

Minutes

Of the Ordinary Council Meeting

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Offices
62-68 Ovens Street, Wangaratta

Date: 27 January 2021

Time: 6pm



RURAL CITY OF
WANGARATTA

Brendan McGrath
Chief Executive Officer

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1. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS**

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we are meeting. We pay our respects to their Elders and to Elders from other communities who may be here today.

2. **OPENING PRAYER**

Almighty God, we humbly ask thee to bless and guide this council in its deliberations so that we may truly preserve the welfare of the people whom we serve. Amen

3. **PRESENT**

Councillors:

Councillor Irene Grant, Councillor David Fuller, Councillor Dean Rees, Councillor Harry Bussell, Councillor Harvey Benton, Councillor Ashlee Fitzpatrick, Councillor Jack Herry.

Officers:

Brendan McGrath, Chief Executive Officer; Alan Clark, Director Infrastructure Services; Jaime Chubb, Director Community Wellbeing; Stephen Swart, Director Development Services; Sarah Brindley, Director Corporate Services

4. **ABSENT**

Nil.

5. **ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES & GRANTING OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

ORDER OF BUSINESS

6. **CITIZEN CEREMONY**

Nil.

7. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

RECOMMENDATION:

(Moved: Councillor I Grant/Councillor H Benton)

That Council read and confirm the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 25 December 2020 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the meeting.

RESOLUTION:**(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor H Benton)*****Councillor D Fuller moved an amendment:******That Council and confirm the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on the 15 December 2020 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the meeting.*****Carried****8. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE**

Nil.

In accordance with section 130 of the Local Government Act 2020 a councillor who has a conflict of interest in respect of a matter must disclose the conflict of interest in the manner required by Council's Governance Rules and exclude themselves from the decision making process in relation to that matter, including any discussion or vote on the matter and any action in relation to the matter.

Clause 28.1 of Council's Governance Rules requires a councillor to indicate that they have a conflict of interest by clearly stating:

- (a) the item for which they have a conflict of interest; and
- (b) whether their conflict of interest is general or material; and
- (c) the circumstances that give rise to the conflict of interest.

Immediately prior to the consideration of the item in which they have a conflict of interest, a councillor must indicate to the meeting the existence of the conflict of interest and leave the meeting.

A councillor who discloses a conflict of interest and leaves a Council meeting must not communicate with any participants in the meeting while the decision is being made.

9. RECEPTION OF PETITIONS

9.1 SANDFORD ROAD AND HAMILTON CRESCENT UPGRADE PETITION

Meeting Type: Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 27 January 2021
Author: Executive Services Coordinator
File No: IC21/198

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Executive Summary

A petition/joint letter containing 21 signatures from the residents of Hamilton Crescent has been received.

A copy of the letter has been provided to Councillors under separate cover.

RESOLUTION:

(Moved: Councillor A Fitzpatrick/Councillor H Benton)

- 1. That the petition regarding Sandford Road & Hamilton Crescent Upgrade be received.***
- 2. That a report into the request within the petition be considered at the February Ordinary Council meeting.***

Carried

Conclusion

In accordance with Local Law No.3 of 2014 – Councillors Meeting Procedure, a joint letter presented to the Council must lay on the table until the next ordinary meeting of the Council and no motion, other than to receive the joint letter, may be accepted by the Chairperson, unless Council agrees to deal with it earlier.

Attachments

- 1 Petition Letter re. Sandford Road & Hamilton Crescent Upgrade - Confidential

10. HEARING OF DEPUTATIONS

Nil.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

11. COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Mayor's Report

We had a visitor yesterday – the Australia's Governor-General David Hurley and Mrs. Hurley and what a great pleasure it was to host them. We travelled out to the King Valley through the countryside stopping at the number of groups of people throughout of municipal area. We had a great morning and a great afternoon and their representation at our Australia Day awards yesterday was just fantastic and the naturalisation of the new citizens to Australia was a great trip for them to do. They were speaking openly about it yesterday about how they feel positive about what Australia has in store for the up and coming people over the next 20, 30, 40 and 50 years. It is a very proud moment for the Wangaratta Council to host Their Excellencies so I would like to pass on my regards to them and say thanks. We cannot wait to have them back. Thank you.

Mayor's Report

Today is the final day for one of our esteemed Council Directors, Alan Clark. Alan has been with Council for probably 6 years with the Rural City of Wangaratta and this is my fifth year, so I have had basically 5 years with Alan. I found his contribution to Council has been superb. I would like to wish him well on his journey moving forward in his career and, I hate to say, retirement. I would like to offer a round of applause for Alan Clark and the work he has done. Thank you.

Councillor Harvey Benton

Mr. Mayor, I had a portfolio of Infrastructure for the term of 4 years with Alan. Alan taught me a lot of things in relationship to how we get things moving in relation to the Infrastructure area. I know he has some desires and pushing them we do get things done and streamlined. I know it still takes time to get them done but I do wish Alan all the best in the future. Thanks Alan.

Councillor David Fuller

Mr. Mayor, I would like to acknowledge Alan's penchant for waste and the fact that he championed to get our Organics up and running and I look forward to his replacement as such working as hard to get the Waste conversation for our other items as well. All the best Alan and all the best to his replacement.

Councillor Ashlee Fitzpatrick

I just want to say thanks Alan for being so approachable within the community and leading such a strong team which is very reflected in our community and you've done so many great things with Youth with your team so I really want to

thank you and hopefully you will get a good dose of Vitamin ‘sea’ where you retire. Thank you.

Councillor Irene Grant

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I would like to endorse Councillor Fuller’s comments about Alan’s services to the Waste industry and the work that he has done. Green waste collection has been absolutely fantastic. I would like to move a motion that we minute a vote of thanks to Alan and his service to the Rural City of Wangaratta.

RECOMMENDATION:

(Moved: Councillor I Grant/Councillor H Benton)

Councillor I Grant moved a motion:

That Council minute the acknowledgement Councillors made to Alan Clark, Director Infrastructure Services for his service to Council.

Carried

OFFICERS’ REPORTS

12. EXECUTIVE SERVICES

Nil.

13. CORPORATE SERVICES

13.1 AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE INDEPENDENT MEMBER APPOINTMENTS

Meeting Type: Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 27 January 2021
Author: Governance and Reporting Advisor
File No: IC21/24

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Executive Summary

The Audit & Risk Committee (the committee) was established by council in August 2020 under section 53 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

This report is presented to Council to appoint 2 new independent members to the committee.

