AGENDA

Greater Shepparton City Council

COUNCIL MEETING

3:00PM, Tuesday 22 April 2025

In the Council Boardroom, Welsford Street

COUNCILLORS

Cr Shane Sali (Mayor)
Cr Anthony Brophy (Deputy Mayor)
Cr Geoff Akers
Cr Kieron Eddy
Cr Rod Schubert
Cr Sam Spinks
Cr Fern Summer
Cr Steven Threlfall
Cr Paul Wickham

VISION

GREATER SHEPPARTON, GREATER FUTURE

A thriving economy in the foodbowl of Victoria with excellent lifestyles, innovative agriculture a diverse community and abundant opportunities

Values

Values reflect what we feel is important. Organisations may have core values that reflect what is important in the organisation. These values may be guiding principles of behaviour for all members in the organisation.

Respect first, always
We are attentive, listen to others and consider all points of view in our decision making.

Take ownership
We take pride in honouring our promises and exceeding expectations, and are transparent with and accountable for our actions.

Courageously lead
We lead with integrity, and stand up and stand by what is in the best interests of the Greater Shepparton community.

Working together
We work collaboratively to create higher quality outcomes that are more efficient, thoughtful, effective and responsive. We cannot accomplish all that we need to do without working together.

Continually innovate
We are open to new ideas and creatively seek solutions that encourage us to do our best for our community.

Start the celebration
As ambassadors for our people and place, we proudly celebrate the strengths and achievements of Council and the Greater Shepparton community.

A G E N D A
FOR THE
COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
TUESDAY 22 APRIL 2025 AT 3:00PM

CHAIR
CR SHANE SALI
MAYOR

INDEX

Risk Level Matrix Legend

Note: A number of reports in this agenda include a section on "risk management implications". The following table shows the legend to the codes used in the reports.

Risk Matrix			Consequence				
			Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic
			1	2	3	4	5
Likelihood	Rare	1	LOW 1	LOW 2	LOW 3	LOW 4	MEDIUM 5
	Unlikely	2	LOW 2	LOW 4	MEDIUM 6	MEDIUM 8	HIGH 10
	Possible	3	LOW 3	MEDIUM 6	MEDIUM 9	HIGH 12	HIGH 15
	Likely	4	LOW 4	MEDIUM 8	HIGH 12	HIGH 16	EXTREME 20
	Almost Certain	5	MEDIUM 5	HIGH 10	HIGH 15	EXTREME 20	EXTREME 25

Low	1-4
Medium	5-9
High	10-16
Extreme	17-25

Extreme	**Intolerable** – Immediate action is required to mitigate this risk to an acceptable level. Event/Project/Activity is not to proceed without authorisation.
High	**Intolerable** – Attention is needed to treat risk.
Medium	**Variable** – May be willing to accept the risk in conjunction with monitoring and controls.
Low	**Tolerable** – Managed by routine procedures.

1 Acknowledgement

We, Greater Shepparton City Council, acknowledge the Yorta Yorta Peoples of the land which now comprises Greater Shepparton, we pay our respect to their tribal elders, we celebrate their continuing culture and we acknowledge the memory of their ancestors.

2 Privacy Notice

This public meeting is being streamed live via our Facebook page and made available for public access on our website along with the official Minutes of this meeting.

All care is taken to maintain your privacy; however as a visitor in the public gallery, it is assumed that your consent is given in the event that your image is broadcast to the public. It is also assumed that your consent is given to the use and disclosure of any information that you share at the meeting (including personal or sensitive information) to any person who accesses those recordings or Minutes.

3 Governance Principles

Council considers that the recommendations contained in this Agenda gives effect to the overarching governance principles stated in Section 9(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020.* These principles are as follows:

1. Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law;

2. priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;

3. the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted;

4. the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making;

5. innovation and continuous improvement is to be pursued;

6. collaboration with other Councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought;

7. the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured;

8. regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision making;

9. the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

4 Apologies

Nil Received.

5 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

In accordance with section 130 (1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020 Councillors are required to disclose any “conflict of interest” in respect of a matter to be considered at a Council Meeting.

Disclosure must occur immediately before the matter is considered or discussed.

6 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the 25 March 2025 Council Meeting as circulated, be confirmed.

7 Public Question Time

Nil Received.

8 Deputations and Petitions

Nil Received.

9 Community Directorate

9.1 Greater Shepparton Volunteer Action Plan 2025-2029

Author Manager - Community Wellbeing
Approved by Director Community
Purpose For Noting

Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* officers, delegates and persons engaged under a contract providing advice to Council must disclose any conflicts of interests.

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council note the Greater Shepparton Volunteer Action Plan 2025-2029, as attached.

Executive Summary

Greater Shepparton City Council (Council) supports the volunteering sector through several means, such as an annual volunteer recognition awards ceremony, promoting volunteer opportunities, and through the leadership of the Greater Shepparton Volunteer Managers Network (GSVMN). Across the organisation, Council also utilises the support of volunteers to deliver services.

The GSVMN consists of Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIO) who provide volunteer services across the Greater Shepparton municipality. The network aims to bring agencies together to work collaboratively to promote volunteers, volunteer services, and share resources.

The GSVMN, in partnership with Council, have developed the Greater Shepparton Volunteer Action Plan 2025-2029 (the Plan) (**Attachment 9.1.1**). The Plan outlines goals and initiatives to support volunteering across Greater Shepparton and aims to increase volunteering locally, support volunteers and organisations, and create consistency across the local sector.

Report Detail

The Local Sector

The volunteer sector is pivotal in delivering services, boosting the local economy, strengthening community ties, enhancing individual wellbeing, providing opportunities for skill development, and significantly contributes to social services and support networks.

Broadly, the volunteer sector has experienced a large decrease in the numbers of volunteers over recent years, which poses large social and economic risks. Locally, the sector has not been immune to this decline, with the number of volunteers in the City of Greater Shepparton estimated to have decreased by 2,604 people between 2016 and 2021.

The economic impact of volunteer decline is an important consideration. In 2019, the cost to the Victorian community of replacing volunteer's labour would have been $19.4 billion. In consideration of a social context, this can have impact on volunteers' sense of belonging, upskilling opportunities, and reducing community connection.

Acknowledging these sector issues, the Greater Shepparton Volunteer Managers Network (GSVMN) have developed Greater Shepparton Volunteer Action Plan 2025-2029 (the Plan) (**Attachment 9.1.1**) to increase volunteering, support and foster existing volunteers, highlight the positive impact of existing volunteers and services, and address shortfalls in volunteerism locally.

The Greater Shepparton Volunteer Managers Network (GSVMN)
The GSVMN is a network of agencies that incorporates approximately 40 Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIO) ranging from community service, sporting, government, emergency service, health, and tourism sectors. The individual agencies are listed on the Council website, which is regularly updated.

