



City of
Moonee Valley

Special Meeting of Council

Tuesday, 3 December 2013 at 7.00pm

Agenda

Special Meeting of Council

Tuesday, 3 December 2013 at 7.00pm
to be held at the Moonee Valley Civic Centre

TO:

Members: Cr Jan Chantry Mayor
Cr Nicole Marshall
Cr Jim Cusack
Cr Shirley Cornish
Cr Paul Giuliano
Cr Cam Nation
Cr Narelle Sharpe
Cr John Sipek
Cr Andrea Surace

Officers: Mr Neville Smith Chief Executive
Mr Bryan Lancaster Director City Works & Development
Mr Anthony Smith Director Corporate Services
Mr Stuart Gillespie Executive Manager Citizen Services & Information Management
Mr Tony Ball Executive Manager Community Services
Mr Scott Widdicombe Executive Manager Environment & Lifestyle
Ms Yvonne Hansen Manager Governance & Local Laws

Business

1. Opening
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

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NEVILLE SMITH
Chief Executive

COUNCIL REPORTS

4.1 Council's submission to the Metropolitan Planning Strategy - Plan Melbourne

File No: FOL/11/1077
Author: Senior Strategic Planning Officer
Directorate: City Works & Development
Ward: Municipal

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the draft Metropolitan Planning Strategy, Plan Melbourne, released by the Victorian Government and for Council to endorse the draft submission prepared in response to the Strategy.

Executive Summary

- The State Government has released a draft Metropolitan Planning Strategy, Plan Melbourne, to manage Melbourne's growth and change to the year 2050. Refer **Appendix A** (separately circulated) for a copy of the Strategy. This Strategy will supersede *Melbourne 2030* and *Melbourne @ 5 million*.
- Plan Melbourne is a strategy to house, employ and move more people within the metropolitan area.
- The Strategy provides a vision for Melbourne's future and is underpinned by a range of outcomes, directions, initiatives and actions which seek to provide an integrated approach to planning and development.
- The Victorian Government is calling for comments on the Strategy.
- Comments on the Strategy are due by Friday 6 December 2013.
- A draft submission has been prepared which focuses on the specific issues identified within the Strategy that are most directly relevant to Moonee Valley, as an inner/middle ring municipality. Refer **Appendix B** (separately circulated). Some of the matters raised in the submission are:
 - The identification of two "urban renewal" areas within Moonee Valley's borders (Essendon and Flemington-Newmarket).
 - Change to the current activity centre hierarchy.
 - The potential for Essendon Fields/Airport West to be recognised as an emergent employment cluster in the revised Strategy.
 - The need for mechanisms to facilitate affordable and social housing.
 - The need for clearer policies to direct housing growth.

- Council's opposition to the East West Link project.
- The need to prioritise public and active transport infrastructure over roads infrastructure.
- The urgent need for the Melbourne Airport Rail Link and Melbourne Metro.
- The challenge of balancing higher-density living within traditionally low-density settings.
- The lack of adequate consideration of climate change and the need for a more sustainable built environment.
- The potential for Moonee Valley to form part of the northern subregion rather than the western subregion.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Endorse the submission to Plan Melbourne as detailed in **Appendix B** (separately circulated).
2. Forward the submission to the Victorian State Government by 6 December 2013.

Background

In October 2012, the Victorian Government released a discussion paper, *Melbourne, let's talk about the future* to prompt debate and seek feedback on how the new Metropolitan Planning Strategy should respond to population growth, economic challenges and demographic changes.

At its Ordinary Meeting held on 26 February 2013, Council endorsed a submission in response to the Discussion Paper that was subsequently forwarded to the Victorian State Government in March 2013.

Following this initial consultation process, the Victorian Government released a new Metropolitan Planning Strategy for Melbourne on 9 October 2013 that is now available for public comment. The Strategy, Plan Melbourne, sets out the following vision for managing growth and development in Melbourne to the year 2050:

Melbourne will be a global city of opportunity and choice.

This will be achieved by:

- *Protecting the suburbs*
- *Developing in defined areas near services and infrastructure*
- *Creating a clearer and simpler planning system with improved decision making*
- *Rebalancing growth between Melbourne and regional Victoria, and*
- *Identifying an infrastructure pipeline.*

This vision is underpinned through seven outcomes contained in the Strategy:

1. Delivering jobs and investment: Create a city structure that drives productivity, supports investment through certainty and creates more jobs.
2. Housing choice and affordability: Provide a diversity of housing in defined locations that cater for different households and are close to jobs and services.