RESOLUTION:

(Moved: Councillor H Bussell/Councillor H Benton)

That Council:

- 1. Amends the Audit & Risk Committee Charter by replacing the words ‘5 members’ in clause 3.1(1) with ‘up to 6 members’.***
- 2. Appoints the 2 preferred candidates listed in Attachment 1 to this report to the Audit & Risk Committee (committee) as members who are not councillors and who are not members of Council staff (independent members):***
 - a. Each for terms of 3 years commencing on the date of this resolution; and***
 - b. In accordance with any other terms and conditions relevant to independent members established by the Local Government Act 2020, the committee’s charter, council’s Governance Rules and any other relevant council policies or procedures.***
- 3. Gratefully acknowledges the dedication and contribution of retired independent member, Mr Peter McNeill, who gave more than 11 years’ service on the committee.***

The successful candidates are:

- Gavin Nolan; and***
- Vito Giudice***

Carried

Background

The Audit & Risk Committee (the committee) was established by council in August 2020 under section 53 of the Act.

The committee Charter states the committee must comprise 2 councillors, and at least 3 and up to 4 independent members who are not councillors and who are not members of Council staff.

An independent member retirement has resulted in there being only 2 independent members remaining on the committee. Consequently, council may appoint either 1 or 2 new independent members to the committee.

Due to concerns raised by the committee about their ability to consistently achieve quorum at meetings with just 3 independent members, it is strongly advised to increase the number of independent members to 4.

Expressions of interest to fill the vacancies were advertised in October and November 2020.

Three applications were received. All applicants met the qualifying criteria for the positions.

A 2-person selection panel was established to assess the applicants and recommend independent member appointments. The selection panel comprised the independent member chairperson of the Audit & Risk Committee and the Director Corporate Services.

An interview was conducted with each applicant during the period December 2020 to January 2021 following which the selection panel agreed its recommendation. The selection panel's assessment of each candidate is set out in the confidential attachment (**Attachment 1**).

Implications

Policy Considerations

The process for appointing the independent members set out in council's Appointment to Council Committees Policy requires that the Chief Executive Officer undertakes an expression of interest process for the appointment of new members before providing a report to Council recommending that Council determine the appointment of new members. This process has been followed.

The committee's charter (**Attachment 2**) contains membership provisions related to independent member appointments, including that:

1. The committee must include at least 3 and up to 4 other independent members.
2. Independent members must collectively have expertise in financial management and risk and experience in public sector management.
3. Independent members may be appointed for a term of up to 3 years.

4. The terms of office of independent members may be arranged to avoid more than 2 independent members retiring at the same time.

Member numbers

The charter, through the sum of clauses 3.1(1)(a) and 3.1(1)(b), provides for membership comprising 2 councillors and up to 4 independent members equalling a total of up to 6 members. However, the opening statement in clause 3.1(1) of the charter states that the committee must comprise 5 members, which is therefore in conflict with the sum of the parts of the clause.

The charter should be amended to provide for up a membership of up to 6 members.

Independent member numbers

There are currently 2 independent members on the committee. Consequently, up to 2 additional independent members may be appointed to the committee. Two suitable appointees were identified from the process. They are recommended for appointment.

Collective expertise

The 2 proposed appointees provide additional financial, management, risk and audit expertise thereby meeting the balance of skills and experience required by the committee's charter.

Term

One of the current independent members retires in February 2022 and the other in March 2023. The proposed 3-year term for each proposed appointee ends in January 2024.

These arrangements avoid more than 2 independent members retiring at the same time which meets the requirements of the committee's charter.

Financial/Economic Implications

There are no material financial implications and no economic implications identified for the subject of this report.

The additional \$2,500 per year needed to accommodate fees for the increase of 1 independent member will be funded from savings in the existing People & Governance program budget.

Legal/Statutory

Section 53 of the Act governs the membership requirements of the committee, including that an Audit and Risk Committee must consist of a majority of members who are not Councillors of the Council and who collectively have

expertise in financial management and risk, and experience in public sector management.

Social

There are no social impacts identified for the subject of this report.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental/ sustainability impacts identified for this subject of this report.

Council Plan

This report supports achievement of the council plan '*We are Sustainable*' pillar by meeting council's legislative and governance obligations.

Risk Management

There are no high or extreme risks associated with the recommendation made in this report.

Consultation/Communication

Expressions of Interest were publicly called to fill these positions. Three expressions of interest were received. Both proposed appointees displayed excellent business acumen and possess considerable financial, risk and audit backgrounds.

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred, and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

The applicants will be notified of Council's decision and thanked for their interest.

Options for Consideration


1. Council amends the charter to allow for up to 6 members and appoints all the recommended appointees as independent members of the committee for the terms specified.
2. Council does not amend the charter to allow for up to 6 members and appoints either of the recommended appointees for the term specified.
3. Council varies the term of appointment specified under options 1 or 2 above.
4. Council either amends the charter as in option 1 above or does not amend the charter as in option 2 above and does not appoint any of the recommended appointees as independent members of the committee. This option will require re-advertisement of the vacancy.

Conclusion

The recent expression of interest process has identified 2 suitable appointees for appointment to the committee. The process and terms of the appointments comply with all legal and policy requirements.

The proposed appointees will assist with the continued improvement of council's governance, integrity and risk outcomes.

Attachments

- 1 Candidate assessment summary - Confidential
- 2 Audit and risk committee charter 

13.2 COUNCILLOR GIFT POLICY

Meeting Type: Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 27 January 2021
Author: Governance and Reporting Advisor
File No: IC21/209

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Executive Summary

This report is presented to council to commence the process of adopting a councillor gift policy under the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

Section 138 of the Act requires that a councillor gift policy is adopted by council by 24 April 2021.

A councillor gift policy is a major council policy which means that the process of community consultation set out in the Major Council Policy Local Law applies.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. *Endorses the proposed Councillor Gift Policy (policy) and the community impact statement attached to this report for the purposes of a major council policy consultation process.*
2. *Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to give public notice inviting submissions from the community on the proposed policy for a period of at least 28 days.*
3. *Convenes a committee of council to hear from any person or persons who request to be heard in support of their written submission.*
4. *Considers any submissions made under paragraph 2 above and any hearings held under paragraph 3 above.*
5. *If submissions are received that require change to the policy, that an updated policy is then presented at the March council meeting.*
6. *If no submissions are received that require change to the policy, adopts the Councillor Gift Policy attached to this report and revokes the Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy 2018.*

RESOLUTION:

(Moved: Councillor J Herry/Councillor D Fuller)

Councillor J Herry moved an alternative motion:

That Council:

1. ***Endorses the proposed Councillor Gift Policy (policy) and the***

community impact statement attached to this report for the purposes of a major council policy consultation process with the following definition of a ‘Gift offer’ added to the table of definitions:

Gift offer – all offers of gifts and gifts given, token and non-token, accepted or declined. All gift offers must be declared by completion of a gift offer declaration form.

