

Special Meeting Agenda



Monday, 4 May 2020, 7.00pm

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Olympia, Hawdon & Ibbott Rooms

Level 4, 1 Flintoff Street, Greensborough

AGENDA

Acknowledgement of the Traditional Owner, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people

“Banyule City Council is proud to acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as traditional custodians of the land and we pay respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Elders, past, present and emerging, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the region’s history.”

Apologies and Leave of Absence

Disclosure of Interests

1. Performance - Use Our Resources Wisely

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For Public Exhibition | 3 |
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Closure of Meeting

6.1 BANYULE CITY COUNCIL - COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2021 (YEAR 4) - FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION

Author: Gina Burden - Manager Governance & Communication, Corporate Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Proposed Council Plan 2017-2021 (Year 4) outlines the strategic direction and priorities for Banyule City Council under the objectives of People, Planet, Place, Participation and Performance. It sets the policy platform for Council and helps guide the services Council provides to the community.

The proposed Plan represents the final year of Council's four year Council Plan 2017-2021, prepared following the Council election in October 2016. It is based on comprehensive consultation with the community, Councillors and staff and is framed through a legislative context. Feedback has helped Council to plan specific key initiatives and priorities for Year 4 of the Council Plan, which encompasses the 2020/21 financial year.

The purpose of this report is:

- To fulfil Council's compliance with sections 125 and 126 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, and hear public submissions to the exhibited proposed Council Plan 2017-2021 (Year 4) at a Special Council Meeting on Wednesday, 17 June 2020, and consider the public submissions at a Council Meeting on Monday, 6 July 2020
- To provide public notice of Council's intention to consider adopting Banyule's proposed Council Plan 2017-2021 (Year 4) at a Council Meeting on Monday, 27 July 2020.

The Council Plan works together with the Budget to achieve Council's vision for its community of: *'Banyule, a green, sustainable and vibrant place for a healthy, connected and inclusive community'*.

As part of this annual review process, Council has consulted with the community during November 2019 - January 2020 to seek feedback prior to the formal public exhibition process. The community engagement and consultation included an opportunity for community feedback and suggestions on the Council Plan at a range of place based consultations and via the Shaping Banyule online engagement and consultation platform. The proposed Council Plan (Year 4) has also been promoted through Council's public website and *The Banner* newsletter.

The attached proposed Council Plan contains the Strategic Resource Plan (SRP) for Banyule City Council for the next 4 year period. The SRP outlines how Council will manage our financial and non-financial resources, including human resources, over the next four years to achieve our strategic objectives.

All initiatives outlined in the Council Plan are matched by a resource allocation through Council's Annual Budget, either in full or phased over the life of this Plan.

Subject to Council approval, the attached Proposed Council Plan 2017-2021 (Year 4) will be made available for the public exhibition period of 7 May to 4 June 2020.

BANYULE CITY COUNCIL - COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2021 (YEAR 4) - FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION cont'd

The information provided in the proposed Council Plan 2017-2021 (Year 4) is current at the time of its preparation. Council is required to meet all legislative requirements and through this proposed Council Plan aims to best reflect the strategic direction and priorities of Council over the next 12 months, based on information known the time of preparation of the proposed Council Plan.

Subject to Council's endorsement of this report, Officers will write to the Minister for Local Government to inform him that Council will consider adoption of adjustments to the Council Plan at its meeting on 27 July 2020, noting that this is an extension to the due date of 30 June 2020. This enables annual review of the Council Plan to integrate closely with the Budget and SRP review processes.

Council previously adopted the Council Meeting cycle on the 26 August 2019, this included Special Council Meetings for the consideration of Budget & Council Plan Submissions on 28 May 2020 and consideration of Budget & Council Plan 25 June 2020.

With the impacts of COVID-19, the timelines for the Budget and Council Plan have been extended. The scheduled Special Meetings for 18 May 2020 and 25 June 2020 need to be cancelled and a new Special Council Meeting be set for Wednesday 17 June 2020 for the hearing of Submissions for the Council Plan and Budget.

With the COVID-19 pandemic creating uncertainty and changing day by day, the proposed Council Plan is likely to require updates as a result for the need to support external and internal influences, occurring between now and the consideration by Council to adopt the proposed Council Plan.

Council is proud of the way they and the community are responding to the COVID-19 crisis, galvanising to support one another through these challenging times. To provide targeted support to those most affected by the pandemic, Council is rolling out a \$10.5 million Economic Support Package to help ratepayers, residents, community groups and businesses. The package aims to protect staff health and wellbeing; minimise Council service disruption; maintain financial sustainability; support the local community; and support the local economy. Council will continue to adapt its services to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and do all it can to provide support to the community as the virus impacts our way of life.

RECOMMENDATION

That

1. The attached Proposed Council Plan 2017-2021 (Year 4) prepared by Council for the purposes of Sections 125 and 126 of the *Local Government Act 1989* be endorsed.
2. Public Notice of the preparation of the attached Proposed Council Plan 2017-2021 (Year 4) be placed on Council's website and in The Age newspaper to appear Wednesday, 6 May 2020.
3. Copies of the proposed plan be made publicly available.