3. A more connected Melbourne: Provide an integrated transport system connecting people to jobs and services and goods to market.
4. Liveable communities and neighbourhoods: Create healthy and active neighbourhoods and maintain Melbourne's identity as one of the world's most liveable cities.
5. Environment and water: Protect our natural assets and better plan out water, energy and waste management to create a sustainable city.
6. A state of cities: Maximise the growth potential of Victoria by developing a state of cities which delivers choice, opportunity and global competitiveness.
7. Implementation: Delivering better governance: Achieve clear results through better governance, planning regulation and funding options.

These objectives are supported by a series of directions, initiatives and actions to be implemented, which will drive the implementation of Plan Melbourne.

Comments on Plan Melbourne are due by Friday 6 December 2013. The State Government will finalise the Strategy after reviewing submissions. A planning scheme amendment will be introduced in 2014 to give statutory effect to the Strategy in decision-making, including changes to the State Planning Policy Framework.

Discussion

Council's submission

A draft submission has been developed in response to the release of Plan Melbourne. The submission focuses on the specific issues identified within the Strategy that are most directly relevant to Moonee Valley, as an inner/middle ring municipality. It also raises other relevant matters that should be addressed within the Strategy. The most critical areas are discussed below, under each proposed Strategy Outcome.

Delivering Jobs and Investment

Plan Melbourne identifies two "urban renewal" areas within Moonee Valley's borders. The Flemington-Newmarket Precinct has been earmarked as a "Potential Urban Renewal Opportunity/Investigation area while Essendon Station has been identified as an "Urban Renewal Opportunity that includes Significant Parcels of Government Held Land". Given these designations lack any detail, Council has requested that the Strategy outline what is expected for these sites, and the criteria for how they have been designated, as well as what is expected of other infill and/or regional areas.

Council's submission highlights concern with a new Metropolitan Melbourne Structure Plan that does not set a clear hierarchy for development priority across the city. This new structure does not provide any detail on how types of development areas are intended to be planned for or the selection criteria employed for their identification. Council is seeking clarification on why there is no longer a distinction between principal and major activity centres. Council sees no established need to steer away from the current hierarchy and submits that the new Metropolitan Melbourne Structure Plan should not undermine existing strategic work undertaken by local government.

The Strategy identifies a number of employment clusters throughout metropolitan Melbourne. Council's submission proposes that there is significant potential to create synergies between the Airport West Activity Centre and Essendon Fields to facilitate the development of an employment cluster within Moonee Valley. Furthermore, there is an opportunity to create a public transport oriented development through creation of a transport hub at the northern end of Essendon Fields, integrated with the current Airport West Activity Centre.

Housing Choice and affordability

Council's submission recognises the need for planning mechanisms to facilitate affordable and social housing. To this end, it recommends the consideration of introducing inclusionary zoning or providing building density bonuses where an increase in density within a building will not compromise local amenity in an effort to increase the diversity and affordability of housing, including social housing.

The need for clearer policies to direct housing growth in appropriate locations is also highlighted in the submission. Balancing higher-density living within traditionally low-density settings is a challenge for Council. Increased residential density is often contentious among residents where building design and street interfaces are poor. There are a lack of planning guidelines and controls that define and/or encourage a high-quality, locally situated product. Our experience with the local community suggests there is a need to develop more effective state-wide frameworks that protect the local character of an area, including heritage features. The provisions of ResCode are failing to deliver built environments that satisfy local residents. Council believes more stringent design guidelines that provide certainty for residents, businesses and developers are urgently required. State planning policy needs to clearly articulate what type of housing is expected to be located in specific areas and how accommodating growth in the suburbs will be linked to delivering additional services and facilities.

A more connected Melbourne

Council's submission expresses dismay at the inclusion of the construction of the East West Link as the first initiative for achieving a transformed transport system. Council does not support the construction of the East West Link. Council's concerns relate to the affects of the proposal on the municipality as a whole and also more specifically to those areas where residents' amenity will be substantially affected; Flemington, Travancore, Ascot Vale, Moonee Ponds and Essendon.