- 2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to give public notice inviting submissions from the community on the proposed policy for a period of at least 28 days.**
- 3. Convenes a committee of council to hear from any person or persons who request to be heard in support of their written submission.**
- 4. Considers any submissions made under paragraph 2 above and any hearings held under paragraph 3 above.**
- 5. If submissions are received that require change to the policy, that an updated policy is then presented at the March council meeting.**
- 6. If no submissions are received that require change to the policy, adopts the Councillor Gift Policy attached to this report and revokes the Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy 2018.**

Carried

Background

The Act requires council to adopt a Councillor Gift Policy (the policy) which will replace the Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy adopted in 2018 in relation to councillor gifts.

The policy must also include procedures for the maintenance of a gift register and any other matters prescribed by the regulations.

Implications

Policy Considerations

The policy is a major council policy which means that the process of community consultation set out in the Major Council Policy Local Law applies.

The policy aims to support the Council to maintain public trust, good governance, integrity and open and accountable decision-making:

The proposed policy includes provisions from the following documents:

- Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy 2018
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) (2018) Model policies for agencies and boards - gifts, benefits and hospitality

- Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC) (2019) Local government integrity frameworks review
- IBAC (2019) Managing corruption risks associated with conflicts of interest in the Victorian public sector

The following changes have been made to the previous policy:

- A prohibition on accepting gifts in the following circumstances:
 - made anonymously
 - likely to be a bribe or inducement to make a decision or act in a particular way
 - made by a person or organisation about which they will likely make or influence a decision
 - made by a current or prospective supplier
 - made during a procurement or tender process by a person or organisation involved in the process
 - likely to be perceived as endorsement of a product or service
 - likely to lead to providing an unfair advantage for the gift giver in future procurement decisions
 - likely to adversely affect a person's standing as a councillor or which may bring the council or the local government sector into disrepute
 - hospitality or attendance at an official business event where council will already be sufficiently represented to meet its business needs
 - non-token gift which does not have a legitimate business benefit
- A requirement for a councillor to seek approval to accept any non-token gift offer
- A requirement that bribes and inducements are reported to IBAC

Financial/Economic Implications

There are no financial or economic implications identified for the subject of this report.

Legal/Statutory

The policy must be adopted as required by section 138 of the Act.

The policy must include procedures for the maintenance of a gift register and any other matters prescribed by the regulations.

Social

There are no social impacts identified for the subject of this report.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental or sustainability impacts identified for this subject of this report.

Council Plan

This report supports the council plan by supporting the strategic goal of a sustainable organisation by supporting good governance practices through effective and compliant policies:

Risk Management

The policy, upon adoption, will ensure statutory compliance and mitigate reputational and governance risks associated with councillor gifts.

Consultation/Communication

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Tools/Techniques
Inform	Advise the public about the proposed policy	Public notices in the local paper and on the council website.
Consult	Invite submissions on the proposed policy from the public	Public notices in the local paper and on the council website
Consult	Hear submissions from those submitters who request to be heard	Establish and schedule a meeting of a committee of council to hear submissions if required
Consult	Consider submissions when adopting the policy	Prepare and consider a report and recommendation regarding the proposed policy at a future Council meeting if required

Options for Consideration

1. Council endorses that the Councillor Gift Policy proceeds to public exhibition.
2. Council endorses the Councillor Gift Policy with changes before proceeding to public exhibition. This is not recommended because the proposed policy is based on the former policy, the DELWP model policy and IBAC reports.

In terms of the process to follow, there is no alternative approach available because:


- council must adopt a policy under the Act by 24 April 2021
- council must consult with the community on the proposed policy as it is a major council policy

Conclusion

Council must adopt a policy under the Act by 24 April 2021 following a community consultation process.

Attachments

- 1 Councillor gift policy 

2 Community impact statement - councillor gift policy 

13.3 2020/2021 QUARTER 2 FORECAST REVIEW

Meeting Type: Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 27 January 2021
Author: Manager Finance
File No: IC21/208

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to provide an update of Council's year-to-date (YTD) financial performance and expected full year forecast based on developments over the last three months (Quarter 2 Forecast Review).

RESOLUTION:

(Moved: Councillor A Fitzpatrick/Councillor H Bussell)

That Council reviews and approves the 2020/2021 Quarter 2 Forecast Review, including:

- 1. The improvement to surplus of \$1.535m;***
- 2. The net decrease to capital works expenditure of \$111k.***

Carried

Background

Council has completed its second quarter financial reporting process to manage and monitor its financial performance against budget.

Council's projected surplus has increased by \$1.535m due to great success at accessing grant funding, however the underlying operating result has only improved by \$87k as noted within the financial implications of this report. Council continues to work to improve its long-term financial sustainability with progress made towards the \$800k operational savings target. There will be continued focus to identify recurrent benefits and savings, with further updates to be provided in the next Quarterly Forecast Review.

Implications

Policy Considerations

There are no specific Council policies or strategies that relate to this report.

Financial Implications

Quarter 2 Forecast Review

Rural City of Wangaratta	20/21 Adopted Budget	20/21 Adopted Quarter 1 Forecast	20/21 Quarter 2 Forecast Review	Q2 to Q1 Forecast Variance
31st December 2020	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Income	76,458	79,570	80,975	1,404
Expenses	70,397	72,661	72,531	130
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	6,061	6,909	8,444	1,535
Capital Works Expenditure	28,876	32,252	32,140	111
Rehabilitation Expenditure	1,800	2,585	2,585	0
Net Fav/(Unfav) Q2 Variance				1,646

The Quarter 2 movements in surplus, capital works and rehabilitation costs result in a net favourable impact of \$1.65m in 2020/2021. Commentary of each of these areas is provided below and in the attached Income Statement, Balance Sheet and Statement of Capital Works.

