, diverse retail mixes, and community activations and events—enhancing both cultural vibrancy and economic vitality.

### 10.5 An Engaged and Empowered Community

Council commits to active engagement, informed residents and businesses, strong customer experience and advocacy. The Plan's *Vibrant Community Market* priority emphasises improved community and trader engagement, listening to the locals and empowering them to provide feedback at every level.

### 10.6 A trusted and High Performing Organisation

Council intends to be financially sustainable, efficient, a great workplace, with assets that meet future needs, and smart technology use. The Plan's *Sustainable and Resilient Market* priority mirrors these through its focus on financial resilience, risk and asset management and technology-enhanced operations ensuring operational excellence and strategic readiness.



## 11. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

### 11.1 COMMUNICATION

- 11.1.1 Once the Strategic Plan is adopted, it will be published on the South Melbourne Market website.
- 11.1.2 The Plan's Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and measures will be reported in South Melbourne Market Quarterly and Annual Reports.
- 11.1.3 The Plan's implementation progress will be reported in the South Melbourne Market Annual Reports.
- 11.1.4 The Community Engagement Report has been published to Council's Have Your Say website to close the consultation program for the Strategic Plan.

## 12. OFFICER MATERIAL OR GENERAL INTEREST

- 12.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report has declared a material or general interest in the matter.

### ATTACHMENTS

- 1. **South Melbourne Market Strategic Plan 2026-30**  
- 2. **SMM Strategic Plan Community Engagement Report**  























































































































**12. AN ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED COMMUNITY**

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**12.1** S6 INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION - COUNCIL TO MEMBERS OF STAFF

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** ROBYN BORLEY, GENERAL MANAGER, GOVERNANCE AND PERFORMANCE

**PREPARED BY:** KATRINA COLLINS, SENIOR GOVERNANCE COMPLIANCE ADVISOR  
MICHAEL MOWBRAY, ACTING MANAGER BUILDING AND PLANNING SERVICES

**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To present to Council an updated S6 Instrument of Delegation - Council to Members of Staff.

**2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The current S6 Instrument of Delegation - Council to Members of Staff was adopted by Council on 5 November 2025, and provides for Council staff to exercise the powers, duties and functions under various Acts and Regulations, subject to the limitations and conditions contained in the Instrument of Delegation.
- 2.2 Council subscribes to Maddocks' biannual legislative update service, receiving advice in January and July on changes affecting Council's Instruments of Delegation to ensure they remain current and compliant.
- 2.3 The Instrument of Delegation reflects amendments to the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* through the *Consumer and Planning Legislation Amendment (Housing Statement Reform) Act 2025*, which commenced on 25 November 2025 as shown in **Attachment 1**. These changes affect Council's powers and functions that may be delegated under section 188.

**3. RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

- 3.1 Delegates to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the offices or positions referred to in the S6 Instrument of Delegation - Council to Members of Staff (**Attachment 2**) the powers, duties and functions set out in that Instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that instrument.
- 3.2 The Common Seal of Council be affixed to the S6 Instrument of Delegation.
- 3.3 Notes that the S6 Instrument of Delegation comes into force immediately upon resolution and remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it.
- 3.4 On coming into force, the previous S6 Instrument of Delegation - Council to Members of Council Staff (dated 5 November 2025) is revoked.
- 3.5 Notes that the duties and functions set out in the Instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the S6 Instrument of Delegation must be executed, in accordance with any policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.
- 3.6 Authorises the CEO, or their delegate, to make administrative changes to the document to correct any titles and typographical errors, to enable the documents to be appropriately sealed.



#### 4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

4.1 The following legislative changes underpin the need for this delegation update:

##### New Council Powers:

4.2 Revised mechanism for preparing amendments to the planning scheme requiring Ministerial authorisation under new Division 1AA of Part 3 (ss 16A–16N).

4.3 Changes relating to abandonment of amendments and Minister's ability to continue despite abandonment.

##### Repealed Council Powers:

4.4 Provisions in ss 8A and 8B repealed; replaced by new powers in Division 1AA of Part 3.

##### Other Key Amendments

4.5 Levy exemption certificates (s 96UB) and record-keeping requirements (s 96Z).

4.6 Duty not to refer frivolous or irrelevant submissions to the panel (s 23(6)).

4.7 Ministerial guidelines on material detriment (s 52A) requiring Council consideration (ss 52(1D), 57B(2A), 96C(1A)).

#### 5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

5.1 The proposed instrument (**Attachment 2**) has been prepared based on the advice provided by Maddocks Lawyers and in consultation with relevant staff.

5.2 The review and update of delegations is an ordinary administrative function of Council and does not involve any public consultation.

#### 6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The review of the S6 Instrument of Delegation ensures that Council is responsibly administering its functions under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987 (as amended)*.

6.2 The proposed delegations contain exceptions, conditions and limitations which must be adhered to by the delegate.

6.3 This review of delegations confirms Council's compliance with section 11 the *Local Government Act 2020*.

#### 7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

7.1 The S6 Instrument of Delegation enable efficient administration of functions under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. There is no financial impact.

#### 8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

8.1 Not applicable

#### 9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

9.1 The S6 Instrument of Delegation ensures that the interests of the community in planning decision making are balanced against the legislative and reform provisions that seek efficient administration of planning applications.



## 10. GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 In the preparation of this report a Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) in accordance with the Gender Equality Act 2020 was not required.

## 11. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

11.1 The S6 Instrument of Delegation is integral to good governance of planning decision making and aligns with Council Strategic Direction: A Trusted and High-Performing Organisation.

## 12. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

### 12.1 TIMELINE

12.1.1 The S6 Instrument of Delegation (**Attachment 2**) comes into force immediately upon resolution and remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it.