BANYULE CITY COUNCIL - COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2021 (YEAR 4) - FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION cont'd

4. The Special Council Meetings scheduled for 28 May and 25 June 2020 relating to the Council Plan 2017-2021 (Year 4) and Budget 2020/2021 processes be cancelled.
5. Council set a Special Meeting to be held Wednesday 17 June 2020 at 7.00pm, for the hearing of Council Plan and Budget Submissions.
6. Council receive submissions with regard to the Proposed Council Plan 2017-2021 (Year 4) until the close of business on Thursday, 4 June 2020.
7. In accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, submissions will be heard at the Special Council Meeting on Wednesday, 17 June 2020.
8. In accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, submissions will be considered at the Council Meeting on Monday, 6 July 2020.
9. Council consider the adoption of the Proposed Council Plan 2017-2021 (Year 4) in accordance with Sections 125 of the *Local Government Act 1989*; at the Council Meeting on Monday, 27 July 2020.

COUNCIL PLAN

This report is in line with Banyule's Council Plan key direction to "Deliver best value services and facilities".

BACKGROUND

Banyule's Proposed Council Plan 2017-2021 (Year 4) is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 125 of the *Local Government Act 1989 (the Act)*. The Plan contains Council's Proposed Strategic Resource Plan 2020–2024 in response to section 126 of *the Act*.

The Council Plan forms Council's key strategic platform for the delivery of services to its Community, including areas of focus for advocacy. It is reviewed annually to ensure emerging community needs and aspirations continue to be captured.

This is the final year of Council's four year Council Plan 2017-2021, prepared following the Council election in October 2016.

It sets a solid foundation for the development of Council's next four year Council Plan 2021-2025, following the Council election to be held in October 2020.

CONSULTATION AND RESEARCH

Many sources of information have helped shape the development of this Council Plan. This includes information gathered through an extensive community engagement and planning process, research and data, industry knowledge and expertise, ongoing review and improvement of our services, and relevant legislation and policy context.

BANYULE CITY COUNCIL - COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2021 (YEAR 4) - FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION cont'd

The current four year Council Plan 2017-2021 was adopted by Council on 26 June 2017 after a comprehensive review process. This included planning sessions and workshops with Councillors and staff, and an extensive community engagement process, through:

- The 'Shaping Banyule' Community engagement website
- Face to face consultation at community events
- Visits to key community services and groups
- A statutory public exhibition period in 2017 to provide an opportunity for formal submissions on the proposed four year plan (and the Budget)

The Shaping Banyule website has increased opportunities for the community to engage with Council and provide comment and help shape a range of initiatives and plans.

A comprehensive copy of information sources and findings that were drawn upon to inform the Council Plan 2017-2021 can be found on Council's website, and is titled *Council Plan 2017 'What you said' Report*.

Consultation for Year 4 of the Council Plan

Much of the information utilised for the development of the Council Plan 2017-2021 remains current for the development of Year 4 of the Council Plan. In planning for the last year of our current Council Plan, we were keen to hear from the community about how they think we have gone with delivering against our Year 3 commitments and what they would like to see us focus on for the next twelve months. Over an 8 week period the community put forward their thoughts and ideas.

Further to this, Council again provided an additional consultation opportunity regarding the development of the annual budget. This focused on the Fees and Charges Schedule and Rating Strategy, two key components of the annual budget.

Together all of this information has helped shape our Council Plan key initiatives for 2020/2021 and the Budget 2020/2021. A copy of the *'What You Said 2020 - Our Consultation Program for the Council Plan 2017-2021 (Year 4)'* report, containing full details of this year's consultation and engagement, is also available on Council's website.

The Consultation Engagement Program undertaken to inform the development of Year 4 of the Council Plan 2017-2021 occurred an 8 week period from 17 November 2019 to 17 January 2020.

The Program consisted of place based consultations, an online survey on Shaping Banyule, intercept surveys, voting pods, 'dotmocracy' boards, chat boards and idea drawings.

BANYULE CITY COUNCIL - COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2021 (YEAR 4) - FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION cont'd

A total of 1,649 written ideas and views were gathered throughout the community engagement program:

- 825 votes were cast to select the areas Council had performed well in over the last 12 months
- 117 people told us their favourite thing in Banyule from the past 12 months
- 460 votes were cast to select the areas Council should focus on in Year 4 of the Council Plan
- 209 written ideas and priorities for Year 4 of the Council Plan were received and
- 38 children and young people provided their feedback by drawing their ideas.

This input is in addition to, and builds upon, the input provided by the 1,191 individuals who participated in Year 1 consultations, the 320 individuals in Year 2, and 1,179 individuals participating in Year 3 consultations. This totals over 4,300 respondents helping to shape the Banyule Council Plan over a 4 year period.

Internal consultation was also undertaken with Councillors and Council staff to inform the development of both the annual Budget and Council Plan. This included consideration of key emerging issues, priorities and resource requirements to enable continued implementation of the Council Plan.

Feedback received

Council has received supportive feedback about delivery of Year 3 outcomes across the five strategic objectives, with the majority of respondents indicating that they were satisfied with Council's performance over the past 12 months. Council also received feedback and about how it can keep Banyule a great place to live, work and play into the future.

Overall, participants told us what they would like to see, and made the following suggestions for the upcoming 12 months across the five strategic objectives:

- Planet - improved recycling opportunities, more public recycling bins and food waste collection, support for residents to be more sustainable, and better protection and increased planting of trees.
- Place - more upgrades to parks and playgrounds, protection of green open spaces, better planning controls and managed development, and improved transport options including active travel modes.
- People - more local community events and activities and more support for community diversity, health and wellbeing and local services.
- Participation - more festivals, events and programs, and greater participation in decision making and having a say.
- Performance - more transparency and efficiency gains and improved request response times.