Council's Quarter 2 Forecast Review continues to be based on our best estimates of the impact of COVID-19. It is difficult to formulate reliable economic estimates due to the uncertainties associated with the easing of restrictions in Victoria and the impact of Federal and State Government measures including JobKeeper and JobSeeker. Council will continue to closely monitor developments and will provide further updates as greater certainty emerges.

Surplus – Favourable Increase

Council's Quarter 2 Forecast Review indicates an improvement in the surplus of \$1.56m in 2020/2021. However, this favourable movement includes \$1.45m of capital grant funding, for which the capital expenditure is not reflected in the surplus. Excluding the increase in capital grant funding, this reflects a net favourable movement of \$87k to Council's underlying operating result.

The favourable underlying operating result movement of \$87k is represented by:

- Net increases to Council's projected full year user fee income totalling \$325k due to increased utilisation of Long Day Care, additional Wangaratta Sports and Aquatic Centre hire fees and increased demand for compliance permits. Reductions to parking fee revenue, sports field hire and the Wangaratta Performing Arts and Convention Centre income have been forecast due to the continued effects of COVID-19 restrictions.

- Increase in operating grants of \$196k due to Council successfully obtaining funding for the Creative Precinct Masterplan, Outdoor Eating and Entertainment Program and to deliver a COVID-Safe Australia Day Event.
- Net reduction in reimbursement forecast income of \$600k as all eligible works undertaken as part of the 2018 Flood Event Recovery have now been claimed from the National Disaster Financial Assistance program. Some additional reimbursement income has been realised which partially offsets this unfavourable movement.
- Net decrease in materials and services of \$115k, largely due to decreased expenditure required for the 2018 Flood Event Recovery, but partially offset by expenditure for new grant funded projects (Creative Precinct Masterplan and Outdoor Eating and Entertainment Program) and increased expenditure required for Waste Services EPA requirements and to address additional waste volumes.

Refer to the attached Income Statement for detailed commentary on the changes to Council's 2020/2021 position.

Capital Works – Decrease in Expenditure

Council's capital works expenditure will decrease from \$32.25m to \$32.15m which can be attributed to:

- The allocation of new and existing projects to new grant funding received since the Adopted Budget, including the Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program and Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.
- The addition of the Outdoor Eating and Entertainment Program as part of the State Government's COVID-19 recovery package.
- Works for the Glenrowan Historical Precinct program bought forward from 2021/2022, this is a multiyear program and reflects a change to timing only, not the overall cost of works.

Refer to the attached Statement of Capital Works for further commentary.

Balance Sheet

Council's working capital is in a strong position at 254% due to borrowings drawn down in August 2020. Further borrowings of \$7m are projected for the second half of 2020/2021 as per the Adopted Budget.

Rate receivables continue to progress well given the economic uncertainties as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, with only 5.5% of rates and charges in arrears. Ratepayers having trouble paying are encouraged to contact Council to negotiate a payment arrangement.

Legal/Statutory

In accordance with section 127 of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act), Council must prepare a budget for each financial year. Additionally, section 136 of the Act requires Council to apply principles of sound Financial Management. Section 138 of the Act requires the Chief Executive Officer, at least every three

months, to prepare a statement comparing the budgeted revenue and expenditure for the financial year with the actual revenue and expenditure to date and to present this report to Council.

Social

Social benefits of the delivery of Council services and projects are outlined in the 2020/21 Budget.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

Council plans for and delivers several projects that support its Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

2017 – 2021 Council Plan (2020 Revision)

This report supports the 2017-2021 Council Plan:

Goal

We are Sustainable

The non-negotiables

Our team will make the best and most efficient use of Council’s resources.

Strategic Links

a) Rural City of Wangaratta 2030 Community Vision

N/A

b) Other strategic links

N/A

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Poor performance against budget	M	M	M	Regular monitoring and reporting of budget position
Covid-19 economic impacts exceed forecasts	H	H	H	Monthly review of forecasts

Consultation/Communication

Consultation has been undertaken with Council Managers and the Corporate Management Team and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.




Options for Consideration

1. That Council endorses the Quarter 2 Forecast Review report – recommended.
2. That Council advises of any changes to the Quarter 1 Forecast Review and proposes an alternative recommendation for changes to the 2020/21 Budget.

Conclusion

This report compares actual performance with Council's Quarter 1 Forecast, adopted by Council on 20 October 2020. Council's Quarter 2 Forecast Review continues to be based on the best estimates of the impact of COVID-19. Council will continue to closely monitor developments and provide further updates as greater certainty emerges.

Attachments

- 1 2020/2021 Quarter 2 Forecast Review - Income Statement 
- 2 2020/2021 Quarter 2 Forecast Review - Balance Sheet 
- 3 2020/2021 Quarter 2 Forecast Review - Statement of Capital Works 

13.4 ICT STRATEGY - CORE BUSINESS SYSTEM TECHNOLOGY ONE CONTRACT

Meeting Type: Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 27 January 2021
Author: Manager Customer, Digital & Transformation Services
File No: IC21/216

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to disclose the award of contract C23111 – Core Business Systems. The contract includes As a Service fees and Vendor Implementation Fees over a period of five years.

As part of Council's ICT Strategy, the Core Business Platform project aims to introduce a single cloud-based Software-as-a-Service platform that supports a large component of the services facilitated in a Local Government setting, to enable improved productivity and mobility.

RESOLUTION:

(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor H Bussell)

That Council discloses that contract C23111 – Core Business Systems has been awarded to TechnologyOne for a total of \$3,054,600 (ex GST) over a five-year term.

Carried

Background

In October 2019 Council's ICT Strategy was commissioned, following an extensive organisational Business Health Check. This strategy guides Council's efforts to achieve its desired digital transformation. Digital transformation is one of Council's top priorities. Achieving that priority will help better meet changing and growing Customer and Council business expectations and need.

The ICT Strategy's five-year road map identified 11 critical strategic initiatives and provides a timeline for implementation of 28 'must do' actions.

One of the critical strategic initiatives is the consolidation of the core business systems onto a single cloud-based platform, followed by the effective implementation of the following software functionality:

1. Asset Operations and Maintenance
2. Customer Relationship Management

3. Regulatory and Compliance Management
4. Document and Records Management
5. Financial Management
6. Property and Revenue Management
7. Procurement and Inventory Management
8. Spatial Management
9. Core Platform
10. Strategic Asset Management

Based on extensive consultation with key business owners across Council, business requirements were developed for all functional modules.

The procurement methodology was undertaken in two parts.