The GSVMN meets regularly to share resources and opportunities, network, and promote volunteers and volunteer services locally and across the broader sector. Council provides leadership and administrative support to GSVMN.

The collaborative networking approach of the GSVMN allows members to effectively seek volunteers for their organisations, offer voluntary support to others, share resources, and problem solve volunteer-related issues.

The GSVMN has had many successes in its collaborative approach. Key examples include:
- support to volunteers and community during the Covid-19 pandemic, including supporting the redeployment of volunteers from recreational services to essential services
- during recent flooding events, the GSVMN was pivotal in the sharing of volunteer resources to support the delivery of essential services
- support a review of Council's Volunteer Recognition Awards, alongside annual support for seeking nominations, event promotion, and the assessment of nominations.

In addition to providing leadership and administrative support to the network, Council also has a role as a VIO, utilising the services of approximately 540 volunteers to deliver programs and services across the municipality. Examples include volunteers for Council events, Community Asset Committees, and the Visitor Information Centre.

Development of the Plan
The Plan has been developed by the GSVMN, in partnership with Council, and is underpinned by knowledge from, and consultation with, volunteers, volunteer managers, and non-volunteers.

The Consultation Conversation Report (**Attachment 9.1.2**) highlights the methods of consultation and outlines the benefits and barriers to volunteering that respondents have experienced. Consultation was conducted through facilitated sessions, surveys, social media, and other verbal and written methods.

Following the consultation, data was collated into the following themes:

- promotion
- engaging young people
- networking
- reward and recognition
- skills and training
- recruitment and retention
- cost/funding
- corporate volunteering
- inclusion.

Using these themes, the GSVMN has developed actions to work towards as a network and sector over the next four years. An implementation plan outlines actions that are the responsibility of Council, GSVMN, or stakeholders. Council and the GSVMN will implement this plan with the local community and report on achievements and barriers.

The GSVMN aim is to ensure Greater Shepparton has a volunteer sector that thrives. Members agree that without intervention, the local volunteer sector is at risk of losing further volunteers, will struggle to meet legislative requirements, and risk the elimination or reduction of some volunteer-led services. This will have large impacts on the broader community and the volunteers themselves.

The GSVMN have developed an action plan that is reflective of the priorities of the sector and network, and they now present the document to Council for noting.

Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.

1.1 Council to take an active leadership role for access and inclusion in our community.

1.4 Communities have resources and abilities to self-advocate.

1.9 Provide a high profile collaborative advocacy role.

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Declining volunteer numbers	Almost certain	Moderate	High	Development of the Volunteer Action Plan and ongoing work of the GSVMN
Lack of support for VIOs	Unlikely	Minor	Low	Continue to engage VIOs in GSVMN
GSVMN dissolves	Unlikely	Minor	Low	Council and other agencies individually continue advocate for the volunteer sector

Policy Considerations

The Greater Shepparton Volunteer Action Plan 2025-2029 is complementary to the Greater Shepparton City Council Volunteer Policy.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report. Delivery of actions within the Plan that are allocated to Council, are subject to budgetary processes and approval.

Council currently has an operational budget for volunteer development which primarily supports the delivery of the annual Volunteer Recognition Awards.

Legal/Statutory Implications

There are no legal/statutory implications associated with this report.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental/statutory implications associated with this report. It is important to note that the Goulburn Valley Tree Group is a VIO that contributes to the GSVMN, whilst Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change (DEECA) have previously been involved. The GSVMN will continue to seek ways to support environmental-based VIOs to be involved.

Social Implications

The social benefits of volunteering are significant for both volunteers and the wider community.

Volunteers and Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIO) provide essential services throughout the Greater Shepparton municipality. Many of these services have a positive impact on the social wellbeing of members of the community.

Examples of important services provided by VIOs and their volunteers include:

- food and clothing provision
- connection and support for palliative care
- laptops and phones to enable further education
- pregnancy support
- information, transport, and advocacy for people with disability
- court support services
- support and wayfinding for those in, or visiting, hospital
- connection for seniors
- financial literacy
- housing advocacy
- LGBTQIA+ support and connection
- neighbourhood house programs
- tourism and visitation support.

Volunteers are integral to sporting clubs, community groups, events, and other positive social wellbeing activities.

As well as benefitting the broader community, volunteering benefits the volunteers themselves. Volunteering provides volunteers with a sense of belonging, upskilling opportunities, and a connection to their community.

It is widely recognised that volunteering has social benefits. This is supported by the federal and state volunteering strategies, and the recent inclusion of volunteering in the federal government's Measuring What Matters Framework.

Gender Impact Assessment

Officers reviewed the Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) Operational Policy and understand the requirements in relation to conducting GIA's to ensure Council remains compliant with obligations outlined in the Gender Equality Act 2020.

A Gender Impact Assessment was conducted, and officers have reviewed any recommendations that were made.

As per the recommendations, officers used a mixture of tools to consult with the community on the development of The Plan. Examples included facilitated sessions, social media, posters, and surveys. This ensured that the consultation process encouraged diverse opinions and that the input from individuals is representative of the community.

Economic Impacts

The economic impact of volunteers is significant.

Economic impact is measured by the sector in a variety of ways, although two key examples include:

- the cost to replace volunteers with paid workers
- the amount volunteers spend personally to support their volunteering, and how this translates into saving organisations financially.

Further information on these measures can be found in the S*tate of Volunteering in Victoria Report*[i] and by utilising the Volunteer Replacement Cost Calculator.

In 2019 the cost to the Victorian community of replacing volunteer's labour would have been $19.4 billion. Further, in 2019 volunteers across Victoria directly spent $3.9 billion in support of their own volunteering.

Although data regarding the economic impact to Greater Shepparton is not available, 7,912 people (14.3%) in Greater Shepparton volunteered in 2021, making a significant economic contribution.

The GSVMN understand the important impact of volunteers on the economy and community and the Plan addresses this important issue.

Consultation

The GSVMN designed a consultation process to get feedback from the broader community, utilising the IAP2 (International Association of Public Participation) method.

The GSVMN agreed on the following three questions when conducting community engagement:

1. What are the **benefits** of volunteering?
2. What are the **barriers** to volunteering?
3. What are your **ideas** for a vibrant volunteering sector?

Data was collected using a variety of methods, and the responses were divided into themes. Further information about the consultation can be found in the Greater Shepparton Volunteer Action Plan Consultation Report (**Attachment 9.1.2**).

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred, and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Strategic Links

a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

COMMUNITY LIFE - Enhance social connectedness, physical and mental health and well being, education and participatory opportunities in order to improve liveability and provide a greater range of community services.

