

3 April 2019

Councillor (as addressed)

re: Special Meeting of Council - Monday 8 April 2019

A Special Council Meeting, under the provisions of Section 84(1) of the Local Government Act 1989, has been called, which will be held in the Council Chamber, Braeside Avenue, Ringwood, on Monday 8 April 2019, commencing at 7:30pm, and your presence is requested.

The purpose of the Meeting is to submit the Draft Council Plan 2017-2021 (2019/20 update) and Proposed Budget 2019/2020, to Council for 'Approval in Principle' and to resolve to place both on public exhibition.

Yours faithfully

Steve Kozlowski CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Note:

This meeting is being streamed live on the internet and recorded. Every care is taken to maintain privacy and attendees are advised they may be recorded.



COUNCIL CHAMBER
IS FITTED WITH A HEARING AID
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Service Centres | Croydon: Civic Square

REALM: 179 Maroondah Hwy, Ringwood



19 March 2019

Chief Executive Officer

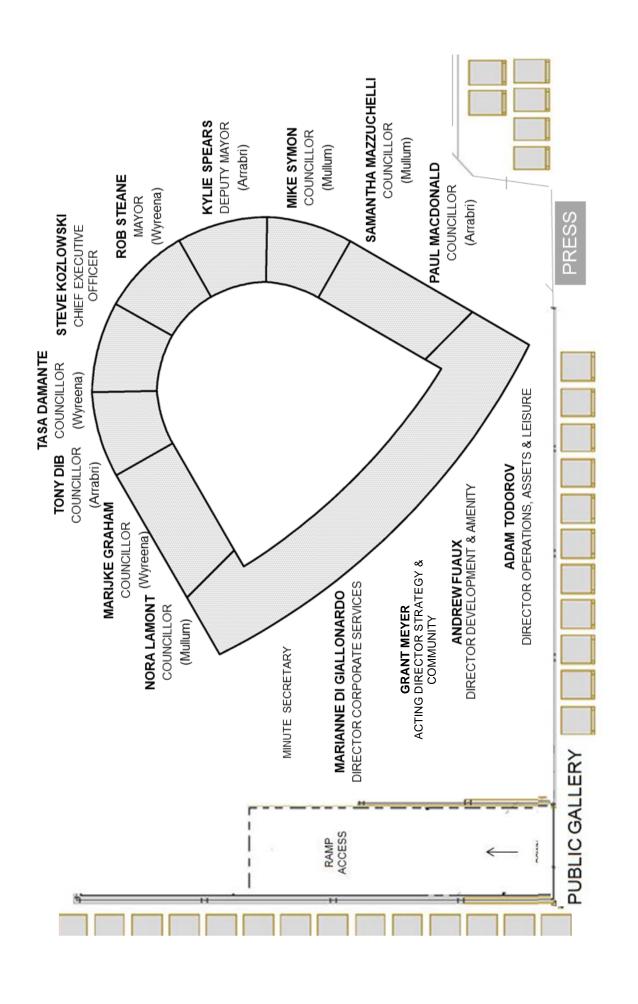
re: Special Meeting of Council - Monday 8 April 2019

In accordance with Section 84(1) of the Local Government Act 1989, I hereby call a Special Meeting of Council to be held in the Council Chamber, Braeside Avenue, Ringwood, at 7:30pm on Monday 8 April 2019.

The purpose of the Meeting is to submit the Draft Council Plan 2017-2021 (2019/20 update) and Proposed Budget 2019/2020, to Council for 'Approval in Principle' and to resolve to place both on public exhibition.

Yours faithfully

Rob Steane MAYOR



ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1. Prayer
- 2. Acknowledgment of Country
- 3. Apologies
- 4. Conflict of Interest
- 5. Officers' Reports

Director Corporate Services

 Draft Council Plan 2017-2021 (2019/20 Update) and Proposed Budget 2019/20

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DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2021 (2019/20 UPDATE) AND PROPOSED BUDGET 2019/20

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PURPOSE

To provide Council the *Draft Council Plan 2017-2021 (2019/20 Update)* and proposed Budget 2019/20; and to seek Council endorsement for public exhibition in accordance with Council's *Community Engagement Policy 2015* and the Right to Make Submission (S.223) under the *Local Government Act 1989* ("the Act"). This commences the legislative procedure for formal adoption by Council.