BANYULE CITY COUNCIL - COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2021 (YEAR 4) - FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION cont'd

Below are some of quotes that illustrate the types of feedback received during the recent consultation for Year 4 of the Council Plan:

"I'm impressed that Banyule is so vocal about equality and LGBTIQ rights"

"Good initiatives like the Carols and other social activities"

"We have really good green spaces in Banyule – keep up the good work."

"Great work on the re-development of social housing in Heidelberg West."

"Plenty of events and opportunities to contribute ideas."

"Banyule has a good system of community grants, which brings a number of benefits- important community initiatives obtain support..... and people are engaged in governance of their local area....."

"I receive consistent updates on issues and opportunities particularly with regards to environment and sustainability"

"I am very happy they declared a climate emergency and are making sustainable changes."

"I would love for Banyule to be one of the leading councils in greater Melbourne for recycling and ecological considerations!"

"Supportive and integrative Council"

"Best Council in Melbourne."

A full summary of feedback received is available on Shaping Banyule. The feedback received from the community has helped shape the proposed Council Plan 2017-2021 (Year 4).

COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2021 (YEAR 4)

The purpose of Banyule's Council Plan 2017-2021 is to set the strategic direction for Council. It outlines priorities and helps guide the services that Council provides to the community, and it sets the policy platform for Council. The Council Plan is informed by and used by Councillors, Council staff, community members, relevant stakeholders, agencies, the State Government, and residents. It is reviewed and updated each year.

BANYULE CITY COUNCIL - COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2021 (YEAR 4) - FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION cont'd

The Objectives as described in Banyule's Proposed Council Plan 2017-2021 (Year 4) are:

PEOPLE:	STRONG, HEALTHY AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES Support and strengthen the health and wellbeing of the Banyule community.
PLANET:	ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY Protect and care for the natural environment.
PLACE:	GREAT PLACES AND SPACES Maintain and enhance our public spaces, buildings and infrastructure.
PARTICIPATION:	ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY Engage meaningfully and advocate for the broader interest of the community.
PERFORMANCE:	EFFICIENCY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE Manage our resources wisely to achieve Council's strategic objectives.

The focus of the year 4 review of the Plan has included ongoing work with Councillors, staff and community, in particular:

- Checking in with the Community to see how people think Council is progressing with the Plan and things to consider for the final year
- Continuing to implement the Council Plan framework and refreshing the key initiatives to reflect activity resourced through Council's annual Budget
- Making minor changes that may be required based on feedback and the review process
- Updating the Strategic Resource Plan to reflect the next four years (2020-2024) as required by Section 126 of the Local Government Act.
- Reviewing the strategic indicators used to measure achievements against the Council Plan objectives.

The Council Plan framework continues to provide a solid foundation to address key sector influences and emerging challenges, including:

- Responding to the COVID-19 crisis by providing an Economic Support Package to help ratepayers, residents, community groups and businesses
- Environment
- Urban Development and Transport (eg. the North East Link project)
- Responding to externally driven reforms (such as changes to the Local Government Act)
- Advocacy and engagement
- Employment Pathways and Social Enterprise
- Major Projects and Project Management
- Other emerging issues, eg changes in the recycling industry.

BANYULE CITY COUNCIL - COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2021 (YEAR 4) - FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION cont'd

The Year 4 Plan includes changes to particular focus areas to strengthen the following key directions: '1.6 Stimulate business, employment and investment opportunities', '2.1 Protect and enhance our natural environment', '2.2 Conserve water and improve stormwater management', '2.3 Lead in planning for, and responding to, climate change', and '5.4 Provide good governance and be accountable'

LEGAL CONSIDERATION

In accordance with the provisions of Section 223 of the Act, a further formal opportunity for community consideration exists in the form of written submissions, which are now invited to be submitted by 4 June 2020. Submissions received to the proposed Council Plan (and Budget) will be formally 'heard' by Council at a Special Council Meeting on 17 June 2020 and 'considered' by Council at a Council meeting on 6 July 2020.

Advertisements will be placed in '*The Age*' at the commencement of the public notice period and copies of the Proposed Plan will be made publicly available. This year, due to the Coronavirus pandemic and the closure of Customer Service Centres, any specific request received regarding the submission form or copies of the proposed Council Plan will be managed as and when a request is received.

The required statutory notice advertisement will also appear on Council's website and in '*The Age*' on Wednesday, 6 May 2020.

The public notice informs the community of Council's intention to consider adoption of Banyule's Proposed Council Plan 2017-2021 (Year 4) in accordance with Sections 125 and 126 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, at a Council Meeting on Monday, 27 July 2020.

In response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989*, the Minister for Local Government has approved an extension of the date by which councils must adopt their Budgets and Strategic Resource Plans (SRP) for financial year 2020-21. Councils must now adopt their Budgets and SRP by 31 August 2020. This announcement did not specify any associated changes to the date by which councils must adopt adjustments to the Council Plan (which technically remains at 30 June of each financial year).

Banyule's approach has been consistent over the life of this plan, with an annual review process that runs together with the Budget process. In addition, Banyule's SRP is tightly integrated with the strategic objective: '*Performance - Efficiency and Good Governance: Manage our resources wisely to achieve Council's strategic objectives.*'

Subsequently, it is important that the Budget, SRP and rest of the Council Plan document are part of the same public exhibition (submissions) process. This is the preferred approach to achieve the best outcomes for the Community, Council and staff.