• Health and social services.
• Safe and accessible environments.

b) Other strategic links

- Victorian Volunteer Strategy 2022-2027
- National Strategy for Volunteering 2023-2033
- National Standards for Volunteer Involvement
- Greater Shepparton Public Health Strategic Plan 2018-2028
  Community Participation Target 1: Increase the proportion of residents reporting community participation (volunteering, member of organised groups and/or local action groups, parental participation in schools, member of boards/committees, attendance at local events, participation in organised sport)
- Greater Shepparton City Council Universal Access and Inclusion Plan 2022 – 2026
  Key Priority – Economic
  Our people have a better choice of pathways that lead to education, employment and volunteering opportunities.
- Greater Shepparton Positive Ageing Strategy October 2023 – October 2027
  Action 2.1 Partner and lead on opportunities to increase participation for older people in social connection, volunteering, accessing support, and participation in a broad range of opportunities enabling older people to contribute and feel valued.
- Greater Shepparton Multicultural Action Plan 2023 – 2026
  Theme: Access to services
  Providing increased opportunities for multicultural communities to volunteer.
- Greater Shepparton City Council Gender Equity Action Plan 2021-2025
- Greater Shepparton City Council Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan July 2023 to July 2025

Conclusion

The Greater Shepparton Volunteer Manager's Network (GSVMN) are pleased to present their volunteering vision for Greater Shepparton.

The GSVMN believe the Greater Shepparton Volunteer Action Plan 2025-2029 is an important document that outlines the goals and initiatives that relate to volunteering and anticipate the plan will contribute to a more vibrant volunteering sector.

Attachments

1. Greater Shepparton Volunteer Action Plan 2025-2029 [**9.1.1** - 2 pages]
2. Consultation Conversation Report - Volunteer Action Plan [**9.1.2** - 2 pages]

9.2 Positive Ageing Advisory Committee and Disability Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

Author Manager - Community Wellbeing
Approved by Director Community
Purpose For Decision by Council

Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* officers, delegates and persons engaged under a contract providing advice to Council must disclose any conflicts of interests.

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

1. **Adopt the Terms of Reference for the Greater Shepparton Positive Ageing Advisory Committee, as attached.**

2. **Adopt the Terms of Reference for the Greater Shepparton Disability Advisory Committee, as attached.**

Executive Summary

The Greater Shepparton Positive Ageing Advisory Committee (PAAC) was adopted by Council in 2011 to provide advice to Council on opportunities and challenges relating to positive ageing within Greater Shepparton.

The Greater Shepparton Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) was adopted by Council in 2008 to provide a platform for advocacy and representation on issues relating to people living with a disability in the community.

Officers have reviewed both the PAAC and DAC Terms of Reference (TOR) and have made changes, incorporating current committee feedback and governance advice. These TOR are now ready for Council endorsement.

Report Detail

Since its inception in 2011, the Greater Shepparton Positive Ageing Committee Advisory Committee (PAAC) has made contributions to improve the lives of the ageing population in Greater Shepparton. Some recent highlights include the Living Well Ageing Well newsletter, which distributes valuable information in print to the community, the Centennial High Tea event for Greater Shepparton's oldest residents, and participation in the statewide 'Warm Safe Houses' initiative on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

Officers have reviewed the PAAC Terms of Reference (TOR) (**Attachment 9.2.1**), incorporating current committee feedback and governance advice, and have made the following changes:

- updated to the current Council template
- membership term updated from three to two years
- review of the TOR changed from three years to two years
- the composition updated to:
  The Committee will consist of between eight and twelve members comprising of, but not limited to:
  - *one Councillor, appointed as the Chairperson by resolution of Council and do not have voting rights.*
  - *a minimum of six and a maximum of ten community members chosen to represent the interests of people who are aged sixty years and older in Greater Shepparton. Community representatives should, as far as possible, be balanced in regard to age, gender, disability, cultural background, and geographical location.*
  - *a maximum of six representatives of non-profit organisations, groups or networks that work to improve the participation, representation, recognition, safety and wellbeing of people who are aged sixty years and older in Greater Shepparton.*
  - *a maximum of three representatives of businesses who are committed to the representation, recognition, safety and wellbeing of people who are aged 60 years and older in Greater Shepparton.*
  - *the Committee will be supported by at least one Council Officer. Council Officers who attend the meetings of the Committee do so to provide advice and support to the Committee, are not considered Committee members and do not have voting rights.*

Since its inception in 2008, the Greater Shepparton Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) has made many contributions to improve the lives of people living with a disability in Greater Shepparton. Some of the highlights include supporting Council to identify and acknowledge days of significance, reviewed Council's Customer Service area for accessibility, feedback of which was incorporated into an access audit, advised and supported the International Day of People with Disability events in 2023 and 2024.

Officers have reviewed the DAC TOR (**Attachment 9.2.2**), incorporating current Committee feedback and governance advice, and have made the following changes:

- updated to the current Council template
- membership term updated from three to two years
- review of the TOR changed from three years to two years
- the composition updated to:
  The Committee will consist of between eight and twelve members comprising of, but not limited to:
  - *one Councillor, appointed as the Chairperson by resolution of Council and do not have voting rights.*
  - *a minimum of six and a maximum of ten community members chosen to represent the interests of people who have a disability or a carer in Greater Shepparton. Community representatives should, as far as possible, be balanced regarding age, gender, disability, cultural background, and geographical location.*
  - *a maximum of six representative of non-profit organisations, groups or networks that work to improve the participation, representation, recognition, safety and wellbeing of people who have a disability, or care for those with disabilities in Greater Shepparton.*
  - *a maximum of three representatives of businesses who are committed to the representation, recognition, safety and wellbeing of people who identify as having a disability in Greater Shepparton.*

- *the Committee will be supported by at least one Council Officer. Council Officers who attend the meetings of the Committee do so to provide advice and support to the Committee, are not considered Committee members and do not have voting rights.*

The amended TOR are now ready for Council endorsement and will be followed by a recruitment campaign and expression of interest process to recruit new committee members.

Council Plan / Key Strategic Activity

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP
We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.
1.1 Council to take an active leadership role for access and inclusion in our community.
1.4 Communities have resources and abilities to self-advocate.
1.8 Good governance and sustainable financial management.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY and WELLBEING
We will support the mental and physical health and wellbeing of all in our community, ensuring universal access to information, services, housing, healthcare and learning opportunities.
2.1 Council will promote the use of the Universal Design Principles across the region to ensure fair and reasonable access for all members of our community.
2.4 Leave no one behind.
2.9 Community members are supported to achieve and sustain physical, emotional and creative wellbeing.

Risk Management

Risks associated with the Positive Ageing and Disability Advisory Committees are low and are managed through operational decision making and recommendations to Council as required.

Policy Considerations

These Terms of Reference have been updated in line with Council's Advisory Committees Corporate Procedure.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Legal / Statutory Implications

There are no legal or statutory implications associated with this report.

Environmental / Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental or sustainability impacts associated with this report.

Social Implications

The Greater Shepparton Positive Ageing Advisory Committee (PAAC) is established for the purpose of providing advice, information and feedback on matters relevant to people aged sixty years and over in Greater Shepparton. The Committee provides a valuable contribution to the recognition of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, Seniors Month and other relevant days of significance.