### 12.2 COMMUNICATION



12.2.1 Staff with delegated functions under the S6 Instrument of Delegation will be immediately informed of the changes.

12.2.2 Under section 11 (8) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, and according with Council's Public Transparency Policy, a Register of Delegations must be maintained and made publicly available on Council's website.

## 13. OFFICER MATERIAL OR GENERAL INTEREST

13.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report has declared a material or general interest in the matter.

### ATTACHMENTS

1. S6 Instrument of Delegation to Members of Staff\_Planning and Environment Act 1987 Updates summary  [↓](#)
2. S6 Instrument of Delegation - Council to Members of Staff - 18 February 2026 Marked up Final  [↓](#)

































































































































































































































# MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL

## 18 FEBRUARY 2026



### 12.2 COUNCILLOR EXPENSES MONTHLY REPORTING - NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2025 AND JANUARY 2026

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** ROBYN BORLEY, GENERAL MANAGER, GOVERNANCE AND PERFORMANCE

**PREPARED BY:** MITCHELL GILLET, COORDINATOR COUNCILLOR AND EXECUTIVE SUPPORT

#### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To report on the expenses incurred by Councillors during November, December 2025 and January 2026 in accordance with the Councillor Expenses and Support Policy.

#### 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The *Local Government Act 2020* requires Council to maintain a policy in relation to the reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses for Councillors and members of delegated committees. Council endorsed its Councillor Expenses and Support Policy at the Council Meeting held on 19 June 2024.
- 2.2 The policy requires a monthly report on Councillor allowances and expenses to be tabled at a Council meeting in addition to publishing the monthly report on Council's website.
- 2.3 The report outlines the total amount of expenses and support provided to Councillors and is detailed by category of support. Any reimbursements made by Councillors are also included in this report.

#### 3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Notes the monthly Councillor expenses reports for:
  - November 2025 (attachment 1)
  - December 2025 (attachment 2)
  - January 2026 (attachment 3);
- 3.2 Notes that these will be made available on Council's website.

#### 4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 The *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) provides that councillors and members of delegated committees are entitled to be reimbursed for bona fide out-of-pocket expenses that have been reasonably incurred while performing their role, and that are reasonably necessary to perform their role.
- 4.2 The management of expenses is governed by the updated Councillor Expenses and Support Policy (the Policy), developed in accordance with the requirements of the Act and adopted by Council on 19 June 2024.
- 4.3 The Policy sets out the process for submitting requests for support and/or reimbursement. All requests are required to be assessed by officers prior to processing.



- 4.4 All requests for reimbursement must be lodged with officers for processing no later than 30 days from the end of the calendar month, except for the month of June where claims must be submitted within 7 days. Claims for reimbursement lodged outside this timeline will not be processed unless resolved by Council.
- 4.5 To accurately capture expenses, monthly reports are prepared no earlier than 30 days following the end of the month and generally reported at the next available Council meeting cycle. This means that reports are generally presented in a 2-3 month rolling cycle.
- 4.6 Notes the variations in *Information and Communication Technology* charges are due to the number of devices requested by those Councillors, such as the use of an iPad as well as a mobile phone and additional data packages.
- 4.7 Notes the higher *Information and Communication Technology* charges attributed to certain councillors in the months of November and December 2025 and January 2026 are for International Roaming being enabled on respective councillor's council issued devices to allow them to participate in official Council business while overseas.
- 4.8 Notes that the *Family and Childcare* charges attributed to Cr Cunsolo in November 2025 are made up of two claims from June and September 2025. These claims must be resolved by council before the reimbursement is processed in accordance with the Councillor Expense and Support Policy.
- 4.9 Notes that on 12 November 2025, Cr Alex Makin was elected to the position of Mayor.
- 4.10 Mayor Makin elected not to make use of the mayoral vehicle and as such, the monthly vehicle operating charges will not be attributed against his name for the term of his mayoralty.

## 5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 No community consultation is required for the purposes of this report.
- 5.2 A copy of Councillor expense reports will be provided to the Audit and Risk Committee.

## 6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The provision of expenses and support to Councillors is governed by the *Local Government Act 2020*, and Council's adopted policy.

## 7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 7.1 Provision of support and expenses for Councillors is managed within Council's approved operational budgets.

## 8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 8.1 There are no direct environmental impacts as a result of this report.

## 9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 9.1 This report provides to the community transparency and accountability by publicly disclosing expenses and support accessed by Councillors.

## 10. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 10.1 Reporting on Councillor expenses delivers on Strategic Direction 5 – An Engaged and Empowered Community.

# MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL

## 18 FEBRUARY 2026






### 11. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

- 11.1 Council reports to the community monthly on the expenses and reimbursements provided to Councillors.
- 11.2 Officers will publish monthly expense reports to Council's website once adopted.

### 12. OFFICER MATERIAL OR GENERAL INTEREST

- 12.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report has declared a material or general interest in the matter.

- ATTACHMENTS**
- 1. Declaration of Councillor Expenses - November 2025  [↓](#)
  - 2. Declaration of Councillor Expenses - December 2025  [↓](#)
  - 3. Declaration of Councillor Expenses - January 2026  [↓](#)

























# MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL

## 18 FEBRUARY 2026



### 12.3 STATUS OF COUNCIL DECISIONS AND QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE RECORDED BY COUNCIL: 1 OCTOBER - 31 DECEMBER 2025

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** ROBYN BORLEY, GENERAL MANAGER, GOVERNANCE AND PERFORMANCE

**PREPARED BY:** EMILY WILLIAMS, SENIOR COUNCIL BUSINESS ADVISOR

#### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide Councillors with an update on the status of all Resolutions passed by Council at Council and Planning Committee Meetings between 1 July to 30 September 2021 October - 31 December 2025 and the status of actions that were previously reported as outstanding in the last quarterly status report.
- 1.2 To provide Council with an update on the status of Questions Taken on Notice during Council Meetings from 1 October - 31 December 2025.