Melbourne, including Moonee Valley, requires significant improvements to transport to ensure that the vision of Melbourne is achieved. Future efforts should be concentrated on improving and enhancing sustainable transport and accessibility to such services. In addition, Council submits that higher levels of investment are needed to ensure that development of urban areas are conducive to walking and cycling. This necessitates a reduction in expenditure on roads and a diversion of funds to infrastructure for active travel and public transport. Of critical importance will be investing in improving the capacity, frequency and level of service of the current public transport system.

Council supports the development of metro style public transport and requests that the construction of the Melbourne Airport Rail Link should be listed as a short term priority within Plan Melbourne.

Liveable communities and neighbourhoods

Council's submission highlights that policies which seek to enable development of medium and high density housing in the suburbs have at times been at odds with some elements of community expectations in Moonee Valley. As a result, balancing higher-density living within traditional low-density settings is a challenge for Council. To this end, Council's submission recognises that if we are to have any success in realising the directions and initiatives contained within Plan Melbourne, we will need the State government's assistance in building broad community support for the long-term vision for Melbourne.

Environment and water

Council's submission states that climate change adaptation and mitigation has not been adequately considered by Plan Melbourne. There is an immediate need to climate-proof the city in order to protect people, businesses and critical infrastructure against extreme weather events caused by climate change. This is an issue for both established municipalities and growth areas.

The submission also highlights the urgent need for guidelines and minimum requirements embedded in all Victorian planning schemes to ensure buildings are designed to reduce impacts on the natural environment and that are economic to inhabit.

A state of cities

Council's submission supports the initiative to fix the city limit in perpetuity. This will ensure the protection of areas of primary production significance to support the long-term agricultural economy and prevent further loss of environmentally significant areas. This needs to be complemented by policies that accommodate population growth in suitable areas across metropolitan Melbourne.

Implementation

Plan Melbourne states that local government will need to show commitment to the Strategy. Given the lack of adequate opportunities for local government to shape the content of the draft Strategy, Council is not in a position to support many of the directions and initiatives contained within the current version of Plan Melbourne, which curiously has not been promoted as a "draft".

Council will need substantially more information and clarification before it can provide support for the Strategy. It is hoped that the submissions received as part of this consultation process are carefully considered and addressed in a collaborative manner.

Plan Melbourne creates five metropolitan subregions to drive the delivery of the Strategy. While Council's submission supports the creation of subregions, it does not agree with its inclusion within the western region. As an established inner/middle ring municipality, Moonee Valley does not share many commonalities with the western municipalities it is currently grouped with. As such, it is requested that it be grouped with the Northern subregion with which it shares similar development, transport and demographic challenges.

Consultation

Council's submission in response to Plan Melbourne has been prepared in consultation with all relevant internal departments.

Council has encouraged the local community to read the Strategy and provide direct feedback to the State Government by placing an advertorial in the Moonee Valley Leader, publishing an article in the October/November edition of Valley View and providing information of Council's "Have your Say" webpage.

A community information session was held at the Clocktower Centre on Sunday 24 November, in conjunction with the Planning Scheme Review community workshop. This session provided interested community members with an overview of the Strategy and an opportunity to ask questions.

The State Government is also running several half day information sessions across Melbourne as well as information displays at shopping centres. These have been promoted on Council's "Have you Say" webpage.

Implications

1. Legislative

There are no statutory requirements as a result of this report.

There are no implications in relation to the Human Rights Charter.

2. Council Plan / Policy

Council's submission to Plan Melbourne aligns with many of the Council Plan strategic objectives, including:

- Green, clean and beautiful
- Sustainable living
- Vibrant and diverse
- Excellence in governance

In particular Theme 3: Sustainable Living includes Strategic Objective 1 – *Ensure there is a clear direction for growth and proactive management of development in the city.*

Under Strategic Objective 1 is the following relevant Strategy (number 2):

Prepare and complete structure plans, policies and strategies for all activity centres in Moonee Valley taking account of the Metropolitan Planning Strategy.

3. Financial

There are no specific financial implications associated with Council's submission to Plan Melbourne.

4. Environmental

Changes to the Metropolitan Planning Strategy provide opportunities to include responses to environmental factors such as ecological sustainability and climate change in the area of land use and development.