This procedure incorporates the period of public inspection and invitation to the community to make submissions in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES

The following directions contained in Maroondah 2040: Our Future Together and the Council Plan 2017-2021 (Year 2: 2018-2019) provide the strategic framework that underpins the purpose of this report.

Outcome Area: A well governed and empowered community

<u>Our Vision:</u> In 2040, Maroondah will be an empowered community that is actively engaged in Council decision making through processes that consider the needs and aspirations of all ages and population groups. Council will provide strong and responsive leadership, ensuring transparency, while working with the community to advocate for and 'champion' local needs.

Key Directions 2018 – 2019:

- 8.1 Provide enhanced governance that is transparent, accessible, inclusive and accountable.
- 8.2 Ensure responsible and sustainable management of Maroondah's resources, assets, infrastructure and natural environment.

BACKGROUND

DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan together with *Maroondah 2040: Our future together*, the Annual Budget and Annual Report, are Council's high level strategic documents which draw together the community aspirations, preferred outcomes and key directions for the future. These high level strategic documents and associated processes form an integral part of the Maroondah City Council's Integrated Planning Framework (shown below).

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Figure 1: Council's Integrated Planning Framework



The *Draft Council Plan 2017-2021 (2019/20 Update) (The Draft Council Plan 2017-2021)* has been prepared in accordance with requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989*. The Act requires the Council Plan 2017-2021 to include the strategic objectives of the Council (community outcome areas), strategies for achieving the objectives for at least the next four years (key directions), strategic indicators for monitoring the achievement of these objectives (Council Plan indicators) and a Strategic Resource Plan describing financial and non-financial resources.

The draft Council Plan 2017-2021 reflects the preferred future outcomes and key directions as identified by the community in the development of *Maroondah 2040: Our future together*.

At Maroondah, the Council Plan is refreshed annually to ensure identified priority actions meet emerging community needs and aspirations, and provide an updated strategic resource plan.

The *Draft Council Plan 2017-2021* acknowledges progress made on priority actions undertaken during 2018/19 and provides an amended list of proposed 'Priority Actions' for the remaining two years of the Council Plan 2017-2021, from 2019/20 to 2020/21. These proposed priority actions have been aligned with the outcome areas identified in *Maroondah 2040: Our future together*.

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An updated Strategic Resource Plan has also been included to identify the financial resources required to deliver on the Council Plan and the services delivered by Council over the next four years.

Reporting against the Council Plan and Annual Budget is undertaken quarterly to Council and the Audit and Risk Advisory Committee. Reporting on annual achievements is undertaken through the Annual Report and the 'Our Achievements' document.

PROPOSED ANNUAL BUDGET

The proposed Budget for 2019/20 (the proposed budget) is one of Council's high level strategic documents. The community's aspirations for Maroondah's future direction and development are set out in *Maroondah 2040: Our Future Together* and this forms the foundation from which Council shapes its medium term plans for the municipality. The Proposed Budget then addresses the provision of financial resources for the next 12 months as well as articulating how those resources are to be spent in delivering services to the community.

It is a critical planning and resource tool of Council and is vital to the ongoing operational and financial viability of Council. It sets out the expected income and expenditure for the coming year and also incorporates Council's rates and charges as well as estimating the net worth of the municipality at the end of the year. It is the culmination of Councillor Briefings (including discussions at the Councillor Conference) and detailed preparation by employees and management.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN

To respond to the long-term objectives (outcome areas) and medium-term strategies (key directions) outlined in Maroondah 2040 and the Council Plan, 58 priority actions are identified in the *Draft Council Plan 2017-2021 (2019/20 Update)* for the 2019/20 period.

