



CITY OF VINCENT

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

19 APRIL 2016

Notice of Meeting and Agenda

Notice is hereby given that a Special Council Meeting of the City of Vincent will be held at the Administration and Civic Centre, at 244 Vincent Street (corner Loftus Street), Leederville, on **Tuesday, 19 April 2016** at 6.00pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to consider the following items:

- 5.1 Council's Strategic Priorities for 2016 - 2017
- 5.2 Notice of Motion: Mayor John Carey – Transparency Reform Discussion Paper

John Paton
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ENHANCING AND CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY

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PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

The City of Vincent Local Law Relating to Standing Orders prescribes the procedure for persons to ask questions or make public statements relating to a matter affecting the City, either verbally or in writing, at a Council meeting.

Questions or statements made at a Special Meeting of the Council must only relate to the purpose for which the meeting has been called.

1. Shortly after the commencement of the meeting, the Presiding Member will ask members of the public to come forward to address the Council and to give their name, address and Agenda Item number (if known).
2. Public speaking time will be strictly limited to three (3) minutes per member of the public.
3. Members of the public are encouraged to keep their questions/statements brief to enable everyone who desires to ask a question or make a statement to have the opportunity to do so.
4. Public speaking time is declared closed when there are no further members of the public who wish to speak.
5. Questions/statements are to be directed to the Presiding Member and are to be made politely in good faith and are not to be framed in such a way as to reflect adversely or be defamatory on a Council Member or City Employee.
6. Where the Presiding Member is of the opinion that a member of the public is making a statement at a Council meeting, that does not affect the City, he may ask the person speaking to promptly cease.
7. Questions/statements and any responses will be summarised and included in the Minutes of the Council meeting.
8. Where practicable, responses to questions will be provided at the meeting. Where the information is not available or the question cannot be answered, it will be *"taken on notice"* and a written response will be sent by the Chief Executive Officer to the person asking the question. A copy of the reply will be included in the Agenda of the next Ordinary meeting of the Council.
9. It is not intended that public speaking time should be used as a means to obtain information that would not be made available if it was sought from the City's records under Section 5.94 of the Local Government Act 1995 or the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 1992. The CEO will advise the member of the public that the information may be sought in accordance with the FOI Act 1992.

RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

- ◆ All Ordinary and Special Council Meetings are electronically recorded (both visual and audio), except when the Council resolves to go behind closed doors;
- ◆ All recordings are retained as part of the City's records in accordance with the General Disposal Authority for Local Government Records produced by the Public Records Office;
- ◆ A copy of the recorded proceedings and/or a transcript of a particular section or all of a Council meeting is available in accordance with Policy No. 4.2.4 – Council Meetings – Recording and Access to Recorded Information.

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. (a) Declaration of Opening

(b) Acknowledgement of Country Statement

“Today we meet on the lands of the Nyoongar people and we honour them as the traditional custodians of this land”.

2. Apologies/Members on Approved Leave of Absence

Nil.

3. Public Question Time and Receiving of Public Statements

Under Section 7(4)(b) of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996, Council at a Special Meeting is not required to answer a question that does not relate to the purpose of the meeting.

4. Declaration of Interests

- 4.1 Financial - Local Government Act 1995, s5.60A
- 4.2 Proximity - Local Government Act 1995, s5.60B
- 4.3 Impartiality - Local Government (Administration) Regulations 34

5. Reports

- 5.1 Council's Strategic Priorities for 2016 – 2017
- 5.2 Notice of Motion: Mayor John Carey – Transparency Reform Discussion Paper

6. Closure

5.1 Council's Strategic Priorities for 2016 - 2017

Ward:	Both	Date:	15 April 2016
Precinct:	All	File Ref:	-
Attachments:	1 – Proposed Council Priorities for 2016 – 2017		
Tabled Items:	Nil		
Reporting Officer:	John Paton, A/Chief Executive Officer		
Responsible Officer:	John Paton, A/Chief Executive Officer		

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- ADOPTS** the 'Proposed Council Priorities for 2016 – 2017' as detailed in Attachment 1 to guide Council's focus during 2016/17 and inform considerations for the 2016/17 Annual Budget; and
- WAIVES** the requirement to advertise the Draft Budget for 2016/17 and **INSTRUCTS** the CEO to invite public submissions from the community, aligned to the Council Priorities for consideration in the development of the 2016/17 Annual Budget.

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To consider adoption of the Council Priorities for 2016 - 2017 developed at the workshop held on 6 February 2016.

BACKGROUND:

A Strategic Workshop was held with Council Members, CEO and Directors on Saturday 6 February 2016. The general focus of the Workshop was to develop Council's priorities, pending the review of the Strategic Community Plan (SCP), to help guide Council and assist in shaping budget decisions for 2016/17.

DETAILS:

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 10 September 2013, Council adopted the Strategic Community Plan 2013-2023, which at the time was an updated version of the Strategic Community Plan 2011-2021. In adopting the plan, Council noted a major statutory review would be required in 2014, but that the State Government's local government reform agenda and proposed amalgamations could impact on the implementation of the plan and subsequent review.