#### 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

##### Council Resolutions

- 2.1 The implementation status of Council Resolutions is a vital measure of Council's performance. This process may also assist reporting for the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework.
- 2.2 There has been a total of 57 Resolutions (decisions) that have been made by Council, in Council and Planning Committee meetings open to members of the public, between the period of 1 October - 31 December 2025. Of these, 11 decisions remain open/outstanding.
- 2.3 There were four further decisions that were made in Council meetings closed to members of the public. These confidential decisions have been completed.
- 2.4 This report includes a further 12 decisions that remain outstanding and a further 5 decisions that have been completed from previous reporting periods (that is, prior to 1 October 2025).
- 2.5 This report is a report in time and is representative of decisions made by Council in the period 1 October - 31 December 2025.

##### Questions taken on notice

- 2.6 At each meeting, provision is made at the beginning for members of the public and for Councillors to ask general questions. Questions relating to a topic on the agenda are not permitted during this time however can be asked prior to the discussion of that item. When a question is unable to be responded to at the time, it is taken 'on notice' for a response to be provided.
- 2.7 The response status of Questions taken on Notice during Council meetings is a measure of Council's engagement and communication with the community.
- 2.8 A total of 14 questions were taken on notice during the period 1 October - 31 December 2025 in Council meetings open to members of the public. A copy of the responses to each of these questions has been made available on the website: [Meetings and Agendas - City of Port Phillip](#)



- 2.9 A summary of responses to questions taken on notice during this reporting period are contained in Attachment 3 to this report.

### 3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Notes the implementation status of Council and Planning Committee Resolutions as contained in Attachments 1 and 2.
- 3.2 Notes the response status of questions taken on notice during Council Meetings as contained in Attachment 3.

### 4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 Accountability is a fundamental requirement of good governance. Council has an obligation to report, explain and be answerable for the consequences of decisions it has made on behalf of the community.
- 4.2 Reporting on the progress of the implementation of Council resolutions provides Council with the information it needs to demonstrate its accountability to the community.
- 4.3 Decisions of Council should be implemented in an effective, timely, appropriate, and responsive manner that makes the best use of the available people, resources, and time to ensure the best possible results.

#### 4.4 Council Resolutions

- 4.4.1 A resolution made by Council is when an officer recommendation or a Councillor's motion is adopted at a Council Meeting or Planning Committee (i.e., a decision has been made). Once a decision on a recommendation has been made, it turns into a resolution. These resolutions are tracked through an internal system.
- 4.4.2 Attachments 1 and 2 of this report include a summary of the actions taken to implement resolutions where required, or confirmation that Council has noted items where appropriate. The summary of actions has been compiled and divided into the following categories:
- Status of Resolutions made at Council Meetings – Outstanding
  - Status of Resolutions made at Council Meetings and Planning Committee Meetings – Completed
- 4.4.3 The Status of Resolutions documents include resolution of officer's reports, notices of motion, petitions and joint letters, and items of urgent business. Resolution of procedural motions (i.e., attendances and apologies, closing the meeting to discuss confidential items) have not been included.
- 4.4.4 Some of the reasons that resolutions have not been fully implemented may relate to consultation processes being undertaken, awaiting legal advice, or waiting for documents to be executed.
- 4.4.5 Where it is expected that a resolution may take a longer time to fully implement, the expected completion date has been extended.



#### **4.5 Questions taken on notice**

4.5.1 At each meeting, provision is made at the beginning for members of the public and for Councillors to ask general question/s. Questions relating to a topic on the agenda are not permitted during this time but can be asked prior to the discussion of that item. When a question is unable to be responded to at the time, it is taken 'on notice' for a response to be provided.

4.5.2 Attachment 3 of this report includes a summary of questions asked and a link to where the responses to those questions has been published on Council's website.

#### **5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS**

5.1 This report provides Council and the community with an update on the implementation of outcomes of council decisions.

#### **6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 If decision-making is open and able to be followed by observers, it is more likely that all relevant legal requirements will be complied with.

#### **7. FINANCIAL IMPACT**

7.1 There are no financial impacts arising from this report.

#### **8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

8.1 There are no environmental impacts arising from this report.

#### **9. COMMUNITY IMPACT**

9.1 Making decisions and having to account for them in an open and transparent way encourages honest consideration of issues by Councillors and promotes community confidence in the decision-making process.

9.2 Members of the community should be able to follow and understand the decision-making process. This means that they will be able to clearly see where a decision was made, and how this decision was implemented.

#### **10. GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

10.1 This report is a status report of decisions made by Council and does not require a Gender Impact Assessment to be completed.

#### **11. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY**

11.1 Reporting on the progress of Council resolutions delivers on Strategic Direction 5 of the Plan for Port Phillip 2025-35 (An engaged and Empowered Community), by providing a transparent and good governance approach to decision making.

11.2 Good decision-making processes helps people feel that Council will act in the community's overall interest. It also encourages Councils to remember that they are acting on behalf of their community and helps them to understand the importance of having open and ethical processes which adhere to the law and stand up to scrutiny.

# MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL 18 FEBRUARY 2026






## 12. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

### 12.1 TIMELINE

12.1.1 Council receives ongoing reporting on the status of implementation of Council Decisions, and questions taken on notice at Council Meetings, on a quarterly basis.

## 13. OFFICER MATERIAL OR GENERAL INTEREST

13.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report has declared a material or general interest in the matter.