The following are the proposed Council Plan priority actions for Council either commencing or continuing in the forthcoming 2019/20 financial year:

- 1) Amend planning controls relating to alcohol density through participation in the South east Melbourne Councils Alliance (SEMCA) alcohol density project
- 2) Complete the \$3m Silcock Sporting Pavilion redevelopment in Croydon
- 3) Complete the \$3.5m redevelopment of the HE Parker Sporting Pavilion
- 4) Complete the \$4.5m Springfield Sporting Pavilion redevelopment (subject to funding)
- 5) Complete the \$5m Jubilee Sporting Precinct redevelopment
- 6) Undertake sportsfield reconstruction works at Quambee Reserve No 1 oval in Ringwood North
- 7) Implement the changes that result from the reform of the Environment Protection Act
- 8) Complete the \$3.25m Proclamation Park Sporting Pavilion redevelopment (subject to funding)

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- 9) Undertake a review and develop a Physical Activity Strategy 2020-2024
- 10) Develop a new Municipal Emergency Management Plan considering changes to legislation and outcomes of Local Government Victoria's Councils and Emergencies project
- 11) Complete the \$12m Dorset Recreation Reserve Redevelopment (subject to funding)
- 12) Work with partners of Together for Equality and Respect (TFER): A Strategy to Prevent Violence Against Women in Melbourne East to prevent violence against women in Maroondah, including participation in the "16 days of activism" campaign
- 13) Continue to develop Regional Service Partnerships such as procurement efficiencies, library services and advocacy
- 14) Work in partnership to implement the Baywater / Bayswater North Industrial precinct strategy to assist local businesses and promote investment attraction
- 15) Develop, promote and expand the BizHub Co-Working Space
- 16) Plan and implement carparking improvements in the Ringwood Metropolitan Activity Centre and the Croydon Activity Centre
- 17) Work in partnership to facilitate appropriate development within the Ringwood Metropolitan Activity Centre and Croydon Activity Centre
- 18) Undertake a strategic review of shopping centres in Maroondah and develop a Community Shopping Centre Strategy
- 19) Implement the reforms to the Small Business Victoria Food Act
- 20) As part of the Croydon Community Precinct development, plan and deliver the Croydon Library integrated Customer Service Project
- 21) Commence development of an Arts and Cultural Development Strategy 2019-2023
- 22) Establish a new Arts Advisory Committee and implement new public art across Maroondah in accordance with Council's Public Art Policy
- 23) Complete the \$15m Karralyka redevelopment (subject to funding)
- 24) Further develop the programming and profile of the Ringwood Arts Precinct
- 25) Finalise the Maroondah Vegetation Review and prepare planning controls for inclusion in the Maroondah Planning Scheme
- 26) Work in partnership to undertake renewal works on the Mullum Mullum and Dandenong Creek shared trail
- 27) Introduce an environmentally sustainable development policy into the Maroondah Planning Scheme
- 28) Tender and implement contracts for waste collection, landfill and the receipt and sorting of recyclables to meet community need and expectations across all waste streams as identified in the Waste Management Strategy 2019-2029
- 29) Advocate to the Commonwealth and Victorian Government for provision of new and upgraded major transportation infrastructure in Maroondah; including freeway connections, upgrade to arterial roads and intersections and major public transport enhancements