An Expression of Interest (EOI) for contract C23111 – Core Business System was advertised publicly as follows:

Advertisement	Date
Eprocure	3 March 2020

The Expression of Interest closed at 5:00pm on 4 May 2020.

7 EOI submissions were received.

The EOI evaluation team included the:

- Asset Planning Coordinator;
- Business Systems Coordinator;
- Director - Development Services;
- Director - Corporate Services;
- Performing Arts Centre Coordinator;
- Manager - Customer, Digital & Transformation Services; and,
- Consultant (Corporate Strategic Systems)

Based on the Evaluation Team's recommendation, a selective tender was undertaken.

The selective tender closed at 12:00pm on 31 August 2020. One tender was received. The tender evaluation team included the:

- Asset Planning Coordinator;
- Business Systems Coordinator;
- Customer Experience and Information Management Coordinator; and,
- Manager - Customer, Digital & Transformation Services.

Based on the Evaluation Team's recommendation, on 21 September 2020 a report was submitted to Council to seek approval for the following recommendations.

That Council:

1. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to sign documents to award contract C23111 – Core Business System, up to the value detailed in the Core Business System Evaluation Report (this was a Confidential Attachment);
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to apply Council’s Common Seal to documents for contract C23111 – Core Business System, when available; and,
3. Discloses the final contract price for contract C23111 – Core Business System at the next available Council Meeting following contract signing.

Council approved the recommendations which instigated a three-month contract negotiation and resulted in the awarding of contract C23111 to TechnologyOne on 23 December 2020.

Implications

Policy Considerations

Procurement Policy

Financial/Economic Implications

This five-year software contract will be funded by Council’s ICT Strategy operational and capital project budgets, and by Council’s Business Systems Maintenance annual operational budget. The contract price is substantially lower than the amount authorised at the September council meeting.

Legal/Statutory

There are no legal/statutory implications identified for the subject of this report.

Social

There are no social impacts identified for the subject of this report.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental/ sustainability impacts identified for this subject of this report.

2013 – 2017 Council Plan (2016 Revision)

This report supports the 2013-2017 Council Plan:

Goal

We are Sustainable

We will:

- Ensure our long-term viability and capacity to deliver quality services and infrastructure
- Do things better, improve our environmental and economic impact, and create lasting benefits

We will plan and make decisions for the future:

- We will provide enabling systems to support excellent customer service, staff engagement, communication, collaboration and business needs.

Strategic Links**a) Rural City of Wangaratta 2030 Community Vision**

N/A

b) Other strategic links

RCoW ICT Strategy;
Customer Experience Strategy

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Timeframe and implementation of the proposed ERP	Minor (2)	Moderate (3)	5	Program of work schedule
Unsatisfactory quality of new ERP	Minor (2)	Moderate (3)	4	User Testing Plan; Stakeholder engagement plan
Staff concerns	Minor (2)	Moderate (3)	5	Stakeholder Engagement Plan; Communication Plan

Consultation/Communication

To develop both the ICT Strategy, and subsequently the requirements that formed the basis of this EOI and Tender process, significant consultation has taken place throughout the organisation, with workshops held with representatives from all business areas.

Options for Consideration

- Disclose the award of the five-year contract C23111 – Core Business Systems.

Conclusion

This project will bring Council's Core Business System up to date with modern functionality to enable improved staff productivity and mobility. A comprehensive EOI process and tender evaluation was undertaken against the pre-determined criteria and in line with budget constraints. A three-month contract negotiation has now been completed.

The implementation is scheduled to begin March 2021 and conclude in 2024/25.

Attachments

Nil.

13.5 WANGARATTA LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE - DEED OF VARIATION

Meeting Type: Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 27 January 2021
Author: Director Corporate Services
File No: IC21/89

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to authorise use of the common seal on a Deed of Variation to the Wangaratta Livestock Exchange Management Services Agreement to formalise the charging of a market rate licence fee.

RESOLUTION:

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor J Herry)

That Council:

- 1. Authorises the CEO to sign the Deed of Variation to the Wangaratta Livestock Exchange Management Services Agreement to formalise the charging of a market-rate licence fee.***
- 2. Authorises the application of the common seal to the Deed of Variation in the presence of the CEO and a Councillor, and that this be recorded in the register of the common seal.***

Carried

Background

A 'Competitive Neutrality Principles' study was undertaken for the Wangaratta Livestock Exchange, a subsidiary of council. Competitive Neutrality Principles require that council services that compete in the open market are not cross-subsidised using rate payer funds (which would give the service an undue competitive advantage vs private sector operators).

For council to ensure that cross-subsidisation does not occur, the report recommended that a licence fee, in line with current market rates, be charged for use of the land and property. This fee is in addition to the existing Management Services Fee which does not currently cover the cost of depreciation or licensing of the facility.

An independent valuation was subsequently undertaken to determine the appropriate licence fee. These charges have been paid by the WLE on an ongoing basis since.

The current Management Services Agreement (MSA) in place with Wangaratta Livestock Exchange (WLE) does not have a provision for the agreed license fee payments. On legal advice, a Deed of Variation to the MSA has been prepared, with a retrospective application to cover when the license fee commenced being charged. The license fee commenced from 1st January 2020, being \$15,000 per annum plus GST. The annual increase will be 2% on 1 January for each year of the term of the agreement.

A Deed of Variation must be signed under the council common seal. Use of the seal requires authorisation under council resolution.

Implications

Policy Considerations

Use of the Common Seal: The Wangaratta Rural City Council Governance and Meeting Conduct Local Law specifies how the common seal must be applied. The attached Deed of Variation is compliant the local law.

Adherence to Competitive Neutrality Principles: Council must continue to monitor the performance of the Wangaratta Livestock Exchange, to ensure no triggers arise that may require a further Competitive Neutrality assessment to be undertaken. These triggers could include for example: a sustained increase in costs or reduction in revenues; closure of other saleyards in the catchment area; operating at a deficit.

Financial/Economic Implications

As the Wangaratta Livestock Exchange has already commenced paying the licence fee, there are no further specific financial or economic implications identified for the subject of this report.

Legal/Statutory

There are no legal/statutory implications identified for the subject of this report.

Social

This arrangement ensures that rate payer funds are not being used to cross-subsidise the Wangaratta Livestock Exchange, which means these funds continue to be appropriately channelled to the operation of council front line services.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental/ sustainability impacts identified for this subject of this report.