Conclusion

The State Government has released a new Metropolitan Planning Strategy, Plan Melbourne. Plan Melbourne is a strategy to house, employ and move more people within the metropolitan area.

It is important for Council to review Plan Melbourne, and provide feedback where relevant.

The proposed submission at **Appendix B** (separately circulated) is a result of a review of the proposed outcomes, objectives and directions presented within the Strategy. It outlines where proposals are supported or where there are significant issues that should be addressed.

It is recommended that Council endorse this submission and submit it to the Victorian State Government by 6 December 2013.

4.2 2013-14 Capital Works Status Report (December 2013)

File No: FOL/13/877
Author: Manager Infrastructure
Directorate: City Works & Development
Ward: Municipal

Purpose

To receive a status report on the 2013-14 capital works budget.

Executive Summary

- The 2013-14 Budget provides \$21.412 M for capital expenditure. The 2013-14 capital works program also includes \$6.61 M in projects budgeted in 2012-13 that have been brought forward to the current year for completion.
- This report seeks Council's approval for revised project budgets in the 2013-14 Capital Works Program, which are stated in **Appendix A**.

Recommendation

That Council approve the 2013-14 Capital Works Program Revision – December 2013 as outlined in **Appendix A**.

Background

This report provides information on matters relating to the delivery of the 2013-14 capital works program.

The 2013-14 capital works budget lists 185 separate project items. It is appropriate to advise Council of major variations to the program as they are identified throughout the year and seek Council's approval for the major variations.

Of particular importance in the current financial year, is the announcement of the proposed East West Link Project. As the 2013-14 capital works budget includes projects in the vicinity of this major proposal, it is essential that Council reviews the proposed expenditure on these projects at this time. These projects are outlined in **Appendix A** and cross-referenced in the plan shown in **Appendix B**.

Discussion

Appendix A outlines proposed revised budgets in the 2013-14 capital works program.

Consultation

Information in this report is based on regular meetings with staff involved in capital works delivery and consultation with the executive management team.

Implications

1. Legislative

There are no legislative implications as a consequence of this report.

2. Council Plan/Policy

The following:

- Theme 1 – Friendly and Safe
- Theme 2 – Green, clean and beautiful
- Theme 3 – Sustainable living
- Theme 4 – Vibrant and diverse
- Theme 5 – Excellence in governance

Capital Works Program	Performance Measure	Performance Target
We will spend a minimum of 90% on renewing and maintaining the City's infrastructure for the benefit of the community and future generations.	Amount spent in 2013-14 capital works program, including carry forwards.	90% spent on capital works

3. Financial

An additional amount of \$14,000 is required in the 2013/14 financial year to complete projects identified in **Appendix A**.

Funding of \$700,000 will be required as part of the 2014/15 Capital Works Program to complete the Strathnaver Reserve Pavillion Upgrade and Hopetoun Children's Centre Improvements.

4. Environmental

There are no environmental implications as a consequence of this report.

Conclusion

Appendix A of this report provides for Council consideration a summary of proposed capital expenditure variations in the 2013-14 capital works program.

APPENDIX A

2013-14 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM REVISION – DECEMBER 2013

Ref	CWI D/ CICP Ref	Program Area	Project Title	2013-14 Budget Description	2013-14 Budget \$	Discussion/ Recommendation	Revised 2013-14 Forecast \$	Net Budget Impact \$ () = Budget Increase
1.	4651	FACILITIES	Flemington Children's Centre Improvements	Convert existing rooms to 33 place room (total 55 places). Improve administration, staff areas and outdoor space.	200,000	<p>Although this facility is in the proximity of the proposed East West Link Project, this project should proceed.</p> <p>The preferred tendered price of \$204,000 is 2% above the budget</p> <p><u>Recommendation:</u> Proceed with project.</p>	204,000	(4,000)
2.	4751	FACILITIES	Flemington Community Centre Renewal and Improvement Works - Mount Alexander Road, Flemington	Repairs to roof and Stormwater system and upgrading of computer room.	175,000	<p>These works are necessary for the facility to function at its current level. The proposed East West Link Project will impact substantially on the operation and viability of the facility in its current location.</p> <p><u>Recommendation:</u> Proceed with project as stated in the 2013-14 budget description.</p>	175,000	0