- ATTACHMENTS**
1. Completed Decisions 1 October - 31 December 2025  [↓](#)
  2. Outstanding Decisions as at 31 December 2025  [↓](#)
  3. Questions taken on notice - 1 October - 31 December 2025  [↓](#)























































































**13. A TRUSTED AND HIGH PERFORMING ORGANISATION**

13.1 *Mid-year 2025-26 Financial Review*..... 392

13.2 *Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National Assembly Motions*  
..... 417



**13.1** **MID-YEAR 2025-26 FINANCIAL REVIEW**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** **ROBYN BORLEY, GENERAL MANAGER, GOVERNANCE AND PERFORMANCE**

**PREPARED BY:** **PETER LIU, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To provide Council with an overview of the results of the mid-year 2025/26 Financial review including performance to budget (as required under Section 97 of the Local Government Act 2020) and seek approval for any unbudgeted items.

**2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1 On 23 June 2025, Council adopted the Plan for Port Phillip 2025-35 and Budget 2025/26 which a cumulative cash surplus of \$0.54 million.
- 2.1.1 The cumulative cash surplus derived through the Income Statement Converted to Cash is used as the key financial measure to ensure prudent financial management by maintaining a modest cumulative cash surplus.
- 2.1.2 Budget 2025/26 included a business-as-usual approach, however required sound financial control to manage several challenges including persistent inflation, cost pressures and required continuing focus to meet the annual efficiency saving target.
- 2.2 As part of the mid-year financial review the 2025/26 cumulative cash surplus declined to \$0.22 million due to the following material movements:
- 2.2.1 \$1.77 million efficiency savings achieved this year, of which \$1.42 million are ongoing and will be embedded into the development of Budget 2026/27. Efficiency savings have been achieved primarily through improvement to parking infringements revenue following refinement of operations, dedicated resourcing to manage infringement volumes and the multi-offender program, rationalisation of department budget without impact to services, management of insurance premiums, organisational re-alignment, successful objections to land tax payable on land acquisitions. Additional efficiency initiatives are currently under review.
- 2.2.2 (\$0.17) million reductions in the opening cash surplus carried forward from 2024/25.
- 2.2.3 (\$0.67) million increase expenditure following the awarding of the Tree Maintenance & Management Contract and the Open Space Maintenance Contract.
- 2.2.4 (\$0.70) million lower long-day care utilisations in the first half of the year. Officers are undertaking steps to improve utilisation.
- 2.2.5 (\$0.60) million lower parking revenue in the December quarter following a La Nina cooler and wetting weather pattern. This is partially offset by lower doubtful debt provisioning for Fines Victoria infringement debtors due to sustained higher recovery levels.
- 2.2.6 Other changes with no impact to cash surplus including:

# MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL

## 18 FEBRUARY 2026



- \$6.5 million of external contributions related to additional project expenditure at South Melbourne Town Hall and Elwood Foreshore Facilities development.
- (\$1.78) million reductions in grants income due to early receipt of 2025/26 Grants Commission funding in the 2024/25 financial year (held in tied grants)
- (\$0.60) million for the extension of the Kerbside Collection Waste Contract including a one-off payment for the contractor to implement a series of service-optimisations to improve reliability and efficiency, reduce underlying costs, and support Council's service transformation objectives. This will be funded by a drawdown on the Waste Charge Reserve.
- \$5.72 million – net reduction in capital project expenditure mainly due to deferrals to 2026/27 and future years. Key projects include Broadway Bridge Superstructure, St Kilda Adventure Playground, Queens Lane Pedestrian Improvements, and Electronic Security Expansion.

2.2.7 There were also several movements that were caused by the amendments to AASB 13 Fair Value measurement that were applied at 30 June 2025 and resulted in an increase in \$194 million Council's asset valuation. This has resulted in:

- (\$4.0) million increase in depreciation due to higher asset values.
- \$2.8 million re-classification of expenditure from operating to capital due to AASB 13 Fair Value enabling greater scope for capitalisation of expenditure.

2.3 Council's updated forecast operating surplus has reduced by \$0.6 million from original budget of \$15.0 million to a forecast \$14.4 million. This decrease is primarily due to capital contributions for project works, partially offset by increased depreciation arising from Accounting Standard AASB13 valuation changes. Full details are contained in Attachment 1 financial statements including financial statements and commentary on material variances.

2.4 Council's financial sustainability risk rating is expected to maintain an overall low risk rating per the Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) financial sustainability indicators, which is as budgeted.

2.5 That said, the mid-year review has posed several financial challenges for Council including ongoing utilisation challenges for Council' run long day care and aged care service, increasing number of Build to Rent developments not required to pay open space contribution, ongoing impacts of high inflation and a competitive recruitment market. Additional information is included in section 6.0 of this report.

2.6 Furthermore, cost shifting continues to pose a significant threat to Council's financial sustainability. In addition to substantial increases passed on by the State Government through the congestion levy and waste levy, both rising well above inflation and the rates cap, Council has been notified of further cost shifts, including:

2.6.1 A 16% increase in Parking Lodgement Fee payable to Fines Victoria is expected, resulting in an estimated additional cost of \$0.36 million per annum.



- 2.6.2 A 100% increase in Animal Registration Fee payable to State Government Agency, equating to approximately \$0.06 million per annum.
- 2.6.3 Impacts of recently announced Planning legislative changes to be reviewed.
- 2.7 The total Capital Project Investment remains on budget with a 2025/26 forecast of \$74.1 million. Project delivery for 2025/26 remains a key focus for Council noting that many projects continue to be impacted by latent conditions, external dependency and resourcing challenges. A summary of project deferrals and significant movements for the year has been listed in attachment 2.