Subject to Council's endorsement of this report, Officers will write to the Minister for Local Government to inform him that Council will consider adoption of adjustments to the Council Plan at its meeting on 27 July 2020, noting that this is an extension to the

BANYULE CITY COUNCIL - COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2021 (YEAR 4) - FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION cont'd

due date of 30 June 2020. This enables annual review of the Council Plan to integrate closely with the Budget and SRP review processes.

CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS

All submissions to the Council Plan received in the statutory advertising period will be put forward to Council for consideration. A summary of the issues will be presented to Council. Submissions from individuals will be presented in full to Councillors but will be de-identified of private information to the public.

As part of Council's continued strong focus on transparency and commitment to the strategic direction for the benefit of the community, Council and Senior Officers have worked together to review and refine the submissions process for the Budget 2020/2021 and Council Plan 2017-2021 (Year 4).

Key improvements to be implemented this year include an additional meeting so that Council can firstly 'hear' submissions received at a Special Council Meeting on 17 June 2020 and then 'consider' the submissions at a subsequent Council meeting on 6 July 2020 (dedicated to the consideration and determining outcomes for the submissions), prior to final consideration and adoption at the Council Meeting on 27 July 2020.

HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER

In developing this report to Council, the subject matter has been considered to determine if it raises any human rights issues. In particular, whether the scope of any human right established by the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities is in any way limited, restricted or interfered with by the recommendations contained in this report. It is considered that the subject matter of the Council Plan does not raise any human rights issues but enhances the human rights of our community.

As a part of Council's community engagement program for the Council Plan, the plan has been developed through extensive consultation and engagement. This process of community involvement has promoted and facilitated specific rights outlined in the Charter, namely the right to take part in public life and the right to freedom of expression.

Council utilises the advice of committees that consist of members from underrepresented and marginalised sections of our community to ensure a stronger voice for these groups in the public life process.

FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

The attached Council Plan contains the Proposed Strategic Resource Plan (SRP) 2020-2024 for Banyule City Council. The SRP is included in Banyule's objective of 'Performance – Efficiency and good governance'.

The SRP outlines how Council will manage its financial and non-financial resources, including human resources, over the next four years to achieve its strategic objectives. It is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*.

BANYULE CITY COUNCIL - COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2021 (YEAR 4) - FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION cont'd

Linkage between Council Plan and Budget

The Annual Budget represents the first year of the Strategic Resource Plan. It works to deliver the strategic directions of the Council Plan, to provide a range of high quality services, programs and initiatives that meet community needs, and to achieve Council's Vision. The Budget is developed within and forms part of Council's overall strategic planning framework. It is developed based on information gathered from an ongoing community engagement process and industry best practice accounting standards. Objectives, key directions, initiatives and activities are used to allocate resources in a considered manner.

A full listing of the services resourced through the Budget 2020/21 is contained in the Council Plan. This is the main stay of Council's work for the community. Council's services are provided in line with best practice standards of quality, efficiency and effectiveness.

The Proposed Council Plan includes a set of strategic indicators to measure achievements against our objectives over a four-year period. These indicators help us to assess our efficiency and indicate effectiveness and quality of the services we provide. The indicators have been reviewed as part of Banyule's annual review process.

The Budget contains a set of service performance outcome indicators to measure Council's performance against the Council Plan objectives on an annual basis, and in accordance with legislated reporting requirements. This is reported to the Community in the statutory Annual Report (which includes audited Financial and Performance Statements).

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The purpose of Banyule's Council Plan 2017-2021 is to set the strategic direction for Council over four years. It outlines priorities and helps guide the services that we provide to the community, and it sets the policy platform for Council. Each of our strategic objectives is underpinned by a range of current supporting policies, strategies and plans.

Council has developed its strategic planning process to deliver service outcomes for the Community and to meet requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989 (the Act)*.

Council refers to the Local Government Planning and Reporting Better Practice Guide, which is designed to assist councils to best meet requirements under the *Local Government Act 1989* as they relate to the planning and accountability framework. It provides councils with relevant and practical information to assist in the development of key planning and reporting documents. This includes the Council Plan, Strategic Resource Plan, Annual Budget and Annual Report.

The Council Plan's Relationship with the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan

The Council Plan and the Banyule People: Health and Wellbeing Framework meet Banyule's obligation for the provision of a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan under the *Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*.

BANYULE CITY COUNCIL - COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2021 (YEAR 4) - FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION cont'd

This Council Plan documents our commitment to, and strategic plan for, enhancing health and wellbeing outcomes for our community.

The Council Plan is reviewed on an annual basis with a further lens relating to the health and wellbeing outcomes of our community. This is done to ensure compliance under the *Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* and to help improve health outcomes.

ADVOCACY

Council also relies on a wide range of partnerships and shared resources to provide services to the community. Key partnerships with the community, other levels of government and agencies are very important to enable Council to deliver on the key directions. Council works closely with partners to advocate for improved services, infrastructure and social outcomes. Council also seeks opportunities for equitable funding and service arrangements.

TIMELINES

- The proposed Council Plan 2017-2021 (Year 4) will be submitted to the Special Council Meeting on Monday 4 May 2020 (along with the proposed Budget 2020/21)
- Subject to Council approval, the final proposed Council Plan and proposed Budget will be on public exhibition from 7 May to 4 June 2020, giving the community a final opportunity for comment.
- At the Special Council Meeting on Wednesday 17 June 2020, Council will hear submissions
- At the Council Meeting on Monday 6 July 2020, Council will consider submissions (and then determine if any changes need to be made to the proposed Council Plan or Budget)
- At the Council Meeting on Monday 27 July 2020, Council will consider adoption of the proposed Council Plan and Budget.