2017 – 2021 Council Plan (2020 Revision)

This report supports the 2017-2021 Council Plan goal: 'We are Sustainable'.

Strategic Links

N/A

Risk Management

There are no moderate to extreme risks related to this report.

Consultation/Communication

The Competitive Neutrality Assessment was undertaken by an independent consultant who specialises in this area. The open market rental valuation was undertaken by an independent valuer. The Deed of Variation was drawn up by independent legal counsel. The Board of the Wangaratta Livestock Exchange have reviewed the Deed of Variation.




Options for Consideration

1. That council authorises the signing of the Deed of Variation and the application of council's common seal – Recommended
2. That council does not authorise the above and that Rural City of Wangaratta either i) commences charging the Wangaratta Livestock Exchange for the equivalent of the value of depreciation of the property, or ii) does nothing and becomes uncompliant with Competitive Neutrality Principles. – Not Recommended.

Conclusion

Putting appropriate fair market licence fee arrangements in place for the Wangaratta Livestock Exchange will help ensure that council acts in compliance with Competitive Neutrality Principles and that the associated financial arrangements are clear for all parties.

Attachments

- 1 Deed of Variation to Wangaratta Livestock Exchange Management Services Agreement 
- 2 Rental Valuation for Wangaratta Livestock Exchange 
- 3 Wangaratta Livestock Exchange Management Services Agreement 

14. COMMUNITY WELLBEING

14.1 ARTS, CULTURE, EVENTS AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Meeting Type: Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 27 January 2021
Author: Manager - Arts, Culture and Events
File No: IC21/33

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to provide the outcome of the Expression of Interest and make the recommendations for membership of Council's Arts, Culture, Events and Heritage Advisory Committee.

RESOLUTION:

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor A Fitzpatrick)

That Council resolves to appoint the 10 preferred candidates listed in the attachment to this report as representatives on the Rural City of Wangaratta Arts, Culture, Events and Heritage Advisory Committee (ACEHAC).

The successful candidates are:

- ***Amanda Kelly***
- ***Suz Christison***
- ***David Godkin***
- ***Lucille Milne***
- ***Pam Procter***
- ***Sarah Thompson***
- ***Tim Ellis***
- ***Tim Dickinson***
- ***Rachel Fischer***
- ***Paddy Milne***

Cr Dave Fuller acknowledged members for their contributions during their time on the committee.

Carried

Background

Membership of Council's Arts, Culture, Events and Heritage Advisory Committee is made up of the Councillor holding the Arts, Culture, Events and Heritage

portfolio, up to 10 appropriately skilled representatives of the community based on an established skills matrix and Council officers.

Committee members of ACEHAC are appointed as voluntary members to set terms of service. There were 10 vacancies for ACEHAC. Expressions of interest were publicly called in October 2020 with 16 nominations received. 1 nomination was withdrawn on 08 January 2021.

The candidates were assessed against the committee's skills matrix. The selection criteria are based on the objectives of the committee, which are:

- experience and skills;
- to provide advice on arts, cultural and heritage issues;
- to promote arts, cultural and heritage opportunities;
- to encourage and facilitate joint initiatives and to ensure all sectors of the community have the opportunity to provide input and
- skills matrix

A copy of the skills matrix completed for the applicants is attached (**refer confidential attachment**).

16 applications for 10 vacancies were received. 1 application was withdrawn on 08 January 2021.

Implications

Policy Considerations

Advisory Committee Charters set out the terms and key dates for appointment on an annual basis.

Financial/Economic Implications

Advisory Committees provide a positive outcome for the sustainability of the local community.

Legal/Statutory

The appointment of Advisory Committees is provided for in the Local Government Act 2020.

Social

Advisory Committees provide the opportunity for 2-way engagement between Council and Community members.

Environment/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental/sustainability impacts identified for this subject of this report.

2017 – 2021 Council Plan

This report supports the 2017 – 2021 Council Plan.

Goal

We are Inspired

We will research and advocate:

For our community to have access to quality and exciting arts and cultural experiences

We will create and deliver:

Engaging public art that helps to make our city and rural communities more vibrant

Strategic Links

a) Rural City of Wangaratta 2030 Community Vision

N/A

b) Other strategic links

N/A

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
The recommended candidates are not appointed by Council	Unlikely	Insignificant	Low	Re-advertise

Consultation/Communication

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Tools/Techniques
Inform	Keep informed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Newspaper advertisements ▪ Website ▪ Letters to committee members

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred, and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

The applicants will be notified of Council's decision. Outgoing members will be thanked for their support and involvement in Council's advisory committee process.

Conclusion

Following consideration of the Expression of Interest applications for ACEHAC the new appointments will continue to provide Council with advice, feedback and guidance.

Attachments

- 1 Arts, Culture, Events and Heritage Advisory Committee Skills Matrix
January 2021 - Confidential
- 2 ACHAC Committee Members - Updated Length of Term - Confidential

15. INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

15.1 DISCLOSURE OF CONTRACT AMOUNTS FOR 2020/21 ANNUAL RESEAL, C26508 DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT AN ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND & PARKOUR PLAYSPACE AND C28304 RECONSTRUCTION OF SANDFORD ROAD

Meeting Type: Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 27 January 2021
Author: Executive Assistant - Infrastructure Services
File No: IC21/214

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to advise of the awarding of contracts and disclose award amounts following negotiations with preferred tenderers.

RESOLUTION:

(Moved: Councillor A Fitzpatrick/Councillor H Bussell)

That Council advise that:

- 1. Contract for 2020/21 Annual Reseal has been awarded to BituPave Pty. Ltd. for the contract amount of \$541,775.28 excluding GST;***
- 2. Contract C26508 – Design and construct an Adventure Playground and Parkour Play Space has been awarded to Stuart Thompson Landscapes Pty. Ltd. for the contract amount of \$1,485,000 excluding GST; and***
- 3. Contract C28304 Reconstruction of Sandford Road, Wangaratta has been awarded to O'Loughlin Excavation Pty. Ltd. for the contract amount of \$997,869.93 excluding GST .***

Carried

Background

Three tenders were reported to the ordinary Council meetings held on 21 September 2020 and 15 December 2020 with recommendations that Council officers undertake further negotiations with the preferred tenderers to bring the contract amounts within allocated budgets.

The three contracts have now been awarded following negotiations and are ready for disclosure of the awarded contract amounts.

Implications

Policy Considerations

Procurement Policy

Financial/Economic Implications

All contract amounts are within allocated project budgets.