### 3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Notes that full year cumulative cash surplus is \$0.22 million which is \$0.32 million lower than budget of \$0.54 million.
- 3.2 Notes attachment 1 – Financial Statements with accompanying explanatory notes.
- 3.3 Notes the update to the statutory Coastal Adaptation Plan, which will support Council to manage its increasing coastal hazards, vulnerabilities and risks. The comprehensive plan is expected to be completed by 2027/28 and will include vulnerability assessment informed by updated Melbourne Water flood modelling, as well as the adoption of Council's Foreshore Management Plan. Extensive consultation and review will be undertaken with the community, key stakeholders, State agencies and Community Reference Group.
- 3.4 Approves the provisional increase of \$650,000 to the 10-year financial plan phased over 2026/27 and 2027/28 to enable completion of the Coastal Adaptation Plan and provides certainty for the fixed-term staff engaged on the project.
- 3.5 Notes attachment 2 – Portfolio updates.
- 3.6 Notes in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Act, the Chief Executive Officer supported by the Chief Financial Officer, concludes that a revised budget for 2025/26 is not required.
- 3.7 Authorises the Chief Executive Officer, or their delegate, to reflect any changes made by Council at tonight's meeting, and to make minor typographical corrections (including in any attachments to this report) before final publication.

### 4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

#### Overview

- 4.1 The organisation carries out a monthly review of all operating revenue and expenditure as well as the project portfolio, which is then reported as part of the monthly CEO Report. In addition to this, a detailed quarterly update is presented to Council for the first, second and third quarters, followed by the annual report at year end.
- 4.2 The results for the quarterly financial reviews are presented to Council using two sets of performance reporting instruments:
  - 4.2.1 The Comprehensive Income Statement Converted to Cash.
  - 4.2.2 The Victorian Auditor General Office's (VAGO) Financial Sustainability Indicators.



### **Comprehensive Income Statement Converted to Cash**

- 4.3 We use the Comprehensive Income Statement Converted to Cash to ensure prudent financial management by maintaining a modest cumulative cash surplus.
- 4.4 Councils forecast cumulative cash surplus for 2025/26 has been updated following the mid-year financial review to \$0.22 million, which is \$0.32 million lower than budget of \$0.54 million (Attachment 1).
- 4.5 Council's forecast operating surplus has decreased by \$0.6 million from budget of \$15.0 million to forecast \$14.4 million. Full details are contained in Attachment 1 financial statements including financial statements and commentary on material variances. The following section provides a high-level overview of key movements.
- 4.6 Net revenue increased by \$1.5 million mainly due to:**
- 4.6.1 \$7.2 million of net external contributions and grants related to projects offset by additional project expenditure including South Melbourne Town Hall renewal, Elwood Foreshore Facilities development, Children Centres upgrade, Pedestrian safety improvements, and blackspot funding.
- 4.6.2 \$0.70 million increase in parking infringement income due to higher volumes of infringements and improved collections through the multi-offender program.
- 4.6.3 \$0.26 million additional rental income for the short-term lease of the Australia Post site.
- 4.6.4 \$0.23 million funding provided to enable Council to backfill staff seconded to the Department of Health Maternal Child Health System Project - Phase 2 (offset by employee costs).
- 4.6.5 \$0.18 million additional funding secured through the E-scooter program, with all revenue used to fund transport infrastructure requirements.
- 4.6.6 (\$4.1m) Funding for the Sandridge Recreation Precinct updated to align with the revised project timeline following delays arising from site demolition and master plan development.
- 4.6.7 (\$1.78) million reductions in grants income due to early receipt of 2025/26 Victorian Grants Commission General Purpose funding in the 2024/25 financial year.
- 4.7 Net expenditure increase of (\$2.1) million mainly due to:**
- 4.7.1 \$0.45 million permanent efficiency savings achieved primarily through rationalisation of department budget without impact to services, management of insurance premiums, organisational re-alignment and successful objections to land tax payable on land acquisitions. Further efficiency savings are still in review.
- 4.7.2 \$2.8 million re-classification of expenditure from operating to capital following the amendments to AASB 13 Fair Value measurement that were applied at 30 June 2025 enabled greater scope for capitalisation of expenditure and therefore higher depreciation charge.
- 4.7.3 \$0.81 million decrease in operating spend within capital projects due to works completed in advance in 2024/25.



- 4.7.4 (\$0.18) million e-scooter related expenditure which includes line marking and transport infrastructure requirements (offset by income).
- 4.7.5 (\$0.23) million additional employee costs to backfill staff seconded to the Department of Health Maternal Child Health System Project - Phase 2 (offset by grant income).
- 4.7.6 (\$0.37) million increase to operating project delivery in 2025/26 predominately due to deferrals from 2024/25 after budget adoption (offset by reserves)
- 4.7.7 (\$0.60) million extension of the Kerbside Collection Waste Contract including a one-off payment to the contractor for a series of service-optimisations to improve reliability and efficiency, reduce underlying costs, and support Council's service transformation objectives. This will be funded by a drawdown on the Waste Charge Reserve.
- 4.7.8 (\$0.67) million increases in expenditure due following the awarding of the Tree Maintenance & Management Contract and the Open Space Maintenance Contract including:
  - (\$0.57) million for one off transition costs related to the implementation of the new contracts
  - (\$0.10) million for ongoing contract increase. Noting that ongoing costs increase significantly in 2026/27 by \$1.4 million with improvement to services.
- 4.7.9 (\$1.40) million increase in employee costs to fund Enterprise Agreement outcomes (funded through reserves from prior years savings)
- 4.7.10 (\$4.00) million increase in depreciation (non-cash) following the amendments to AASB 13 Fair Value measurement that were applied at 30 June 2025 and resulted in an increase in \$194 million increase in Council asset valuation.