Over 25% of the population in Greater Shepparton is over the age of 60 and the PAAC plays an important role in the implementation of the Greater Shepparton Positive Ageing Strategy by providing a platform where representatives can provide advice to Council on opportunities and challenges faced by older residents.

The Greater Shepparton Disability Advisory Committee is established for the purpose of providing advice, information and feedback on matters relevant to people living with a disability in Greater Shepparton and contributing to the recognition of International Day of People with Disability and other relevant days of significance.

Council has a role to play in supporting the liveability of the region for people with a disability. In 2021, 4,932 people (or 7.2% of the population) in the City of Greater Shepparton reported needing help in their day-to-day lives due to disability. The work of this committee supports the implementation of Council's Universal Access and Inclusion Plan 2022 - 2026, provides advice and recommendations, and assists with initiatives that build awareness and create social connection opportunities for people who live with a disability.

Gender Impact Assessment

This policy does not meet the criteria to require an assessment, however a Gender Impact Assessment was completed and recommends that the committees undertake gender equity training to ensure that processes and recommendations consider equity and inclusion.

Membership of the committees is open to people of all genders and the composition of the committees should, as far as possible, be balanced in regard to age, gender, disability, cultural background, and geographical location.

Officers reviewed the Gender Impact Assessment Operational Policy and understand the requirements in relation to conducting GIAs to ensure Council remains compliant with obligations outlined in the Gender Equality Act 2020.

Economic Impacts

There are no economic impacts associated with this report.

Consultation

Officers consulted with members of the Positive Ageing and Disability Advisory Committees, in addition to Council's Governance team.

Feedback was received from the Positive Ageing Advisory Committee, who requested additional meetings each year. The Terms of Reference currently requires a 'minimum of five meetings each year' which does not exclude additional meetings; however, the purpose of any additional meetings will need to be considered and, where necessary, may be better served through interest based sub-committees.

Feedback was received from the Disability Advisory Committee regarding the meeting requirements which have been updated through the use of the current template.

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred, and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Strategic Links

a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

- the implementation of the Greater Shepparton Public Health Plan, and support for the best possible healthcare facilities and services in the region.

b) Other strategic links

- Positive Ageing Strategy 2023 – 2027
- Universal Access and Inclusion Plan 2022 – 2026
- Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2023 – 2027
- Greater Shepparton Public Health Strategic Plan 2018 – 2028

Conclusion

The Greater Shepparton Positive Ageing Advisory Committee and the Greater Shepparton Disability Advisory Committee Terms of Reference have been reviewed and updated to reflect current sector practice in governance and operations. Adopting the attached Terms of References will ensure committee sustainability and support the continuation of this important advocacy between community and Council.

Attachments

1. Positive Ageing Advisory Committee Terms of Reference 2025 [**9.2.1** - 7 pages]
2. Disability Advisory Committee Terms of Reference 2025 [**9.2.2** - 7 pages]

10 Corporate Services Directorate

10.1 Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029

Author Team Leader - Rates and Revenue
Approved by Director Corporate Services
Purpose For Decision by Council

Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* officers, delegates and persons engaged under a contract providing advice to Council must disclose any conflicts of interests.

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

1. **endorse the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029, as attached;**

2. **release the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029 to the community for feedback pursuant to Council's Community Engagement Policy for a period commencing on 28 April 2025 and concluding on 16 May 2025.**

3. **note that any feedback will be considered prior to presenting the Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029 for adoption by Council on 26 June 2025.**

Executive Summary

The *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) requires a Revenue and Rating Plan (the Plan) to be adopted for a period of at least four financial years by 30 June the year following a general election. The Plan is an important part of Council's integrated planning framework.

The development of the Plan involved consultation with the Councillors and the community. One briefing and three engagement sessions were held with Councillors during March 2025, a session was held with the Community Panel in November 2024 and a survey was conducted via Shaping Greater Shepp from 11 March to 28 March 2025.

Using the information gathered from Councillors and the community, a Draft Revenue and Rating Plan has been prepared to present to Councillors to be tabled for endorsement at the April Council Meeting. Once endorsed the Plan will be made available to the community for feedback in May 2025.

It is important to note that the Plan does not influence the total rates levied or the amount a user charge or fee will be, it determines the most appropriate and affordable revenue and rating approach for our municipality.

Once all engagement has concluded the Revenue and Rating Plan will be tabled for adoption at the June 2025 Council Meeting.

Report Detail

The Greater Shepparton City Council Draft 2025-2029 Revenue and Rating Plan (the Draft Plan) has been prepared in accordance with Local Government Victoria issued guidance.

The Act does not prescribe the engagement required with the community in relation to the Plan however, Council's Community Engagement Policy states that consultative engagement will be conducted. To meet this commitment Council officers attended a day with the Community Panel and engaged with the broader community via the Shaping Greater Shepparton platform from 11 March to 28 March 2025.

Engagement with Councillors has been undertaken over multiple sessions, with reference to community sentiment captured through the above engagements.

RATING BACKGROUND

Calculation of Council rates can be complex to understand. Engagement prior and during the development of the Plan allows Councillors and the community to consider what and how rates should be distributed amongst ratepayers. Each Council can decide its own rating structure within the boundaries of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Council can decide if the rating system includes:

- Uniform rates
- Differential rates
- A municipal charge

In making these taxation decisions, Council considered the following principles to ensure the merits of different scenarios could be assessed:

- Equity – ratepayers in similar situations should pay similar amounts.
- Efficiency – is the system cost-effective to administer and will it impact decisions around property ownership, usage and development?
- Simplicity – how easily the system is understood and administered?
- Sustainability – will the decisions made be durable over time?
- Fairness – though subjective, can the system be consistently applied with consideration for different circumstances?

Council also considered its obligation to ensure that financial policies and strategic plans including the Revenue and Rating Plan seek to provide stability and predictability to the municipal community, as required by the Section 101 of the Act.

OUTCOMES OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Community Panel established to support Council in developing its key strategic documents deliberated on Council's Revenue and Rating Plan. The panel received an introduction to the revenue and rating system, the mechanisms available to Council in determining rates, charges and other income and the principles that should be considered in making these decisions for the community.

The panel received modelling of various scenarios and deliberated on whether Council should maintain the current rating structure, adjust the use of differential rates and the municipal charge or consider applying a uniform rate. The panel also discussed principles of applying user fees and charges.

Broader community engagement followed a similar structure, with a survey gathering community sentiment on the fairness and equity of the current system, if new differential rates should be introduced or the municipal charge removed and how user fees should be levied.

The outcomes of these engagements have been considered in drafting the attached Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029 and are further explained within this report.

Following endorsement of the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan, it will be available to the community to provide feedback. The results from this consultation will be provided to Council before the Plan is finalised. This consultation will occur between Monday 28 April 2025 to Friday 16 May 2025.