Legal/Statutory

There are no legal/statutory implications identified for the subject of this report.

Social

There are no social impacts identified for the subject of this report.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental/ sustainability impacts identified for this subject of this report.

2017 – 2021 Council Plan (2020 Revision)

This report supports the 2017-2021 Council Plan:

Goal

We are Healthy

We will create and deliver:

“We will lead the way in innovation and creativity – we will be brave to try new things and be leaders in our community and our industry”.

We will plan and make decisions for the future:

“We will give you a reason to involve yourself in our projects, discussions and plans”.

We will research and advocate:

To facilitate drainage and road infrastructure to support future growth plans.

Strategic Links

a) Rural City of Wangaratta 2030 Community Vision

N/A

b) Other strategic links

N/A

Risk Management**Consultation/Communication**

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Options for Consideration

N/A

Conclusion

Negotiations have been undertaken by Council officers with the 3 preferred tenderers and contracts awarded. Disclosure of the awarded contract amounts is now provided as per the recommendations in the original reports.

Attachments

Nil.

16. DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

16.1 AGRICULTURE AND AGRIBUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE - COMMITTEE APOINTMENT

Meeting Type: Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 27 January 2021
Author: Director Development Services
File No: IC20/1870

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to consider an application received to fill a vacancy for the Agriculture and Agribusiness Advisory Committee (AAAC). Nominations were called for in August 2020 through the annual term of service expiry and one position was filled leaving three vacant positions. The application was received after the closing date and is now being presented to Council for consideration.

RESOLUTION:

(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor D Fuller)

That Council appoints the following person as a representative on the Agriculture and Agribusiness Advisory Committee for a term of three years ending August 2023:

The successful candidate is Noel Bennett.

Carried

Background

Advisory Committee members are appointed as voluntary members to set terms of service. The advisory committees have a maximum of nine representatives with three being up for renewal annually to ensure a level of continuity. An expression of interest process was undertaken in August 2020 to fill vacancies on the AAAC which resulted in one position being filled and leaving three vacant positions.

An application was received after the closing date of the expression of interest process. Applications are assessed against a Skills Matrix which ensures adequate representation across a number of sectors and aims to fill the skills gaps identified for each committee. The AAAC skills matrix includes horticulture, dairy, timber as well as a range of additional agricultural based skills.

Attached to this report is a copy of the application, and assessment against the skills matrix (refer confidential attachments).

Implications

Policy Considerations

Community representatives on Council committees provide valuable advice and assistance to the Council. The Appointment to Committees of Council Policy recognises the important role that committees play in providing advice and services to Council and establishes the guiding principles for the appointment of committees.

Financial/Economic Implications

There are no financial or economic implications identified for the subject of this report.

Legal/Statutory

There are no legal/statutory implications identified for the subject of this report.

Social

Community representatives on Council committees provide valuable advice and assistance to the Council. The Committees provides the opportunity for two way engagement between Council and community members in the agricultural and business sector.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental/ sustainability impacts identified for this subject of this report.

2017 – 2021 Council Plan (2020 Revision)

This report supports the 2017-2021 Council Plan:

Goal

We are Connected

We will focus on our business:

To ensure that we understand and plan for the long-term opportunities, challenges and priorities that face our growth potential.

Consultation/Communication

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Tools/Techniques
Inform	Our commitment to communicate and engage with our community about local decision making in a way that is clear, accessible and easy to understand.	Expressions of interest were open to the public for a period of 4 weeks in August 2020. These were advertised through a number of media platforms including the local paper and Council website.

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred, and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Options for Consideration

1. Council appoints the applicant to the Agriculture and Agribusiness Advisory Committee.
2. Council does not appoint the applicant to the Agriculture and Agribusiness Advisory Committee.

Conclusion

Following consideration of the application for Council's AAAC, it is recommended to appoint the applicant to the committee for a three-year term. This appointment will assist the committee in continuing to provide Council with advice, feedback and guidance on a range of matters in the agricultural and agribusiness sector.

Attachments

- 1 Application - AAC - Confidential
- 2 Application Review and Skills Matrix - AAAC - Confidential

16.2 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2021-2026

Meeting Type: Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 27 January 2021
Author: NRM Coordinator
File No: IC20/1871

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to detail the development of the draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026 and to seek endorsement of the draft strategy for public exhibition.

The Environmental Sustainability Strategy is a plan for a healthy, resilient, and 'green' future for our municipality. We recognise that climate change and degradation of natural environmental assets are defining issues of our time and the Strategy outlines a vision and action plan over the next five years to address these concerns in order to ensure sustainable social and economic prosperity for the Rural City of Wangaratta.

The draft Strategy builds upon the achievements of the previous Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014 and seeks to learn from our past experiences; pulling together our existing work and delivering activities that we know have positive benefits.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- 1. Endorses the draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026.*
- 2. Places the draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026 on public exhibition for a period of at least 30 days.*
- 3. Considers the submissions received and a final Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026 at a future Council meeting.*
- 4. If no submissions requesting changes to the strategy are received, adopts the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026 without further resolution.*

RESOLUTION:**(Moved: Councillor J Herry/Councillor H Bussell)*****Councillor J Herry moved the following motion:******That Council defers the decision on endorsement of this strategy until the February 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting to enable the Council more time to consider the item.*****Carried****Background**

The draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026 has been developed to replace the previous Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014 in order to guide Council in planning for a healthy, resilient and green future for our municipality.

The strategy aims to protect and invest in our environment, natural assets and the health and wellbeing of our community through our environmental sustainability commitment, expertise and leadership. We will achieve this by working with internal and external stakeholders and the community.

Our environment not only provides valuable ecosystem services and natural habitat for our local wildlife, it also is integral for the health and wellbeing of our community and our economic prosperity. There are a number of environmental challenges that we face, that are shared amongst communities around the world, that will present both challenges and opportunities for our region. These are driven by climate change, increasing demand for resources and changes to land use.

Implications**Policy Considerations**

There are no specific Council policies or strategies that relate to this report.

Financial/Economic Implications

The draft Strategy identifies a significant amount of actions and targets to undertake over the five year lifespan of the strategy. Not all of these costs will be borne by Council, some will be targeted at future grant applications. The possible sources of funding are identified within the action tables of the strategy.

The actions within the strategy will be further scoped for consideration in future budget processes.

Legal/Statutory

There are no legal/statutory implications identified for the subject of this report.