OFFICER DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The *Local Government Act 2020* (Act) requires members of Council staff, and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council, to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

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

CONCLUSION

The Proposed Council Plan has been developed following a comprehensive planning process based on Councillor, Staff and Community engagement.

The timelines have been adjusted due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Cancellations of two scheduled Special Council meetings relating to the Budget and Council Plan are required and a new Special Council meeting needs to be set for the hearing of submissions.

BANYULE CITY COUNCIL - COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2021 (YEAR 4) - FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION cont'd

This four year plan is based on an evolution of Council's previous strategic framework and direction, one that has been developed together with the community over many years. It maintains and builds on the framework of the People, Planet, Place, Participation and Performance objectives.

This is the final year of the plan of the elected Council, which has been reviewed on an annual basis.

Council continues to demonstrate through this Plan, its comprehensive framework of integrated objectives, key directions, focus areas and key initiatives which are being implemented for the benefit of the community.

The Proposed Council Plan 2017-2021 (Year 4) continues to provide a roadmap for Council to follow. Underpinned by the vision and values, the Plan's objectives give Council clear areas of focus for the four-year period. It works together with the Budget to guide Council to achieve the best outcomes for the community.

Submissions will now be sought from the public on the proposed Council Plan 2017-2021 (Year 4) providing a further opportunity for community input and feedback.

ATTACHMENTS

No.	Title	Page
1	Proposed Council Plan 2017-2021 (Year 4) <i>(Under Separate Cover)</i>	

6.2 BANYULE CITY COUNCIL PROPOSED BUDGET 2020/2021 - FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION

Author: Tania O'Reilly - Manager Finance & Procurement, Corporate Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council's proposed Budget 2020/21 matches the strategic intent and direction of Banyule City Council over the life of the Proposed Council Plan and responds to the need to resource community priorities for Banyule, including supporting and protecting local communities during these unprecedented times. To do this successfully Council has allocated \$10.5 million of funds within this Budget to support individuals and business throughout the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The Budget will ensure Council's finances remain sustainable and that appropriate resources are allocated to meet the services and capital requirements of the City.

The information provided in the proposed Budget 2020/21 is current at the time of its preparation. Council are required to meet all legislative requirements and through this proposed Budget 2020/21 aims to best reflect the most likely financial performance and position of Council in the years ahead.

The Minister for Local Government has announced an extension for 2020/21 Council budgets until 31 August. Councils are usually required to adopt their budgets by 30 June. This change has provided Council the time to consider how to best change the budget to support Banyule residents and businesses.

The objectives intended via this report are to give notice of:

- 1) The preparation of Council's Budget for 2020/21 for the purposes of Section 127 of the *Local Government Act 1989 and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*.
- 2) The opportunity for additional formal feedback and to hear all public submissions on the Proposed Budget 2020/21 at a Special Council meeting on Wednesday, 17 June 2020.
- 3) The opportunity for Council to consider all public submissions on the Proposed Budget 2020/21 at a Council meeting on Monday, 6 July 2020.
- 4) Council's intention to consider adopting Banyule's Budget for 2020/21 (in accordance with Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 1989*) at a Council Meeting on Monday, 27 July 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. The Proposed Budget 2020/21 be the proposed Budget prepared by Council for the purposes of Section 127 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.
2. Council:

BANYULE CITY COUNCIL PROPOSED BUDGET 2020/2021 - FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION cont'd

- (a) Gives public notice for the preparation of such budget in accordance with Section 129 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.
 - (b) Makes available for public inspection the information required to be made available in accordance with *the Local Government Act 1989* and *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*.
 - (c) In accordance with Section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, calls for and receives submissions to the Proposed Budget 2020/21 from the public, in writing, until Thursday, 4 June 2020, at 5:00pm.
3. Council to hear any submissions regarding the Proposed Budget 2020/21 in accordance with Sections 127, 129 or 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*; and *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*, at a Special Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 17 June 2020.
4. Council to consider all submissions regarding the Proposed Budget 2020/21 in accordance with Sections 127, 129 or 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*; and *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*, at a Council Meeting to be held on Monday, 6 July 2020.
5. Council consider the adoption of the Proposed Budget 2020/21 at a Council Meeting to be held on Monday, 27 July 2020 (including the declaration of differential rates and charges, required interest to be paid on rates and charges not paid by the due date and the Schedule of Fees and Charges) in accordance with Sections 127 or 129 of the *Local Government Act 1989* and *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*.

COUNCIL PLAN

This report is in line with Banyule's Council Plan key direction to "Provide responsible financial management and business planning".

BACKGROUND

The Proposed Budget 2020/21 has been prepared to deliver the Proposed Council Plan 2017-2021 (Year 4) objectives, which set the overall strategic direction for Banyule.

Public Notice Process

Notice is required to be given to the public of Council's intention to formally:

- adopt the budget
- declare differential rates, service charges and any municipal charge
- require interest to be charged on unpaid rates and charges

It is the declared intent of Council to adopt this Budget at a meeting of Council on Monday, 27 July 2020. Subject to Council 'in principle' approval and in accordance with Section 129 of the Act, the Proposed Budget 2020/21 will be made available to the public for a minimum of 28 days after publication of the notice. This period is scheduled to commence from Thursday, 7 May 2020 and conclude on Thursday, 4 June 2020.