DRAFT REVENUE AND RATING PLAN 2025-2029
Council's Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029 (the Draft Plan) seeks to provide stability and predictability to the community.

Property Valuation Base
The Capital Improved Value (CIV) is retained as the property valuation base for rating purposes within the Draft Plan. This method is the most commonly used by Victorian Local Governments and is relatively easy for ratepayers to understand as it generally equates to the market value of the property. The CIV includes the value of land and any improvements on the land.

Differential Rates
The Draft Plan proposes to continue to apply differential rates with Council's three existing differentials General, Farm and Commercial/Industrial being retained. The definition and objective of each of these differentials is outlined within the attachment.

In applying these differentials, sentiment from community engagement and the rating principles were considered. Both the Panel and the survey results supported Council's use of differential rates as a mechanism for ensuring an equitable system. With the benefit of understanding the rating system, the Panel were not in support of uniform rating as it would redistribute more of the rating burden to residential ratepayers, which was perceived to be unfair on vulnerable and lower income earners. During Councillor workshops, it was acknowledged that uniform rating would be simple to administer but was not the right fit for Greater Shepparton due to the number of business and farming ratepayers relative to the total rate base.

In proposing to retain the current differential rating structure, consideration was given as to whether this mechanism should be extended to other identified ratepayer groups to improve the equity of the rating system.

The Panel discussed introducing a rating differential specifically for retirement/lifestyles/independent living villages, however, were generally not supportive of creating a level of subsidisation for this group relative to other similar ratepayers. Survey results support the position of the Panel, with a majority of respondents not supportive of this group of ratepayers paying less than other residential properties. Feedback noted that these properties can be run by a profitable business, residents still have the same access to services provided by Council and it being fairer for all residential properties to pay based on their value. Feedback in support was received, noting lower incomes and residents having already paid their dues.

Council considered the introduction of such a differential, in addition to the impact of removing the municipal charge to create a more favourable rating scenario for these properties. With consideration of the rating principles, no change has been proposed in the Draft Plan.

The Panel recommended Council investigate a subsidy or differential for social housing and social welfare organisations, however they acknowledged that subsidies for these groups may be better suited under State or Federal Government. This sentiment was echoed in survey responses, with a strong majority not supportive of this for reasons including social housing being a responsibility of other levels of government and any subsidy being unfair to other residential ratepayers, who also contribute revenue to these other levels of government through other taxation methods. Respondents in favour acknowledged the positive social impacts arising from subsiding social housing. Council's Draft Plan does not consider introducing such a subsidy.

In drafting the Plan, Council also considered rating of recreational social clubs and vacant land. Land that is used by recreational social clubs meets the General rating differential definition and in alignment with designing a simple rating system, Council are not proposing to introduce a new rating differential for this group. Feedback received from community engagement was split on the matter, with recognition of the positive social impacts these groups have and opposing views in relation to revenue opportunities noted.

Investigation of implementing rating differentials to support housing and development outcomes was undertaken as part of the review, including through the application of differentials for vacant housing and commercial properties. Council considered whether the rating system was the best way to incentivise owners to place tenants and whether Council was structured to efficiently and simply administer such a differential. Ultimately further exploring the introduction of a differential was not supported.

Cultural and Recreational Land
Rating of Cultural and Recreational Land is discussed within the Draft Plan in alignment with the *Cultural and Recreational Land Act 1963*. The legislation describes properties for which Council can decide the rates to be paid with consideration of the public benefit provided from such lands. There are seven properties in Greater Shepparton that meet this legislated definition.

Through consultation with the community and Councillor workshops, there was varied appetite for applying any consideration of community benefit in determining rates to be paid by these properties. Council has reviewed available options and no change is proposed in the Draft Plan.

Municipal Charge
The Draft Plan retains a municipal charge that applies equally to all rateable properties. The value of this municipal charge is determined in Council's annual budget.

Both the Panel and survey respondents had a mix of support for having a municipal charge. The Panel acknowledged that removing the municipal charge would result in higher valued properties paying more rates than they currently do and lower valued properties paying less. The Panel stated that removing the municipal charge may make rates easier to understand, but they acknowledged that businesses and employers would pay more.

Various rating scenarios have been modelled, including with a municipal charge, phasing out of a municipal charge and removing the municipal charge with adjustments to differential rates.

This modelling demonstrated that removing the municipal charge results in a shift of the rating burden that mostly impacts commercial and industrial properties, who already pay 2.05 times more rates for dollar of capital improved value compared to General properties.

Rating Summary
Both Councillors and the Panel considered and understood that movement in any differential, whether changing the ratio, adding or removing differentials or the municipal charge impacts different ratepayers differently.

Council Officers have considered the engagement with Councillors, the Panel and survey respondents and have assessed that on balance, the current rating structure is supported. Therefore, in considering the rating principles including stability, efficiency and sustainability, the Draft Plan proposes no change to current rating differentials, their ratios and includes a municipal charge.

OTHER REVENUE
The Revenue and Rating Plan also sets out the framework for raising other revenues that support the delivery of services for the community. Other revenue streams include:

- User fees and charges
- Statutory fees and fines
- Grants
- Contributions
- Interest on Investments – governed by Council's Investment and Cash Management Policy
- Borrowings – governed by Council's Borrowing Policy

User fees and charges are tied to a specific product or service where the user is easily identifiable and are a revenue source where Council has a high level of discretion. In the context of sustainable financial management, ensuring appropriate recovery of user pays services is an important mechanism.

User fees and charges can be set at full cost recovery, subsidised pricing or market pricing. It is important that user fees and charges are set to align with the objectives of Councils Financial Plan. The Plan doesn't set what the user fees and charges, it outlines examples and descriptions of full cost recovery, subsidised pricing or market pricing for the community to understand.

Community engagement via Shaping Greater Shep asked which Council service they would like to see subsided and which they use. It is important to understand if community is considering all of the municipality or just their own needs.

User fees and charges differ from statutory fees and fines as these are fees and fines collected under the direction of legislation or other government departments.

The Draft Plan will be tabled at the April Council Meeting and open to the community for feedback before being finalised and tabled at the June meeting for adoption.

Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP
We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.
1.8 Good governance and sustainable financial management.

Risk Management

Strategic Risks

The following Strategic Risk/s have been identified as applicable to this report:

Council not financially sustainable (SR134)
Council fails to deliver on its objectives of the Council Plan (SR138)
Sustainable asset management (SR151)
Failure to provide adequate services and infrastructure to accommodate growth of the region (SR136)

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Council does not adopt a compliant Revenue & Rating Plan by the legislated due date of 30 June 2025	Unlikely	Major	Medium	Early engagement with community and Councillors, project plan in place, Better Practice Guide being followed.