The City has launched a major review of the SCP, to commence with a community engagement process. Due to the level of consultation and integration requirements introduced through the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework, the SCP is projected to be finalised and presented for adoption towards the end of 2016/17.

As the current plan is considered to lack detail and to a degree is potentially out of date, the development of strategic priorities was considered appropriate to provide a coherent and clear short term plan for Council, consistency of direction and assist in aligning budget considerations. As a result of the Workshop, a list of Proposed Council Priorities for 2016 - 2017 (see **Attachment 1**) was compiled. The priorities included a range of initiatives to address the following strategies:

- Developing a new strategic plan to guide the future of the City
- Leading local government transparency and accountability
- Stronger financial management and budget planning

- 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
- Guiding better density development in the City
- Better planning advice, quicker approval times
- Greater sustainability outcomes across Vincent
- Better targeted community development program which reflects real need

CONSULTATION/ADVERTISING:

Not applicable.

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.

It is noted, that the strategic priorities are designed to provide an interim focus pending finalisation of a fully community informed SCP development in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Act and Regulations.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS:

Moderate:

In the absence of strategic direction, there is the potential for misalignment between expenditure and prioritised need.

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:

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

This proposal will provide guidance for budget considerations to ensure alignment with established priorities.

COMMENTS:

It is of note that significant progress has already been made on a number of the strategic initiatives listed as priorities, including:

- Plans developed for the first stage community consultation for the review of the SCP.
- A new Governance Manager position has been created and candidate due to commence on 26 April 2016.
- Online Register of Gifts and Contributions to Travel provided on the City's website.
- An audit has been undertaken of the City's building assets to compile information on asset data and condition, to be used in the development of asset renewal programmes for inclusion in the Long Term Financial Plan.
- Planning policies are in the process of being reviewed.
- The City's Parking Permit Policy (3.9.3) has been reviewed and CEO authorised to advertise it for public comment.

To progress, appropriate initiatives and projects will be included into the Corporate Business Plan, currently under review. As it is also intended that the strategic priorities assist in shaping Council's budget decisions for 2016/17, consideration was given to the most effective way to achieve this. It was noted that there was a misalignment between the consultation requirements in the Community Consultation Policy and meaningful Budget input from the community.

The Community Consultation Policy No 4.1.5 (Appendix 2) specifies that consultation for the Annual Budget will occur through advertising of the Draft Budget. This means that any submissions received, which can include requests for funding of minor items or services, are received and potentially only considered very late in the budget approval process.

It is noted that in addition to this consultation, there is a statutory requirement to advertise a proposal for the implementation of Differential Rates and the consideration of public submissions prior to Council determining the rates through the budget adoption.

In respect to the 2015/16 Annual Budget, the following submissions were received:

- Statutory advertising of the Proposal for Differential Rates (21 days)
 - 4 submissions
 - Dudley Maier
 - Debbie Saunders
 - N & N Shah
 - DV & PD Shah
- Advertising of the Draft Budget
 - 3 submissions received
 - Andrew Main- traffic management and road treatment
 - Dudley Maier – rates, budget format and non-current activities
 - Highgate Primary Parents and Citizens Association – request for shade sail

It is noted that there is also an opportunity at the Council Meeting for public questions. At the Special Meeting of Council 7 July 2015, convened for consideration of the 2015/16 Annual Budget, only Dudley Maier took up this opportunity.

It is considered that it would be more effective and meaningful to invite public submissions from community groups and members of the community for consideration during the budget development and rely on the statutory public submission process associated with the Differential Rates, rather than the requirement currently listed in the Community Consultation Policy for advertising of the Draft Budget.

5.2 NOTICE OF MOTION: Mayor John Carey – Transparency Reform – Discussion Paper

That Council **ADOPTS** in principle support for the recommendations included in the revised Discussion Paper detailed in Attachment [1](#) to stimulate discussion and feedback among and within local governments on a range of measures designed to improve transparency and accountability from the sector in Western Australia.

REASON:

Making information freely and easily accessible to residents, ratepayers and customers gives them greater power to contribute to decision making and to hold local government accountable for the good governance of its district. It is a core foundation of the democratic process.

Currently, there is a lack of consistency in the quality and completeness of public reporting across Local Government, and ratepayers can experience difficulty in obtaining basic information without committing significant time and resources. The Discussion Paper (see **Attachment 1**) recommends a number of reforms to legislation, policy and practice affecting local government, many of which could be simply made but which would greatly enhance public reporting and accountability.

The Local Government sector doesn't need to wait for legislative reform. A number of measures recommended in the Discussion Paper can be implemented by Local Governments immediately. The City of Vincent is doing this, with many of these recommendations already introduced or in the advanced stages. The sector shouldn't fear these reforms. Instead, it should embrace greater transparency and accountability to build public confidence in the Local Government sector – and become a leader for raising the bar across all tiers of government.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS:

The City is in the process of reviewing and reforming many of its business systems, processes and practices, with a view to enhancing performance and service. It is considered that there is substantial improvement that can be introduced in the local government sector and each local government can play an important role in facilitating and advocating for improvement and whole of sector reform.