#### **4.8 Net capital expenditure on budget:**

- 4.8.1 \$0.01 million net movement capital works; \$9 million additional funding for projects such as South Melbourne Town Hall and Elwood Foreshore Facilities Development is offset by \$10.8 million of project deferrals including Broadway Bridge and Sandridge Recreation Precinct.
- 4.8.2 See capital works statement for detailed breakdown (Attachment 1).
- 4.9 The forecasted net drawdown on council reserves has decreased by \$3.5 million. This is primary due to timing changes for portfolio delivery and additional grants funding for projects. See reserve movements notes in Attachment 1 for detailed breakdown.

#### **Assessment against VAGO Financial Sustainability Indicators**

- 4.10 Council's decision-making is reflected by the principles of sound financial management, to ensure our financial position is sustainable. We assess our financial performance using the VAGO financial sustainability indicators.
- 4.11 Council is forecasting a low-risk financial sustainability rating, highlighted by the seven VAGO financial indicators below:



Indicator	Forecast 2025/26	Budget 2025/26	Variance	Risk
Net Result	5.0%	5.2%	(0.2%)	Low
Adjusted Underlying Result	(2.5%)	(1.1%)	(1.4%)	High
Working Capital	253%	231%	22%	Low
Internal Financing	69%	71%	(2%)	High
Indebtedness	3.1%	2.6%	(0.5%)	Low
Capital Replacement	257%	300%	(43%)	Low
Infrastructure Renewal Gap	189%	196%	(7%)	Low
<b>Overall financial sustainability risk rating</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>No Change</b>	<b>Low</b>

4.12 The indicators generally need to be considered from a medium to long-term trend perspective rather than for the current financial year. A medium rating over one or two years is acceptable particularly in response to short-term events but over the medium to long-term, Council aims to achieve a low-risk rating overall.

**4.13 Net Result:**

4.13.1 Net Result assesses Council's ability to generate an operating surplus. The greater the result, the stronger the operating surplus. Budget 2025/26 included a 5.2 per cent net result due to an operating surplus of \$14.99m.

4.13.2 The Net Result has decreased to a forecast of 5.0 per cent for 2025/26, maintaining a low-risk rating, supported by a forecast operating surplus of \$14.4 million.

**4.14 Adjusted Underlying Result:**

4.14.1 Adjusted Underlying Result assesses Council's ability to generate surplus in the ordinary course of business excluding non-recurrent capital grants and contributions to fund capital expenditure from net result.

4.14.2 A small or negative underlying result is normally budgeted due to the reliance on external funding/contributions to fund our infrastructure assets works. For instance, Open Space Contributions are collected, held in reserve, and use when required to fund upgrades, expansion and new public open space.

4.14.3 The Adjusted Underlying Result has decreased and maintains a high-risk result. This ratio is not a key focus for Council as open space contributions remain an ongoing funding source for open space and recreational facilities.

**4.15 Workings Capital:**

4.15.1 This working capital ratio assesses Council's ability to pay short-term liabilities as they fall due (current assets/ current liabilities).



4.15.2 Council has no working capital issues at the forecast 253 per cent with a low-risk rating.

**4.16 Internal Financing:**

4.16.1 The internal financial ratio assesses Council's ability to finance capital works using cash generated from its operations. A ratio below 100 per cent means cash reserves or borrowing are being used to fund capital works & major strategies, which is acceptable on occasions (short-term). A ratio above 100 per cent means that cashflows from operations are great than net capital outlays.

4.16.2 Internal financing was budgeted for 2025/26 at 71 per cent due to the significant capital portfolio planned in 2025/26 which is largely funded from drawdown on reserves. Internal financing is projected to increase back over 100 per cent in future years.

4.16.3 The internal financing rating has decreased marginally to 69 per cent in forecast 2025/26 due to the change in mix of capital cashflows.

**4.17 Indebtedness:**

4.17.1 The indebtedness ratio assesses Council's ability to repay its non-current debt from its own source revenue.

4.17.2 This indicator shows a low risk for Council with a forecast of 3.1 per cent which is higher than budget and significantly lower than the 40 per cent target. Council has no current or planned borrowings in Budget 2025/26 and Long-Term Financial Plan.

**4.18 Capital Replacement:**

4.18.1 The capital replacement ratio assesses whether Council's overall cash spend in renewing, growing and improving its asset base is enough.

4.18.2 Capital replacement has decrease to 257 per cent (maintains a low-risk rating) caused by the \$4 million increase in depreciation following the amendments to AASB 13 Fair Value measurement that were applied at 30 June 2025 and resulted in an increase in \$194 million increase in Council asset valuation.

**4.19 Infrastructure Renewal Gap:**

4.19.1 The infrastructure renewal gap ratio assesses Council's spend on its asset base is keeping up with the rate of asset depletion (depreciation).

4.19.2 Forecast 2025/26 shows a decline in the infrastructure renewal gap compared to Budget 2025/26 based on the same reasons as capital replacement.

4.19.3 That said, it is significantly greater than the 120 per cent target.

**Project Portfolio Update**

4.20 Portfolio deferrals and significant movements are published monthly in the CEO Report. Those identified in the mid-year review have been listed in attachment 2.

4.21 The key challenges impacting delivery continue to be:

4.21.1 Construction costs: Tenders and cost plans are still returning with significant increase in costs compared to budget.



- 4.21.2 Third Party Approvals: Delays in receiving external approvals (outside Council's control).
- 4.21.3 Contractor availability: Competition for resources for design and construction with the State Government Big Build and other Councils that are at the same point in delivery of their council plans.
- 4.21.4 Resource market: recruitment is still competitive for project management and specialised roles.
- 4.21.5 Latent conditions and external dependency: delayed caused by service authority works.