Policy Considerations

The engagement in relation to the Revenue and Rating Plan has been prepared in line with Councils Community Engagement Policy.

Financial Implications

Minor costs associated with advertising the engagement will be incurred. These costs were considered when during 2024/2025 Budget development.

The Revenue and Rating Plan sets out how Council raise revenue for delivering services and infrastructure to the community. It does not set out how much revenue will be raised and therefore does not have direct financial implications.

Legal/Statutory Implications

Section 93 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires a Revenue and Rating Plan to be adopted by 30 June the year following a general election.

Part 8 of *Local Government Act 1989* provides the legislation under which rates and charges are levied.

The *Cultural and Recreational Land Act 1963* contains the definition of such lands and Section 4 speaks directly to rates payable

The *Circular Economy Act 2021*, Division 2 provides the definitions relied upon and Part 5 provides the legislation in relation to waste and recycling services applicable to the Revenue and Rating Plan

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

No environmental/sustainability impacts have been identified.

Social Implications

The community will be able to participant in the engagement either remotely or by visiting Council office.

Gender Impact Assessment

Officers reviewed the Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) Operational Policy and understand the requirements in relation to conducting GIA's to ensure Council remains compliant with obligations outlined in the Gender Equality Act 2020.

The following determination was made by officers.

This report does not meet the criteria to require an assessment.

Economic Impacts

No economic impacts have been identified.

Consultation

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Examples of techniques to use
Consult	Gather feedback on Draft Plan	Shaping Greater Shepp

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Strategic Links

a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

There are no links to the Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy.

b) Other strategic links

- Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2025

Conclusion

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires a Revenue and Rating Plan to be adopted by 30 June the year following a general election and Councils Engagement Policy determines the community is to be consulted on the Plan

Consultation with the community on the Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029 commenced on 30 November 2024 with the Community Panel and involved a survey via Shaping Greater Shepp from 11 March to 28 March 2025.

Consultation with Councillors started on 18 February 2025 with an introduction to the current Revenue and Rating Plan, the current rating structure and the decision points that Councillors have. Over three subsequent engagement sessions Council Officers presented information, gathered information and facilitated conversations in relation to Council's rating structure and alternatives as outlined within the report.

Based on the consultation conducted and the information gathered Council Officers have prepared the Draft Plan to be tabled at the April 2025 Council Meeting for endorsement to be made available to the community for feedback prior to the final version being tabled at the June 2025 Council Meeting for adoption.

Attachments

1. Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029 [**10.1.1** - 24 pages]

10.2 Contracts Awarded Under Delegation - March 2025

Author Team Leader – Contracts and Procurement
Approved by Director Corporate Services
Purpose For Noting

Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* officers, delegates and persons engaged under a contract providing advice to Council must disclose any conflicts of interests.

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

1. **note the contracts awarded under delegation pursuant to a formal procurement process for the reporting period; and**

2. **note the requests for tender advertised but not yet awarded.**

Report Detail

To inform the Council of the status of request for tenders that have been awarded under delegation during the period 13 March 2025 to 8 April 2025, and those that have been publicly advertised but are yet to be awarded as at 8 April 2025. The report does not include all purchasing activities, only procurement which requires a formal quotation or tender process.

Contracts Awarded under Delegated Authority

Contract No.	Contract Name	Details	Value inclusive of GST	Awarded to
2404	Floor Level Survey - Kialla, Mooroopna and Shepparton	Lump sum contract for the Floor Level Survey - Kialla, Mooroopna and Shepparton	$300,631.31	Onley Consulting Pty Ltd
2412	Grammar Park Shared Path GV Highway, Shepparton	Lump sum contract for the Grammar Park Shared Path GV Highway, Shepparton	$399,851.76	Mawson Constructions Pty Ltd

Requests for Tenders advertised but not yet awarded

Contract No.	Contract Name	Details	Status
2289	Provision of Essential Safety Measures	Schedule of rates contract for the Provision of Essential Safety Measures	Tender closed on 16 April 2025

- The procurement process for CN 2424 - Greater Shepparton Bike Jump Park, Mooroopna will no longer proceed to award. Council Officers will review the scope and consider options to progress this project.

Through the S5 Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer the Council has delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer to award a contract up to the value of $1,000,000.The financial delegation to Directors to approve contracts up to a value of $750,000 for goods and services and works are included in the S7 Instrument of Sub-Delegation by Chief Executive Officer.

Collaborative / Third Party Purchasing Arrangements

In accordance with Clause 5.2.11 of the Procurement Policy, Council has the option to utilise third party collaborative purchasing arrangements for various procurement activities. These collaborative arrangements are established to be an effective and efficient way of sourcing goods and services. Benefits include pre-approved supplier lists, cost savings through economies of scale and dedicated contract administration. There were no new collaborative arrangements opted into for the reporting period.

Legal/Statutory Implications

In accordance with Section 108 of the Local Government Act 2020, Council has adopted its Procurement Policy establishing the value at which Council must invite a tender or seek an expression of interest.

Conclusion

It is important that decisions and actions taken under delegation be properly documented and transparent in nature. The report details the contracts awarded under delegated authority of the Council during the period 13 March 2025 to 8 April 2025.

Attachments

Nil

10.3 S5 Instrument of Delegation by Council to the Chief Executive Officer

Author	Senior Governance Officer
Approved by	Director Corporate Services
Purpose	For Decision by Council

Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* officers, delegates and persons engaged under a contract providing advice to Council must disclose any conflicts of interests.

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council, in the exercise of the power conferred by S11(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), resolves that:

1. **there be delegated to the person holding the position, acting in or performing the duties of Chief Executive Officer the powers, duties and functions set out in the attached *Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer*, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument;**

2. **the Instrument comes into force immediately the Chief Executive Officer signature is affixed to the instrument;**

3. **on the coming into force of the Instrument, all previous delegations to the Chief Executive Officer are revoked; and**

4. **the duties and functions set out in the Instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the Instrument must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.**

Executive Summary

Delegations are a critical governance tool of the Council. Most Council decisions are not made at Council meetings and the effective functioning of the Council would not be possible if they were. Instead, most decision-making power is allocated by formal delegations.

The most important delegation issued by the Council is to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). This delegation allows the CEO to then sub-delegate powers, duties and functions to Council officers, to allow them to make the day-to-day decisions necessary to provide responsive and high-quality services to the community.

Report Detail

The previous Instrument of Delegation from the Council to the CEO was authorised by resolution at the Council Meeting on 17 December 2024.

This review has been undertaken in accordance with the template provided by Maddocks Lawyers, as part of Council's subscription to their Delegations and Authorisation service. There have been two changes to the Instrument of Delegation under section 1.3. These changes relate to circumstances under which the CEO is provided with a higher financial delegation, to enable the approval of certain types of payment and the fulfilment of statutory processes.