BANYULE CITY COUNCIL PROPOSED BUDGET 2020/2021 - FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION cont'd

This year due to the Coronavirus pandemic and the closure of Customer Service Centres any specific request received regarding the submission form or copies of the proposed Budget 2020/21 will be managed as and when a request is received.

A copy of the Proposed Budget 2020/21 will be made available on Council's website from Wednesday, 6 May 2020 and for inspection at the Ivanhoe and Greensborough Customer Service Centres if reopened.

The public notice and exhibition of the Proposed Budget 2020/21 enables any person affected by the Proposed Budget 2020/21 to make a formal submission to Council. Submissions received by Council in accordance with Section 223 of the Act will be considered by Council prior to the final Council consideration of the adoption of the Budget on Monday, 27 July 2020.

Budget Development Process

The Proposed Budget 2020/21 has been prepared with a focus on responsible financial management and in accordance with *the Local Government Act 1989, Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* and *Accounting Standards*.

The Proposed Budget 2020/21 is for the Year 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

The financial statements included in the Proposed Budget 2020/21 have been prepared for the year ended 30 June 2021 in accordance *the Local Government Act 1989, Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* and are consistent with the annual financial statements which are prepared in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards.

The Proposed Budget 2020/21 also includes information about the rates and charges estimated to be levied, the capital works program to be undertaken, the human resources required to deliver Council services, and other financial information required for Council to make informed decisions about its financial future.

In advance of preparing the Proposed Budget 2020/21, officer's first review and update Council's long-term financial projections. Financial projections for at least four years are ultimately included in Council's Strategic Resource Plan, which is the key medium-term financial plan produced by Council on a rolling basis for consideration.

The preparation of the budget, within this broader context, begins with the Banyule financial sustainability strategy, including the strategic operating and capital requirements to deliver the required level of service delivery. Budget parameters are determined, and model scenarios are prepared. This includes consideration of the appropriate rate increase and projections on the likely rate cap increase to be determined by the Minister for Local Government.

The budget parameters are discussed at briefings throughout the year. This process allows consideration of changes in areas of the budget and includes changes based on ongoing and extensive information received from the community consultation processes throughout the year; and on specific consultation undertaken including on the fees and charges schedule and Rating Strategy for the 2020/21 financial year.

This Proposed Budget 2020/21 has been prepared and is now submitted to Council for 'in principle' approval. Subject to approval Council is required to give 'public notice' that it intends to 'adopt' the budget. It must give 28 days' notice of its intention to adopt the proposed budget and make the budget available on its internet web site during this period.

BANYULE CITY COUNCIL PROPOSED BUDGET 2020/2021 - FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION cont'd

A person has a right to make a submission on any proposal contained in the Proposed Budget 2020/21 and any submission must be considered before the final adoption of the Budget by Council. It is at Council's discretion whether any submission or submissions affect the final budget outcome.

The final step is for Council to adopt the Budget after receiving and considering any submissions from interested parties.

The Minister for Local Government has recently announced an extension for 2020/21 Council budgets until 31 August. Councils are usually required to adopt their budgets by 30 June. Council will now consider adoption of the Budget 2020/21 at a Council meeting on Monday, 27 July 2020.

Proposed Budget 2020/21 Highlights

The Proposed Budget 2020/21 works in line with the directives of the Proposed Council Plan 2017-2021 (Year 4). Councillors and staff are committed to achieving these medium and long-term objectives that ensure we are building a better Banyule.

During the preparation on this Budget, great care has been taken to ensure Council can demonstrate responsible financial management and governance. It looks to balance competing demands on providing community services, maintaining and renewing infrastructure with the community's capacity to pay for it.

Council will continue delivering quality and inclusive services to the community that offer value for money and respond to community needs; lead on environmental sustainability; invest in infrastructure and community facilities that service our community today and for future generations; plan for our growing City addressing development, transport, open space and diversity; and maintain our public and open spaces and preserve neighbourhood character.

To help us to deliver on these main focus areas and important initiatives above Council will work in partnership with the community; engage with our community to ensure they are well informed and represented and meaningfully involved in decision making; encourage community participation and inclusion to provide opportunities for all; and advocate for our community to improve services, infrastructure and social outcomes.

2020/21 Rating Strategy

Banyule City Council's Rating Strategy is reviewed annually to ensure that Council supports the rating principles used to levy rates and charges, in collaboration with determining the Proposed Budget 2020/21.

Rates and charges contribute funds to address ageing infrastructure, improve the amenity and quality of community assets and deliver vital services across the breadth of the City.

Council, through the adoption of the 2020/21 Rating Strategy at the 16 March 2020 council meeting, has resolved to increase rates by 2% in line with the State Government's Fair Go Rates System.

The 2% rate increase is measured, as several costs, outside of Council's control are rising greater than 2%. As an example, the costs associated with landfill and recycling of waste have, within this budget, been partially absorbed through operational innovation and prudent cost management. The remaining costs are

BANYULE CITY COUNCIL PROPOSED BUDGET 2020/2021 - FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION cont'd

reflected within the increased transfer stations fees and charges unit pricing to ensure cost recovery principles are effectively maintained.

Council do not currently have a separate waste charge but continue to be exposed to the significant changes in legislation surrounding waste management. It will be necessary each year to monitor and assess the rising costs and Council's ability to manage waste costs within the rate cap.

Fees and Charges

Statutory fees and charges are fixed by statute and can only be increased in line with the annual increases announced by State Government. The balance of fees and charges are discretionary in that Council can levy the amount it believes is equitable for each service/item (user fees).