### **Budget Requests**

- 4.22 The quarterly review process is also used to identify and assess urgent and unbudgeted expenditure proposals. No budget requests are identified in the mid-year review for 2025/26.
- 4.23 However, the development of the Coastal Adaptation Plan has been updated with revised timeline and provisional request for funding in 2026/27 and 2027/28.
- 4.24 This statutory plan supports Council to manage its increasing coastal hazards, vulnerabilities and risks. The comprehensive plan is expected to be completed by 2027/28 and will include vulnerability assessment informed by updated Melbourne Water flood modelling, as well as the adoption of Council's Foreshore Management Plan. Extensive consultation and review will be undertaken with the community, key stakeholders, State agencies and Community Reference Group.
- 4.25 To provide certainty for the fixed-term staff engaged on the project and reduce the potential delays from resourcing risk, a provisional increase of \$650,000 to the 10-year financial plan is being asked of Council to enable completion of this plan.

## **5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS**

- 5.1 The quarterly budget review and consideration of unbudgeted initiatives has been conducted after engagement with relevant stakeholders from across the business if required.

## **6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 As outlined in section 4, the Council's financial sustainability risk is considered low based on projections resulting from the mid-year financial review (as budgeted). However, there are several specific risks that Council is facing:
  - 6.1.1 Childcare utilisation continues to pose significant risk for Council. While there has been an improvement in long day care utilisation from 60% to 65% since February 2025, it is still below the short-term target of 75%. Officers are progressing on agreed actions including service review of children centres however it is unlikely that Council will achieve average 75% across the year.
  - 6.1.2 Persistent inflation continues to impact tender outcomes and annual contract pricing reviews – this is increasing our services cost base and portfolio delivery costs, which we are managing with tight fiscal controls. Several high-risk high-value procurements have recent occurred and resulted in significant increases to Council's cost bases.



6.1.3 There are ongoing risks that further build to rent developments will be approved. These developments are not required to provide council with open space contributions – despite population increasing. Impact of known developments equates up to \$10m loss to council of open space contributions. These contributions are vital to fund our growing public and open space portfolio.

6.1.4 The portfolio (including both capital and operating programs) continues to experience delivery risks for current and future years. The portfolio has been heavily review reviewed as part of the development of Budget 2025/26 to right size the portfolio however still poses a significant delivery risk for Council.

6.2 Cost shifting continues to pose a significant threat to Council's financial sustainable as highlighted during budget development. Recent announcements from the Victorian Government indicate further cost shifting, including:

6.2.1 A 16% increase in Parking Lodgement Fee payable to Fines Victoria is expected, resulting in an estimated additional cost of \$0.36 million per annum.

6.2.2 A 100% increase in Animal Registration Fee payable to State Government Agency, equating to approximately \$0.06 million per annum.

6.2.3 Impacts of recently announced Planning legislative changes to be reviewed.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPACT**

7.1 Budget 2025/26 was adopted with a surplus of \$0.54 million. As at mid-year the surplus has decreased to \$0.22 million (see Attachment 1).

7.2 Council is forecasting a low-risk financial sustainability rating at mid-year.

## **8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

8.1 The mid-year financial review includes adjustments to Council's project portfolio and considers delivery and environmental impacts.

## **9. COMMUNITY IMPACT**

9.1 The updated financial information presented as part of the mid-year financial 2025/26 review including ongoing careful financial management will continue to deliver benefits to the community and support to the local economy.

## **10. GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

10.1 Gender Impact Assessments (GIA) have not yet been completed for the budget requests and will be completed if the requests are approved.

## **11. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY**

11.1 The mid-year review 2025/26 supports strategic direction – “A trusted a high-performing organisation” as a city that is a leading local government authority, where our community and our organisation are in a better place as a result of our collective efforts. This review helps to ensure that Port Phillip Council is cost-effective, efficient and delivers with speed, simplicity, and confidence.

## **12. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

### **12.1 TIMELINE**

12.1.1 The initiatives proposed can commence immediately if approved by Council.

### **12.2 COMMUNICATION**

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12.2.1 Since the Budget was set new information on the costs of initiatives and accuracy of forecasts has been received.

12.2.2 These changes are reflected in updated forecasts in the monthly CEO report. This includes major changes including deferrals associated with the project portfolio.

12.2.3 While Council's financial position remains sound, there are financial risks materialising. Council is required to continue managing its finances prudently

### 13. OFFICER MATERIAL OR GENERAL INTEREST

13.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report has declared a material or general interest in the matter.

- ATTACHMENTS**
1. **Financial Statements - December 2025**  [↓](#)
  2. **Portfolio movements - December 2025**  [↓](#)

































**13.2 AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (ALGA)  
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MOTIONS**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER: ROBYN BORLEY, GENERAL MANAGER, GOVERNANCE AND PERFORMANCE**

**PREPARED BY: JAMES GULLAN, ACTING MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS AND GOVERNANCE  
ELIZABETH COWIN, COORDINATOR ADVOCACY, GRANTS & PARTNERSHIP**

**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To seek Council endorsement to submit motions to the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly (NGA)

**2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1 Each year, the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) hosts the National General Assembly (NGA), providing an opportunity for councils across Australia to advocate on nationally significant issues. Submissions for motions to the 2026 NGA close on 27 February 2026.
- 2.2 While ALGA does not require formal Council endorsement of motions, it is considered sound governance practice for Council to review and approve proposed motions prior to submission. The theme for the 2026 Assembly is “Stronger Together: Resilient. Productive. United.”
- 2.3 Council officers have prepared motions aligned with Council’s endorsed advocacy priorities. These motions focus on national challenges including securing dedicated investment in open space and community infrastructure, supporting homelessness prevention, strengthening social cohesion and anti-racism efforts, and promoting equitable, transit-oriented urban renewal.
- 2.4 Council endorsement is now sought to submit the proposed motions to the 2026 National General Assembly and to authorise the Chief Executive Officer to make non-material amendments to ensure regional alignment where appropriate.