In particular, the first change relates to the collection and remit of funds under the Fire Services Property Levy on behalf of the State Government. Previously, quarterly remittance of these receipts has been below the current $4.0m CEO limit. The Fire Services Property Levy will be replaced by the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) from 1 July 2025. The levies that apply under the new ESVF will be higher, which will result in higher quarterly remittances. The proposed $1.0m increase is required to ensure the CEO can remit levies collected as required by legislation.

The second change relates to the approval of Public Infrastructure Works and brings the CEO's financial delegation into alignment with the Public Infrastructure Works Policy.

Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP
We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.
1.3 Council services will be realistic and delivered in an efficient and effective manner with the aim of continuously looking for delivery that matches our ever-changing environment.
1.6 Council provides customer service that meets the needs of the community.
1.8 Good governance and sustainable financial management.

Risk Management

The review and adoption of the CEO's delegation ensures that it remains current, valid, and legal.

Subscribing to the Maddocks service reduces the risk that legislative changes which have implications for the Council's delegations, are properly identified and implemented.

Policy Considerations

The Council adopted Exercise of Delegations policy provides guidance to delegates on how they should exercise their delegations. This instrument of delegation is implemented in accordance with the Exercise of Delegations policy.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from the *Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer*.

Legal/Statutory Implications

There are no direct legal or statutory implications arising from the *Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer*.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental or sustainable impacts associated with this report.

Social Implications

There are no social implications associated with this report.

Gender Impact Assessment

Officers reviewed the Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) Operational Policy and understand the requirements in relation to conducting GIA's to ensure Council remains compliant with obligations outlined in the Gender Equality Act 2020.

A Gender Impact Assessment was not conducted as this Instrument does not meet the criteria to require an assessment.

Economic Impacts

There are no economic impacts associated with this report.

Consultation

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred, and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Strategic Links

Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

There are no direct links to Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy.

Conclusion

It is recommended that the updated *Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer* be approved, as regular reviews are undertaken in accordance with best practice guidelines and meet organisational requirements.

Attachments

1. S5 - Instrument of Delegation by Council to CEO [**10.3.1** - 4 pages]

10.4 S6 Instrument of Delegation by Council to Members of Council Staff

Author	Senior Governance Officer
Approved by	Director Corporate Services
Purpose	For Decision by Council

Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) officers, delegates and persons engaged under a contract providing advice to Council must disclose any conflicts of interests.

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

In the exercise of the powers conferred by the legislation referred to in the attached instrument of delegation, Greater Shepparton City Council (Council) resolves that:

1. **there be delegated to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the offices or positions referred to in the attached *Instrument of Delegation to Members of Council Staff*, the powers, duties and functions set out in that instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument.**

2. **the instrument comes into force immediately the Chief Executive Officer's signature is affixed to the instrument.**

3. **on this instrument coming into force, all previous executed versions of this instrument are revoked.**

4. **the duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instrument must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.**

Executive Summary

As the Council is not a "natural" person, it can act in only two ways, which is by resolution or through others acting on its behalf. For others to act on the Council's behalf, the relevant Council powers must be delegated to staff by the Council.

The Council has delegated the majority of its delegable powers to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), who is permitted under the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) to further sub-delegate these powers to other members of Councils staff.

The powers conferred on the Council under some legislative instruments cannot be delegated through the CEO and must be delegated by resolution of Council directly to Council officers.

The purpose of this report is to delegate certain powers and functions of Council which cannot be sub-delegated by the CEO to Members of Council staff, in accordance with Section 11 of the Act.

The Instrument of Delegation to Members of Staff was last adopted by Council on 17 December 2024.

This review has been prompted by the biannual updates provided by Maddocks Lawyers which Council subscribes to. This ensures Council continues to operate in accordance with current legislative requirements.

Report Detail

The Council is not in a position to exercise all the powers conferred upon it by resolution and requires others to act on its behalf. This is made possible under section 11 of the Act which provides that a Council may, by Instrument of Delegation, delegate to a member of its staff any power, duty or function of a Council under the *Local Government Act 2020* or any other Act, other than certain specified powers.

The Council has delegated the majority of its delegable powers to the CEO. The CEO, through an instrument of sub-delegation, then has the ability to delegate these powers to Council staff.

However, the powers conferred on the Council under some legislative instruments cannot be delegated through the CEO and must be delegated by resolution directly to Council officers. The Acts and Regulations referred to in the attached *Instrument of Delegation - Members of Council Staff* are among those which require direct delegation.

As part of this current review, one new provision was introduced under the *Road Management Act 2004* which relates to the provision of consent to discontinue a road. There were also administrative changes made to add new delegates and update position titles to reflect the current organisation structure and officers' respective responsibilities. These proposed changes have been assessed and accepted by relevant Manager and Director.

Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.
1.3 Council services will be realistic and delivered in an efficient and effective manner with the aim of continuously looking for delivery that matches our ever changing environment.

Risk Management

The review of Instruments of Delegation ensures that they remain valid, legal and that generally routine decisions are able to be made without the need for a Council Meeting.

The Council subscribes to the Delegations and Authorisations Service provided by Maddocks Lawyers. Subscribing to the Maddocks service ensures that legislative changes which have implications for Council's delegations and authorisations are identified and implemented accordingly.

Policy Considerations

All instruments of delegation must be exercised in accordance with the Council's Exercise of Delegations Policy.

Financial Implications
There are no direct financial implications arising from the *Instrument of Delegation to Members of Council Staff*.

Legal/Statutory Implications
The *Instrument of Delegation to Members of Council Staff* ensures that decisions made by Council officers are legally compliant and enforceable.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts
There are no environmental/sustainability impacts on the coming into force of the *Instrument of Delegation to Members of Council Staff*.

Social Implications
There are no social implications with the coming into force of the *Instrument of Delegation to Members of Council Staff*.

Gender Impact Assessment
Officers reviewed the Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) Operational Policy and understand the requirements in relation to conducting GIA's to ensure Council remains compliant with obligations outlined in the Gender Equality Act 2020.

A Gender Impact Assessment was not conducted as this Instrument does not meet the criteria to require an assessment.

Economic Impacts
There are no economic impacts with the coming into force of the *Instrument of Delegation to Members of Council Staff*.

Consultation
The review of the Instrument of Delegation was completed through Councils delegations software, RelianSys. Consultation was conducted with the relevant staff on any proposed changes to the Instrument.

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred, and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Strategic Links
Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

There are no direct links to the Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy.

Conclusion
It is recommended that the updated Instrument of Delegation to the members of the Council staff be approved, as regular reviews are undertaken in accordance with best practice guidelines and meet the current legislative requirements.

Attachments
1. S6 Instrument of Delegation - Members of Staff [**10.4.1** - 101 pages]

10.5 S18 Instrument of Sub-Delegation - Environment Protection Act 2017

Author Senior Governance Officer
Approved by Director Corporate Services
Purpose For Decision by Council

Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* officers, delegates and persons engaged under a contract providing advice to Council must disclose any conflicts of interests.