Council has over 800 user fees (excludes statutory fees). Of these, 34% are considered by Council as community fees. These community fees are where no competition for the service exists. The services provided aim to strengthen capacity and connections to build healthy and strong communities.

Commercial fees represent 66% of Council's user fees. The fees for these services are predominately provided to commercial clients, or for the services operating under a commercial environment.

Council aims to ensure that it listens to the community and that the services provided by Council are affordable. Council in its determination of user fee increases has taken into consideration the needs and accessibility of the community; demand for the service, pricing and cost to sustain a viable service

Council has, through the development of the proposed Budget 2020/21, and were feasible:

- kept 73% of its community fees at 2019/20 pricing. By keeping these fees low Council aim to encourage greater participation across the municipality and maintain sustainable community affordability.
- maintained Commercial fees increases to 2% to reflect the rate cap maximum increase. The increase is necessary to balance cost recovery, competitive pressures and council's financial sustainability objectives.

Council will continue to annually review fees and charges considering the affordability of the services, costs to provide the services and market conditions as appropriate.

BANYULE CITY COUNCIL PROPOSED BUDGET 2020/2021 - FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION cont'd

Investing in infrastructure and initiatives

The proposed Budget 2020/21 has an allocation of \$62.03 million to deliver capital works projects and \$14.47 million to deliver Council initiatives (including projects carried forward from 2019/20).

The proposed Budget 2020/21 includes our commitments to fund:

- Banyule's Economic Support Package – to provide immediate support to ratepayers, residents, community groups and businesses that are most impacted by the COVID-19 crisis and introducing more measures into 2020/21 to provide help to those most in need.
- Council's Climate Action Package with specific actions to plan for a carbon neutral Banyule Council by 2028
- the Inclusive Employment Program which has been successful in creating more local jobs for those who experience disadvantage and building partnerships with social enterprises
- improvements to transport infrastructure and advocacy (including North East Link)
- digital transformation to enhance significantly our customer service initiatives.

Capital Works funded by the Proposed Budget include:

- Property and art collection \$39.27 million
- Parks & gardens and playgrounds \$7.95 million
- Roads, footpaths and bridges \$7.45 million
- Plant and equipment (and intangible assets) \$5.71 million
- Drainage and irrigation \$1.65 million

Of the total capital works budget \$26.92 million is invested into asset renewal and \$21.58 million towards asset upgrade.

There is significant investment into our parks, gardens, playgrounds and shared paths; upgrade to sporting grounds, facilities and pavilions; whilst continuing to invest in the maintaining of our roads, bridges and drainage.

BANYULE CITY COUNCIL PROPOSED BUDGET 2020/2021 - FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION cont'd

Delivery of Core Services

Council's Services and initiatives are categorised within the Proposed Council Plan 2017-2021 (Year 4) and funded (net expenditure) within the Proposed Budget 2020/21 as follows:

- People: \$20.56 million - Strong, Healthy and Inclusive Communities.
- Planet: \$23.78 million - Environmental Sustainability.
- Place: \$12.73 million - Great Places and Spaces.
- Participation: \$3.62 million - Engagement and Advocacy.
- Performance: \$22.20 million - Efficiency and Good Governance.

A major focus of Council is to promote and support good health for people of different ages, life stages and backgrounds.

Council assists local businesses and shopping precincts to thrive, while the neighbourhood houses and libraries continue to connect people and offer a vast array of learning opportunities.

Council provides a range of popular community events and activities, and investing in recreation, leisure and arts, helping to support a vibrant, connected community.

LEGAL CONSIDERATION

Subject to Council 'in principle' approval and in accordance with Section 129 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, the Proposed Budget 2020/21 will be made available to the public commencing Thursday 7 May 2020 and concluding Thursday 4 June 2020.

Advertisements are to be placed in the Age and Leader newspapers at the commencement of the public notice period. A copy of the Proposed Budget 2020/21 will be available for inspection on Council's website from Wednesday, 6 May 2020.

This year due to the Coronavirus pandemic and the closure of Customer Service Centres and Libraries we will accommodate any specific request received regarding the submission form or copies of the proposed Budget 2020/21.

The required statutory notice advertisement will appear on Council's website and in the Age on Wednesday, 6 May 2020.

Under the Sections 127 and 130 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council is required to prepare and adopt an annual budget for each financial year.

Council will hear public submissions to the exhibited Proposed Budget 2020/21 on Wednesday, 17 June 2020. Council will then consider public submissions to the exhibited Proposed Budget 2020/21 on Monday, 6 July 2020 prior to considering adoption of the Proposed Budget 2020/21.

Council will consider adoption of the Budget 2020/21 at a Council meeting on Monday, 27 July 2020. The Minister for Local Government announced the extension for 2020/21 Council budgets until 31 August 2020.

BANYULE CITY COUNCIL PROPOSED BUDGET 2020/2021 - FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION cont'd

Section 223 process

All submissions to the budget received in the statutory advertising period will be presented to Council to hear at the Special Council meeting on Wednesday, 17 June 2020 and then consider these at a Council meeting on Monday, 6 July 2020.

Public Submissions must be made in writing to Council by close of business on Thursday, 4 June 2020.

General Rates

The general rates, service charges and municipal charge must be paid by four instalments on or before dates fixed under Section 167 of the *Local Government Act 1989*. Council will, subject to Section 172 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, require a person to pay interest on any rates and charges which that person is liable to pay and which have not been paid by the dates specified for their payment.