Ref	CWI D/ CICP Ref	Program Area	Project Title	2013-14 Budget Description	2013-14 Budget \$	Discussion/ Recommendation	Revised 2013-14 Forecast \$	Net Budget Impact \$ () = Budget Increase
3.	1316	FACILITIES	Flemington Library Renewal and Improvement Works - 313 Racecourse Road, Flemington	Minor refurbishment – replastering and painting of interior walls and ceilings, re-carpeting and replacement of furnishings.	100,000 Includes \$50,000 from Bendigo Bank	Although this facility is in proximity of the proposed East West Link Project, this project should proceed. Recommendation: Proceed with the project.	100,000	0
4.	1268	FACILITIES	Hopetoun Children's Centre Improvements	Construction of new facility	\$1,950,000	Although this facility is in the proximity of the proposed East West Link Project, this project should proceed. The planning permit is subject to the provision of parking, which will add a further \$350,000 to the project cost. The additional expenditure will not be incurred until 2014-15. However, it is appropriate for Council to approve the additional funding for inclusion in the 2014-15 budget in order for Council to award the contract, which is likely to occur in February 2014 through the Tenders Committee. Recommendation:	1,950,000	0 (Council to provide \$350,000 in the 2014-15 budget).

Ref	CWI D/ CICP Ref	Program Area	Project Title	2013-14 Budget Description	2013-14 Budget \$	Discussion/ Recommendation	Revised 2013-14 Forecast \$	Net Budget Impact \$ () = Budget Increase
						<p>The Council approve the revised forecast amount and in doing so:</p> <p>a) Include \$350,000 in the 2014-15 budget to complete the project.</p> <p>b) By approving the additional funds stated in a), award the contract as per a separate Tender Assessment Report, which will be presented to the Tenders Committee in 2014.</p>		
5.		FACILITIES	Strathnaver Reserve Pavilion Upgrade – Mascoma Street, Strathmore	Improved change rooms and viewing area	1,700,000	<p>The revised forecast cost of the project based on the preferred tender's price and additional works which have been identified is \$2,050,000.</p> <p>An additional \$350,000 is required to complete this project.</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <p>The Council approve the revised forecast amount and in doing so:</p> <p>a) Include \$350,000 in the 2014-15 budget to complete the project.</p>	1,700,000	0 (Council to provide \$350,000 in the 2014-15 budget).

Ref	CWI D/ CICP Ref	Program Area	Project Title	2013-14 Budget Description	2013-14 Budget \$	Discussion/ Recommendation	Revised 2013-14 Forecast \$	Net Budget Impact \$ () = Budget Increase
						b) By approving the additional funds stated in a) above, award the contract as per a separate Tender Assessment Report.		
6.	4658	BICYCLE PATHS	Travancore Park Shared Path Feasibility & Implementation	Construction documentation of shared pathway and landscape works. Tree planting and construction of post and rail fencing.	140,000	Based on the information currently available, the proposed East West Link Project will impact on this project and other Council assets. It is recommended to defer the proposed design and any works. <u>Recommendation:</u> Defer this project and carry forward the remaining budget to 2014-15.	0	0 (Remaining budget to be carried forward to 2014-15).
7.	115	INFORMATION SERVICES	Geographic Information System Implementation	Implementation of the GIS improvement plan. Priority project: Street video data collection.	\$60,000	This budget was for the collection of road condition and street data. Most of the road condition data has now been collected through Council's Road Management Plan inspections. As a result, the scope of this project is being reviewed and the budget in 2013-14 is not required.	0	60,000

Ref	CWI D/ CICP Ref	Program Area	Project Title	2013-14 Budget Description	2013-14 Budget \$	Discussion/ Recommendation	Revised 2013-14 Forecast \$	Net Budget Impact \$ () = Budget Increase
						<u>Recommendation:</u> That the revised forecast for this project be \$0.		
8.	4854	INFORMATION SERVICES	Corporate Applications - Enhancement of Council's Agenda and Report System	New project	0	This proposed project has been identified in a recent audit. The project relates to Councils Agenda and Reporting System and the link to follow up actions. <u>Recommendation:</u> That Council approves this project to proceed in the current financial year (2013-14).	70,000	(70,000)
				Total				(14,000)

APPENDIX B

2013-14 CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS IN THE PROXIMITY TO THE PROPOSED EAST WEST LINK PROJECT

Items labelled refer to references in APPENDIX A.