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- 30) Accelerate Council's footpath construction program
- 31) Implement the Maroondah Carparking Framework action plan
- 32) Undertake the renewal of New Street in Ringwood, including flood mitigation works, between Maroondah Highway and Sylvia Grove
- 33) Undertake a municipal wide review of Council's neighbourhood character and heritage controls
- 34) Complete the Lincoln Road upgrade, east of Dorset Road, Croydon
- Work in partnership to implement the Greening the Greyfields Project to facilitate a sustainable approach to urban redevelopment in identified residential precincts
- 36) Develop and implement the Flood Mapping Communications Plan
- 37) Develop and commence implementation of priority open space and public realm enhancement plans
- 38) Implement the new Ringwood Activity Centre Masterplan into planning processes
- 39) Continue the upgrade of drainage including flood mitigation works in the Scenic Avenue catchment in Ringwood East
- 40) Work in partnership to develop flood mitigation solutions for the central Croydon area
- 41) Accelerate Council's drainage improvement program
- 42) Commence preparation of a new Croydon Structure Plan
- 43) Commence the Croydon Community Precinct development (subject to funding)
- 44) Work in partnership to implement the Tarralla Creek Connects project
- 45) Continue implementation of the Corporate Volunteering Program that recruits, promotes and manage volunteers who support the provision of services and community activities.
- 46) Investigate and implement additional female changing facilities at local sporting venues
- 47) Develop and commence implementation of a new Disability Policy and Action Plan
- 48) Commence development of an Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy 2020-2024
- 49) Commence development of an updated Children and Families Strategy 2020-2024
- 50) Progress Council's digital transformation that enables innovation and improved Customer Service delivery models including access to information, engagement and online payments
- 51) Update Council's administrative facilities
- 52) Engage the community in undertaking an interim review of Maroondah 2040: Our future together
- 53) Participate in an Electoral Representation Review as mandated by State Government in the leadup to the 2020 Local Government elections
- 54) Undertake a review of Council's Community Engagement Policy
- 55) Develop a new Customer Service Strategy that will continue to advance Council's commitment to be highly responsive and customer focused

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- 56) Review the current use of CCTV for its effectiveness in controlling waste dumping
- 57) Develop and implement the Workforce People and Culture Plan 2021-2025 that provides a road map for the development, implementation, review and measurement of services, activities and systems that enable the organisation to deliver exceptional results
- 58) Advocate for Maroondah to become a "Smart City"

The *Draft Council Plan 2017-2021 (2019/20 Update)* is aligned with *Maroondah 2040: Our future together*, the long term vision for the community that was adopted by Council in June 2014. This alignment ensures that the Council Plan continues to form part of an integrated approach to planning that is informed by community aspirations for Maroondah's future.

The *Draft Council Plan 2017-2021 (2019/20 Update)* has been informed by stakeholder input during development of the original Council Plan 2017-2021 in February 2017, along with community engagement inputs from a range of other Council strategic projects over the past three years.

There is further opportunity for revisions to be proposed by community members during the public exhibition period, which will run for the statutory period of 28 days, in this instance, 11 April to 10 May 2019.

It is intended that a final report be submitted to Council following this consultation period prior to submission of the final *Council Plan 2017-2021 (2019/20 Update)* to the Minister for Local Government by 30 June 2019.

PROPOSED ANNUAL BUDGET

The Proposed Budget document as presented and to be placed on exhibition contains:

- Linkages to the Council Plan
- Community Outcome Areas (Strategic Objectives)
- Listing of Council Services and Service Performance Indicators
- Summary of Financial Position
- Financial Statements
- Comments on significant budget influences
- Capital Expenditure Program information
- Fees & Charges schedule
- Budgetary process information and Statutory Disclosures

Its contents are consistent with the Strategic Resource Plan component of the proposed *Council Plan 2017-2021 (2019/20 Update)* and demonstrates the provision of adequate resources to achieve the Plan's objectives and activities for the next 12 months. Overall it is

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a balanced, sustainable, and responsible way forward to ensure Maroondah continues to be a vibrant city with an active community, strong local economy, and a diverse cultural life in a prosperous and sustainable environment. It provides for the capacity to deal with the challenges of the future and includes 20 major initiatives (priority actions) and 38 initiatives which were identified in the Council Plan for the 2019/20 period.

In 2015 the Local Government (Fair Go Rates) Act was passed in Parliament. The Act introduced a rate cap based on CPI plus or minus any adjustment and allows for multiple caps to be set by the Minister and variations to the cap should Council obtain approval to raise rate revenue by a greater amount than that imposed by the cap. The Minister has determined that the rate cap for 2019/20 is set at an increase of 2.5% over the average property rate of a Council. The average property rate is derived by dividing the total rate revenue adjusted for the annualisation of supplementary rate income by the number of rateable properties as at 30 June. The increase under the rate cap applies to rate revenue after growth in the previous year has been taken into account.

