

5.5.1 Progress Report on 2016/17 Council Strategic Priorities

Ward:	Both	Date:	25 January 2017
Precinct:	All	File Ref:	-
Attachments:	1 – Progress Report on 2016/17 Council Priorities 2 – Proposed Approach for setting Strategic Agenda for 2017/18		
Tabled Items:	Nil		
Reporting Officer:	Len Kosova, Chief Executive Officer		
Responsible Officer:	Len Kosova, Chief Executive Officer		

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- NOTES Administration’s progress report on Council’s Strategic Priorities for 2016/17 as detailed in Attachment 1; and**
- ENDORSES Administration’s proposed approach for determining Strategic Priorities for 2017/18; reviewing the City’s progress against the Corporate Business Plan (2016/17 – 2019/20) (CBP); inviting community budget submissions for 2017/18; and conducting the first annual review of the CBP, as outlined in Attachment 2.**

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To consider Administration’s progress towards the 2016/17 Council Strategic Priorities and a proposed approach for setting the strategic agenda for the year ahead.

BACKGROUND:

At its Special Meeting on 19 April 2016, Council adopted a list of 10 strategic priorities covering 37 specific projects/initiatives, to provide clear strategic focus, context and direction for the City’s budgeting and forward planning for the 2016/17 financial year. This approach was taken in recognition of:

- The currency, adequacy and perceived misalignment of the then Corporate Business Plan (CBP) and current Strategic Community Plan (SCP) with Council’s more contemporary aspirations and objectives;
- The need to review and revise the CBP to better coordinate, direct and align Administration’s work efforts and attention with Council’s strategic focus;
- To inform budget considerations and focus areas in 2016/17; and
- The need to initiate a formal review of the current SCP in the 2016/17 financial year.

Following its adoption, Council’s adopted Strategic Priorities were used to inform and direct the review and revision of the CBP, with each of the 10 strategic priorities specifically reflected in the new CBP (2016/17 – 2019/20).

In 2016, the Strategic Priorities also formed the basis for inviting community budget submissions during development of the 2016/17 Draft Budget. This approach was taken in lieu of the City’s previous practice of advertising its Draft Annual Budget for public comment, and as a means of attracting earlier and more meaningful community input aligned to the Strategic Priorities, which could then be used to inform the drafting of the new Budget, rather than in response to an already drafted budget.

The invitation for community budget submissions was very well-received by the community – generating over 50 submissions relating to more than 30 proposals, with most being agreed by Council and incorporated in the adopted 2016/17 Budget and/or new CBP.

The community budget submissions were considered at the Council meeting on 26 July 2016 (Item 9.5.2), at which meeting Council also adopted the 2016/17 Budget (Item 9.3.4) and new CBP (Item 9.5.1).

Almost 10 months has now passed since Council adopted its 2016/17 Strategic Priorities, which have worked well in guiding Administration's work efforts and focus over that time. It is opportune to now review Administration's progress on the Strategic Priorities, particularly as we:

- approach the end of the 2016/17 financial year;
- prepare to report on the City's progress against the new CBP;
- prepare to review the 2016/17 Strategic Priorities and set 2017/18 Strategic Priorities;
- prepare to invite community budget submissions on 2017/18 Strategic Priorities;
- initiate the first annual review of the CBP;
- initiate a widespread engagement campaign with our community to develop a new Strategic Community Plan (SCP).

DETAILS:

The 2016/17 Strategic Priorities include 37 specific projects/initiatives to address the following 10 key strategic focus areas:

- Developing a new strategic plan to guide the future of the City
- Leading local government transparency and accountability
- Stronger financial management and budget planning
- Guiding better development outcomes in the City
- Better customer service
- Meaningful and smarter community engagement
- Cutting red tape
- Creating Liveable Neighbourhoods
- Renewing of town centres
- Smarter, sustainable waste management for the community

Administration has recently completed a review of its progress against each of the 37 projects/initiatives listed in the 2016/17 Strategic Priorities and the results of that review are contained in the table included as **Attachment 1**. The table includes a 'Quick View' column using simple traffic light icons as follows:

Green = Completed (8 in total)
Yellow = Still in progress (23 in total)
Red = Delayed (6 in total)

CONSULTATION/ADVERTISING:

Nil

LEGAL/POLICY:

Section 5.56 of the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act) requires local governments to 'plan for the future'. Part 5, Division 3 of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* (the Regulations) prescribes specific requirements in respect to the content and review requirements for each of the strategic documents required as part of the Plan for the Future.

The 2016/17 strategic priorities have been incorporated into the current CBP and were adopted to provide an interim focus pending finalisation of a fully integrated and community-driven SCP, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Act and Regulations.

The City is working towards adoption of an entirely new SCP by the end of the 2017 calendar year and, as such, it will no longer be necessary to determine stand-alone annual strategic priorities beyond the 2017/18 financial year, as the City's annual budgeting and work focus will then be directly informed by a new community-led SCP and fully integrated planning and reporting framework by 2018/19.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS:

Low: This report outlines Administration's progress against the 2016/17 Strategic Priorities which, since being adopted, have been embedded in the current CBP and provide a more coordinated planning and project delivery focus than would have otherwise been the case in their absence.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:

This is in keeping with the City's Strategic Plan 2013-2023:

"4.1 Provide good strategic decision-making, governance, leadership and professional management;" and in particular;

4.1.2 Manage the organisation in a responsible, efficient and accountable manner;".

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

Nil.

FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

The current budget already accounts for the financial and budget implications associated with the 2016/17 Strategic Priorities.

COMMENTS:

By the end of the 2016/17 financial year, Administration is aiming to complete (or substantially complete) the 23 projects that are shown as still being in progress (Yellow traffic light) in **Attachment 1** and to improve the status of the 6 delayed projects (Red traffic light) to being 'in progress' (Yellow).

Moving forward, Administration is proposing the approach set out in **Attachment 2** for reviewing and revising the 2016/17 Strategic Priorities for 2017/18; reviewing progress against the CBP; inviting community budget submissions for 2017/18 (as occurred last year); and conducting the first annual review of the CBP.

It is recommended that Council notes Administration's progress against the 2016/17 Council Priorities, as outlined in **Attachment 1** and endorses the proposed approach outlined in **Attachment 2** for reviewing, revising and aligning Strategic Priorities, Community Budget Submissions and Corporate Business Plan (2016/17 – 2019/20) in the year ahead.