The penalty interest rate is 10% per annum as set by the Attorney-General under the *Penalty Interest Rates Act 1983*, effective from 1 February 2017.

HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER

In developing this report to Council, the subject matter has been considered in accordance with the requirements of the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities.

The preparation and adoption of Council's Budget facilitates the protection of many of our communities' human rights as funding for many Council projects, programs and initiatives is directly related to protecting and enhancing the human rights of the community.

Council continues to work on behalf of its community to ensure the upholding of human rights for all and it is considered that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

CURRENT SITUATION

Council are required to meet all legislative requirements and through this proposed Budget 2020/21 aims to best reflect the most likely financial performance and position of Council in the years ahead, based on information known the time of preparation of the proposed Budget 2020/21. This Budget includes financial impacts on Council services from the current economic and health crisis and Councils Economic Support Package.

Like many, if not all, Victorian businesses and service providers, Banyule has had to rapidly adjust its operations to ensure that critical community services and assets can be maintained throughout the crisis. Community and employee health and safety remain councils' top priority as we work to redeploy staff and find alternative ways to deliver valued services.

Many of councils' critical services are continuing, including maternal and child health services, childhood immunisations, childcare, outreach to vulnerable community members, and aged services such as meals on wheels. Recycling and waste services are continuing, as are environmental and public health services.

BANYULE CITY COUNCIL PROPOSED BUDGET 2020/2021 - FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION cont'd

We also recognise that coronavirus is leading to job losses and economic downturn that will put a lot of families, households and businesses under significant financial pressure. Through the \$10.5 million Banyule Economic Support Package Council has and will continue to assess a range of options, including the ability to consider hardship cases in relation to rates, to assist individuals and businesses in financial difficulty.

Areas of support to be provided through Banyule's Economic Support Package include:

- Business Support
 - Refund street trader permits fees paid in advance
 - Waive Street Trading Permit fees
 - Rent relief for tenants in Council buildings
 - Waive Health Act Registration fees
 - Cover business contributions for special rates and charges
 - 5 business day invoice payment terms
 - Support when restrictions are lifted
 - Business grants program boost
 - Extend professional business counselling service
 - Increase Council's business support and advice capacity
 - Training subsidy increases
 - Shovel ready infrastructure project fast track
- Community group support
 - Waive fees, charges and rent for 6 months
 - Other avenues of support are being investigated
- Ratepayer support
 - Defer rates for ratepayers experiencing financial hardship
 - Other avenues of support are being investigated
 - Extension on animal registration renewal fee

CONSULTATION

The Proposed Budget 2020/21 will be available for public inspection between Thursday, 7 May 2020 and Thursday, 4 June 2020 on Council's online community engagement site 'Shaping Banyule'.

The Proposed Budget 2020/21 is developed within Council's overall strategic planning framework. This framework guides the Council with information that aids in identifying community needs and aspirations over the long-term, converting these into medium (Council Plan) and short-term (Annual Budget) objectives, key directions, initiatives, activities and allocates resources in a considered manner with this information.

BANYULE CITY COUNCIL PROPOSED BUDGET 2020/2021 - FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION cont'd

Accountability to our community is ensured through audited Financial and Performance Statements (containing our key performance indicators) within the statutory annual report to the community. Council also presents regular financial reports and performance updates to the community throughout the year

Essential in the planning and allocation of Council's resources is the critical link to the community. Banyule undertakes an ongoing and iterative process of engagement across all parts of the community and uses detailed demographics and industry benchmark information to stay informed about the needs of the community.

Consultation on the Rating Strategy and Schedule of fees and Charges was undertaken to inform the community of the Strategy and Council's proposed fees and charges and to ensure the support of the community. The consultation was undertaken through the Shaping Banyule section on Council's website.

The Rating strategy was then adopted at the Council meeting on 16 March 2020, and the schedule of fees and charges are now recommended to be included in the proposed Budget 2020/21.

TIMELINES

- The proposed Budget 2020/21 will be submitted to the Monday, 4 May 2020 Special Council Meeting (along with the proposed Council Plan 2017-2021 (Year 4))
- Subject to Council approval, the final proposed Budget and proposed Council Plan will be on public exhibition from Thursday, 7 May 2020 to Thursday, 4 June 2020, giving the community a final opportunity for comment.
- At the Special Council Meeting on Wednesday, 17 June 2020, Council will hear submissions.
- At the Council Meeting on Monday, 6 July 2020 Council will consider submissions and determine if any changes need to be made to the proposed Budget or Council Plan.
- At the Council Meeting on Monday, 27 July 2020, Council will consider adoption of the proposed Budget and Council Plan.

OFFICER DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The *Local Government Act 2020* (Act) requires members of Council staff, and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council, to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

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

BANYULE CITY COUNCIL PROPOSED BUDGET 2020/2021 - FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION cont'd

CONCLUSION

This Proposed Budget meets the requirements of Section 127 of the *Local Government Act 1989* which requires Council to prepare a budget for each financial year.

To ensure compliance with legislative disclosure requirements the compliance checklist provided in the Local Government Better Practice guide - Model Budget 2020/21 - has been completed.

The Proposed Budget for 2020/21 is aligned to the long-term strategies as outlined in the Proposed Council Plan 2017–2021 (Year 4) and is in line with Council's commitment to sustainable budgeting and responsible financial management.

ATTACHMENTS

No.	Title	Page
1	Proposed Budget 2020/2021 (<i>Under Separate Cover</i>)	