The key aspects of the revised LTFS include:

- Rate revenue increases within the rate cap framework with no variation request required;
- Services and service levels maintained at 2018/19 levels with the aim to use fewer resources with an emphasis on innovation, productivity and efficiency enhancements;
- Asset renewal expenditure to be at least at the level of depreciation each year;
- Waste charges reviewed and budgeted for to mitigate the risks in the recycling markets;
- No new borrowings:
- Provision of a cash backed defined benefits superannuation fund reserve of \$5 million;
- Provision of a growing cash backed major capital projects reserve to fund as yet unidentified and new major project(s);

The adjusted underlying budget surplus, which is a measure of financial sustainability, shows an underlying surplus being achieved annually over the ten-year period of the strategy. The Budget for 2019/20 proposes an underlying surplus of \$4.871 million and Council's cash and cash equivalents (including Financial Assets) projected to be \$38.75 million at June 2020.

Council is required to conduct an annual General Property Valuation. The most recent General Valuation was carried out with levels of value set as at 1 January 2019. The General Valuation was undertaken in accordance with best practice standards set by the State Valuer-General. These valuations are used for rating purposes to equitably spread the total of Council's own source revenue across Maroondah's total assessment base. Hence, the higher the property value the higher the associated individual property general rates; the lower the property value, the lower the associated individual property general rates.

The 2019/20 rating strategy is based upon Capital Improved Value, the use of a differential rate for vacant land, commercial land, industrial land, derelict land and the continuation of assistance to ratepayers who qualify under Council's financial hardship provisions. It is

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proposed to raise \$76.886 million in general rates derived within the rate cap framework legislated by the State Government.

The next General Valuation will be conducted in 2020 and will be carried out with levels set as at 1 January 2020.

Further, Council's established policy regarding garbage services is for all waste and recycling costs to be fully recovered through the application of a Garbage Charge in accordance with Council's contractual arrangements. In accordance with this policy, garbage charges will remain at 2018/19 levels; \$324.00 for a 120-litre bin, and \$270.00 for an 80-litre bin. Should members of the community wish to reduce their service from a 120-litre bin to an 80-litre bin, they are encouraged to contact Council. Similarly, should residents wish to increase their recycling capacity they are able to secure a second bin at no extra cost. Again, residents are encouraged to contact Council on 1300 88 22 33.

The Proposed Budget also includes information on borrowings and confirms that borrowings of \$24.2m were drawn down in 2014/15 to partly fund the new regional aquatic and leisure centre - Aquanation at Ringwood with repayment of principal and interest over 15 years.

Further, information on Council's 10-year capital works program is also included which reflects the Total Life Cycle Asset Management framework which provides the basis for the capital renewal and upgrade component associated with infrastructure assets.

The Budget provides for a Capital Expenditure program totalling \$28.764m. The program is funded externally via grants and contributions to the extent of \$1.642m and the balance internally through general rates and cash reserves. Expenditure on asset renewal and asset upgrade is \$23.824m whilst new projects total \$4.94m.

The net result for the 2019/20 year is planned at a \$4.871m surplus which is a decrease from the 2018/19 Budget as specific funding received in 2018/19 for a large capital works project is non recurrent. It is anticipated that net surpluses will continue for the life of the Long Term Financial Strategy.

The planned financial position as at 30 June 2019 reveals Council will continue to be financially sound with projected net assets of \$1.866b, a working capital ratio of 1.72:1, adequate cash and investments to meet its cyclical cash flow requirements, and borrowings in line with agreed loan repayment schedules. It is submitted that the Budget represents prudent financial management that will underpin and facilitate the application and attainment of the future outcomes, key directions and priority actions detailed in the Council Plan and beyond. Hence the 2019/20 Budget has ensured financial sustainability across Council's entire areas of operations and responsibility and in accordance with its long term financial strategy, has kept its own source revenue levels realistic.

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES

The resources required to implement the draft Council Plan 2017-2021 (2019/20 Update) priority actions are contained within the current annual budget and strategic resource plan, except where identified that an action is 'subject to funding'.

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ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES

These are contained within the Draft Council Plan and Proposed Budget and articulate the Council's current directions.

SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES

These are contained with the Draft Council Plan and Proposed Budget and articulate Council's current directions.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The *Draft Council Plan 2017-2021 (2019/20 Update)* has been informed by stakeholder input during development of the original Council Plan 2017-2021 in February 2017, along with community engagement inputs from a range of other Council strategic projects over the past three years.

To seek feedback on the *Draft Council Plan 2017-2021 (2019/20 Update)* and *Proposed Annual Budget 2019/20*, a public exhibition process will be undertaken in accordance with Section 223 of the Act.

The process will involve:

- Public exhibition of the Draft Council Plan and Proposed Budget on Council's website as well as at all Council Service Centres and local libraries.
- Advertisements in the local paper seeking comments or feedback from the community on the Draft Council Plan and Proposed Budget.

To this end, an advertisement will be placed in 'The Age' newspaper on Thursday 11 April 2019 advising the community that documents are available for viewing on Council's website, and will also be available from any of Council's Service Centres and Libraries on this date. A copy of the advertisement will also be placed in the Maroondah Leader on Tuesday 16 April 2019.

Both written and online comments on both documents will be received by Council up until 5pm, 10 May 2019.

The process will be formalised through public submissions under Section 223 of the Act. A meeting to hear submissions will take place at 7.00pm on Wednesday 15 May 2019 at Maroondah City Council Offices. Anyone wanting to make a submission to Council should advise of this requirement in their written submission, giving a name and contact number.

Written submissions should also be addressed to:

Mr Steve Kozlowski Chief Executive Officer PO Box 156 RINGWOOD VIC 3134

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During the public consultation period (i.e. 11 April 2019 to 10 May 2019), residents and property owners may obtain further information about the Proposed Budget by appointment.

Once community feedback is considered, the documents will be amended as appropriate and be brought back to Council for formal endorsement. At this stage, this is planned for the Council Meeting on 20 May 2019.

CONCLUSION

The *Draft Council Plan 2017-2021 (2019/20 Update)* and *Proposed Budget 2019/20* have been prepared for community consultation. They reflect Council's commitment to pursue excellence, good governance and responsible management of resources for the community within the City of Maroondah.

Given Council's legislative obligations it is appropriate to place the *Draft Council Plan 2017-2021 (2019/20 Update)* and *Proposed Budget 2019/20* on public exhibition before they are formally considered for adoption.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1. Draft Council Plan 2017-21 (2019-20 update)
- 2. Proposed Budget 2019-20

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not Applicable

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL

- 1. PROVISIONALLY ENDORSES THE DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2021 (2019/20 UPDATE) AND PROPOSED BUDGET 2019/20, THAT HAVE BEEN PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTIONS 125 AND 127 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1989
- 2. AUTHORISES THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO GIVE PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE PREPARATION OF THE PROPOSED PLAN AND BUDGET
- 3. AUTHORISES THE RELEASE OF THE DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2021 (2019/20 UPDATE) AND PROPOSED BUDGET 2019/20 ON PUBLIC EXHIBITION FROM 11 APRIL 2019 TO 10 MAY 2019 AND RECEIVE SUBMISSIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 223 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1989
- 4. APPOINTS A COMMITTEE OF COUNCILLORS COMPRISING COUNCILLORS MARIJKE GRAHAM, ROB STEANE AND TONY DIB TO CONSIDER ANY SUBMISSIONS AND HEAR FROM ANY PERSON/S WHO HAS/HAVE REQUESTED TO BE HEARD IN SUPPORT OF THEIR SUBMISSIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 223 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1989

DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2021 (2019/20 UPDATE) AND ITEM 1 PROPOSED BUDGET 2019/20 Cont'd

- 5. DETERMINES THAT SUCH COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER ALL SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED AT A MEETING TO BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON WEDNESDAY 15 MAY 2019 AT 7.00PM
- 6. FOLLOWING EXHIBITION AND CONSIDERATION OF ANY SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED, COUNCIL AT ITS MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 20 MAY 2019 AT 7:30PM, WILL CONSIDER A REPORT ON SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED TO THE COUNCIL PLAN AND/OR COUNCIL BUDGET WITH A VIEW TO ADOPTING BOTH DOCUMENTS