Social

Under the Local Government Act 2020, Council's primary objective is to endeavour to achieve the best outcomes for the local community having consideration for the long term and cumulative effects of decisions. In seeking to achieve this objective, Council must promote the social, economic and environmental viability and sustainability of the municipality.

We acknowledge that we depend on our local environment for clean and plentiful water to drink, clean air to breathe, productive soils for food and energy sources. These environmental assets sustain our health, our lifestyle and our livelihoods.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

Due to climate change and changing environmental conditions, we face significant challenges to maintain environmental sustainability in the future, yet with challenges come opportunities. Opportunities to innovate, lead by example and inspire communities through demonstrating environmental leadership in our own operations.

2017 – 2021 Council Plan (2020 Revision)

This report supports the 2017-2021 Council Plan:

Goal

We are Sustainable

We will plan, research and advocate for the future:

- For a regional approach to waste management that has economic and environmental benefits
- To assist the community to reduce their impact on the environment
- By accurately understanding the constraints and opportunities that face our organisation, our community and our region
- To identify and promote options to maximise the use of environmentally sustainable design in new and retro fitted residential, industrial and commercial developments
- To make sure that everything we do – from building assets to delivering events – considers the physical, social, cultural and financial needs of our community members

We will create and deliver:

- Opportunities that promote conservation and assistance to community groups to undertake conservation projects
- Opportunities to assist the community to adopt sustainable building and living practices and to reduce energy and water use

We will focus on our business:

- Ensuring roadsides are appropriately used while conserving natural vegetation, through the implementation of Council's Conservation Roadside Management Plan

The non-negotiables

- Our team will make the best and most efficient use of Council's resources.
- Our buildings, facilities and assets will be utilised in an efficient and equitable way.
- Our protection of the environment underpins our development, projects and decisions.

Strategic Links

a) Rural City of Wangaratta 2030 Community Vision

The Community Vision was last completed in 2009, with a new Community Vision due to be completed in 2021. At which point the strategy will be reviewed to ensure it supports the new vision.

b) Other strategic links

Relationships with key Council Plans

We recognise that the strategy needs to co-exist and help deliver on other relevant strategies. The table below illustrates the relationship between the Environmental Sustainability Strategy and other key Council documents, including the Council Plan.

Key Council Plans	PURPOSE
2030 Community Vision	Our community is connected, sustainable and contemporary. We are the place where good things grow.
Council Plan 2017-2021	Council Plan 2017-2021 details Council's strategic objectives and the key strategic activities and actions we will be undertaking to achieve those objectives.
Municipal Health & Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP)	The MPHWP sets the broad mission, goals and priorities to enable people living in the municipality to achieve maximum health and wellbeing.
Conservation Roadside Management Plan	The Roadside Conservation Management Plan aims to conserve roadside native vegetation that often provides valuable habitat and is an important feature in local landscapes.
Waste Management Strategy (WMS)	The Rural City of Wangaratta's WMS was developed to provide a strategy for sustainable waste management over five years. The purpose of this document is to

Key Council Plans	PURPOSE
	consolidate all the related issues and topics, to provide a complete picture of waste management within the municipality.
Economic Development and Tourism Strategy	The Economic Development and Tourism Strategy has been produced to fulfil Council's aspirations for a vibrant and prosperous community that offers residents and businesses a broad range of highly rewarding opportunities for work and investment.
Tree Management Strategy	The purpose of the strategy is to establish the Rural City of Wangaratta's future strategic direction for tree planting, protection and maintenance.
Walking and Cycling Strategy	Council's Walking and Cycling Strategy is a significant strategic document that will guide the way Council delivers infrastructure that supports the ability of people within our community to be active, to safely move around, and to stay connected
Bush reserves management plans (Northern Beaches and Kaluna Park)	Both the Kaluna Park and Northern Beaches Plans are to provide practical and perceptive information which will assist management to protect, and where possible enhance the natural values of these areas.
Wangaratta Planning Scheme	The Planning Scheme is the governing document for use, development and protection of land in the Rural City of Wangaratta.

Consultation/Communication

Prior to commencing writing the draft strategy, Council's Natural Resource Management and Sustainability team consulted with the Wangaratta Landcare and Sustainability Network, Youth Council, Renewable King Valley and Waste Wise Wangaratta for initial feedback. Internal comments was also sought from all directorates. The feedback from this process has been incorporated into the draft strategy.

Further community consultation will occur when the draft strategy is placed on public exhibition. This will take the form of workshops and online submissions.

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred to inform the development of the strategy draft and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Options for Consideration

1. That Council endorses the draft Environmental and Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026 and seek community feedback by placing the draft on public exhibition for a period of no less than 30 days. **(Recommended)**
2. That Council does not endorse the draft Environmental and Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026 and seek further adjustments prior to being returned to Council for endorsement at a future meeting. **(Not recommended)**


Conclusion

The draft Environmental and Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026 is an important document to guide Council in its future decision making.

Council has a crucial role to play to get the best results for our municipality by actively engaging and working with our community and stakeholders to:

- build awareness and progress towards environmental sustainability;
- ensure climate change is embedded within our business plans, strategies and policies; and
- to secure the future of Wangaratta, our region and beyond.

Attachments

- 1 DRAFT Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021-26 

17. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nil.

18. ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

18.1 AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Type: Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 27 January 2021
Author: Governance and Reporting Advisor
File No: IC21/25

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Executive Summary

The Audit & Risk Committee held a meeting on 16 December 2021.

The minutes of the meeting are provided as **Attachment 1**.


RESOLUTION:

(Moved: Councillor A Fitzpatrick/Councillor I Grant)

That Council notes this report.

Carried

Attachments

- 1 Audit and Risk Committee - Minutes - 16 December 2020 

18.2 AUDIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT

Meeting Type: Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 27 January 2021
Author: Governance and Reporting Advisor
File No: IC21/26

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Executive Summary

The Audit Advisory Committee (the committee) was dissolved on 25 August 2020. Under its charter it is required to provide council with a report of its activities annually.

The committee's last annual report is provided as **Attachment 1**. It covers the activities of the committee from 1 July 2019 to 25 August 2020.

RESOLUTION:

(Moved: Councillor A Fitzpatrick/Councillor I Grant)

That Council notes this report.

Carried

Attachments

- 1 Audit Advisory Committee Annual Report 2020 

19. MINUTES OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Nil

20. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

21. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

22. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil.

23. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Nil.

24. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Meeting closed at 6.35pm.