**3. RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

- 3.1 Endorses the submission of motions to the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly on the following themes:
- 3.1.1 A dedicated federal funding program for open space and community infrastructure.
- 3.1.2 A national partnership with local government to prevent and reduce homelessness.
- 3.1.3 Strengthening national social cohesion and responses to antisemitism and all forms of racism.
- 3.1.4 A national “Better Cities” style investment partnership for equitable, transit-oriented urban renewal.
- 3.2 Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to make non-material changes to the motions where required to align with neighbouring Councils.



#### **4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES**

- 4.1 The Australian Local Government Association hosts an annual National General Assembly, the peak national forum for local government advocacy on critical national issues.
- 4.2 Submissions for motions to the 2026 NGA close on 27 February 2026, as outlined in the ALGA 2026 Discussion Paper's key dates.
- 4.3 Although Council endorsement is not mandatory under ALGA's submission requirements, the NGA Discussion Paper recommends that councils carefully consider and formally approve motions prior to submitting, supporting existing good governance practice.
- 4.4 The theme for the 2026 National General Assembly is "Stronger Together: Resilient. Productive. United.", encouraging councils to frame motions that support national resilience, contributions to productivity, and a unified advocacy voice.
- 4.5 ALGA requires motions to meet selection criteria including:
  - 4.5.1 national relevance
  - 4.5.2 clear evidence and rationale
  - 4.5.3 applicability to local government
  - 4.5.4 a proposed federal government action
- 4.6 The Discussion Paper also sets out additional eligibility requirements for motions. These include that motions must:
  - 4.6.1 be relevant to the NGA theme;
  - 4.6.2 not duplicate motions debated in the previous two years;
  - 4.6.3 propose actions that are the responsibility of, or could be undertaken by, the Australian Government.
- 4.7 Council's proposed motions reflect its endorsed advocacy priorities and strategic commitments, aligned with the expectations set out in the ALGA Discussion Paper. These motions are provided in Attachment 1.
- 4.8 Where possible, council officers are collaborating with neighbouring councils to strengthen consistency, regional alignment, and the impact of shared advocacy positions, consistent with ALGA's emphasis on councils presenting a united voice.
- 4.9 For example, Council is working with Glen Eira City Council on motions addressing homelessness and funding opportunities for open space.

#### **5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS**

- 5.1 The motions are derived from Council's endorsed advocacy positions, which have been informed by:
  - 5.1.1 community feedback
  - 5.1.2 strategic engagement with Councillors
  - 5.1.3 ongoing monitoring of national policy developments
  - 5.1.4 Plan for Port Phillip



5.2 No additional consultation is required at this stage.

## **6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no legal or risk implications arising from submitting motions to the ALGA National General Assembly.

6.2 The proposed motions align with Council's previously endorsed advocacy positions.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPACT**

7.1 No financial implications arise from preparing or submitting the motions. Current advocacy on this matter is being accommodated within existing Council resources/budgets.

## **8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

8.1 The submission of motions does not generate environmental impacts.

## **9. COMMUNITY IMPACT**

9.1 The proposed motions are consistent with Council's established advocacy priorities and focus on issues that have direct implications for community wellbeing, including access to quality open space, social cohesion, homelessness prevention, and equitable urban development. While the submission of motions itself does not create immediate community impacts, successful national advocacy may result in future federal initiatives, funding programs, or policy reforms that benefit the local community.

## **10. GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

10.1 A Gender Impact Assessment is not required for this report

## **11. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY**

11.1 The proposed motions align with Council's endorsed advocacy priorities and support key Council Plan objectives, including strengthening community wellbeing, enhancing inclusion and social cohesion, improving access to quality public spaces, and promoting sustainable and equitable urban development. The motions also reinforce existing Council policy positions related to community infrastructure investment, housing and homelessness, anti-racism, and integrated transport and land-use planning.

## **12. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

### **12.1 TIMELINE**

12.1.1 Subject to Council endorsement, officers will continue engagement with neighbouring councils to finalise motions, ensuring alignment where possible/beneficial.

12.1.2 Officers lodge the motions via ALGA's online submission portal.

12.1.3 Motions must be submitted to ALGA by 27 February 2026.

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## 12.2 COMMUNICATION

12.2.1 Motions that are accepted and endorsed at the ALGA National Assembly will be reported by councils' communication channels at the time they are considered.

## 13. OFFICER MATERIAL OR GENERAL INTEREST

13.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report has declared a material or general interest in the matter.

**ATTACHMENTS**    1. 2026 ALGA motions  





**14. NOTICES OF MOTION**

Nil

**15. REPORTS BY COUNCILLOR DELEGATES**

**16. URGENT BUSINESS**

**17. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**

*The information contained in the following Council reports is considered to be Confidential Information in accordance with Section 3 of the Local Government Act 2020.*

*17.1 St Kilda Pier Landside Works – Contract Variation and Budget Request*

*3(1)(g(ii)). private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.*

**Reason:** This report contains the assessment and recommendation arising from a confidential procurement process outlining options available to address a budget shortfall. The costings of these options are commercial in confidence. Disclosure of this information publicly may impact Council's ability to work with the recommended contractor in the delivery of the project.