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

In the exercise of the power conferred by s 437(2) of the *Environment Protection Act 2017* and the Instrument of Delegation of the Environment Protection Authority under the Act dated 4 June 2021, Greater Shepparton City Council (Council) resolves that:

1. **The members of Council staff referred to in the instrument attached be appointed and authorised as set out in the instrument.**

2. **The instrument comes into force immediately upon being signed by Council's Chief Executive Officer and remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it.**

Executive Summary

Delegations are a critical governance tool of the Council. Most Council decisions are not made at Council meetings and the effective functioning of the Council would not be possible if they were. Instead, most decision-making power is allocated by formal delegations.

Section 437 of the *Environment Protection Act 2017* provides for Council to delegate powers, duties and functions to Council officers. The Environment Protection Authority provides for the specific powers, duties and functions that are delegated to Council.

This instrument provides specified Council officers with the powers, duties and functions to allow them to make the day-to-day decisions necessary to provide responsive and high-quality services to the community.

Report Detail

The Environment Protection Agency has conferred powers relating to the regulation of residential noise, litter, waste and on-site wastewater management.

The attached Instrument of Delegation has been prepared in accordance with the templates provided by Maddocks Lawyers as part of Council's subscription service. This instrument has undergone its bi-annual review and there have been some minor changes to address position and abbreviation updates, however no legislative changes have been made.

Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

Provide strong civic leadership, advocacy and good governance in the operation of Greater Shepparton City Council.

1.3 Council demonstrates strong leadership and sound decision making in the best interests of the community.

1.4 Financial management is responsible and effective in responding to challenges and constraints with a focus on the financial sustainability of the Council.

ENVIRONMENT

Enhance and protect the clean, green environment that makes Greater Shepparton the unique place it is.

5.2 The region's environmental assets are planned and managed to ensure they are enhanced and sustainable for future generations.

5.3 Waste is managed in a sustainable way that is environmentally friendly, reliable and sustainable for future generations.

Risk Management

The regular review of Councils Instruments of Delegation ensures that they remain valid, legal and that generally routine decisions are able to be made without the need for a Council meeting.

Policy Considerations

All instruments of delegation must be exercised in accordance with the Council's Exercise of Delegations policy.

Financial Implications

The Council subscribes to the Delegations and Authorisations Service by Maddocks Lawyers. The budgeted annual subscription to the Maddocks service ensures that legislative changes that effect Council's delegations and authorisations are identified and implemented accordingly.

Legal/Statutory Implications

The adoption of this Instrument of Delegation ensures that decisions made by Council officers are legally compliant and enforceable.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no strategic environmental or sustainability impacts with the adoption of this instrument of delegation.

Social Implications

There are no direct social implications arising from the adoption of this instrument of delegation.

Gender Impact Assessment

Officers reviewed the Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) Operational Policy and understand the requirements in relation to conducting GIA's to ensure Council remains compliant with obligations outlined in the Gender Equality Act 2020.

A Gender Impact Assessment was not conducted as this Instrument does not meet the criteria to require an assessment.

Economic Impacts

There are no economic impacts arising from the adoption of this instrument of delegation.

Consultation

The review of the Instrument of Delegation was completed through Council's delegation software, with proposed changes approved by the relevant Manager and Director.

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Strategic Links

Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

There are no direct links to the Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy.

Conclusion

It is recommended that the updated Instrument of Delegation under the *Environment Protection Act 2017* be approved, as regular reviews are undertaken in accordance with best practice guidelines and meet the current legislative requirements.

Attachments

1. S18 - Instrument of Sub-Delegation - Environment Protection Act 2017 [**10.5.1** - 4 pages]

10.6 March 2025 Quarter 3 Forecast Review

Author Management Accountant
Approved by Director Corporate Services
Purpose For Noting

Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

Under section 130 of the Local Government Act 2020 officers, delegates, and persons engaged under a contract providing advice to Council must disclose any conflicts of Interests.

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council endorse the 2024/2025 Quarter 3 Forecast Review, as attached.

Executive Summary

This report presents the March 2025 Quarter 3 (Q3) forecast financial performance for the 2024/2025 financial year compared to the 2024/2025 Adopted Budget and Q2 Forecast Review as at 31 March 2025.

Report Detail

The 2024/2025 Budget was formally adopted at the June 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting.

Under section 97 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) the Chief Executive Officer must ensure that a quarterly budget report is prepared and presented to the Council at a Council meeting.

The March 2025 Quarter 3 Forecast Review provides a comparison of actual and budgeted results as at March 2025 and presents revised budget forecasts based on current operating conditions. The following sections are included in the report:

- Overview
- Income Statement
- Balance Sheet
- Cash Flow Statement
- Capital Works Statement
- Capital Works by Project

Operating Position

Council's year-to-date (YTD) budget performance and projected full year adjusted underlying position are reflected in the income statement within the attachment.

The YTD budget performance is on track. The YTD actual adjusted underlying result is a surplus of $27.4 million, which is $1.49 million or 6 per cent greater than the YTD Q2 Forecast Review.

The YTD position is influenced by the generation of rates at the start of the year, and the favourable variance is mainly due to the receipt of the additional civil works developer monetary contributions. As the financial year progresses and expenditure is incurred, Council is projecting a full year adjusted underlying deficit of $5.7 million.

The Q3 Forecast adjusted underlying result is projected to be a deficit of $5.7 million, which is a decline of $2.25 million since Q2 Forecast Review.

This unfavourable movement is influenced by:

- An expected decrease in user fees due to lower utilisation of Council childcare facilities caused by staff shortages.
- A reduction in asset inspection activities caused by staff shortages

Refer to the Notes to the Income Statement for further variance commentary.

Balance Sheet
Council has adopted the liquidity ratio (current assets as a percentage of current liabilities) as a further measure of financial sustainability.

The Q3 Forecast Review is projecting full year liquidity to be 185% which is an increase of 21 per cent compared to the Q2 Forecast. This improvement is partially due to additional monetary contributions and grant income received in 2023/2024, in additional to the impact of current year forecast improvements. It is also impacted by the timing of borrowings related to the GV Link Stage 1 project. The 2024/2025 Adopted Budget included $9.67m of borrowings that will now be re-budgeted to the 2025/2026 financial year in line with the revised project delivery timeframes.

Capital Works Statement
YTD Q2 Forecast Review Capital Works expenditure shows a variance of $509,000. This variance is due to project costs reductions and delays in commencement, mostly relating to the timing of delivery of motor vehicles and building renewals.

Q3 Forecast Review Capital Renewal & Upgrade over depreciation is projected to be 90 percent, which is a 7 percent reduction since Q2 Forecast Review. This movement is mainly impacted by the partial re-budget of renewal and upgrade projects into the 2025/2026 financial year including Margaret Street Pump Station Upgrade and Shepparton Sport City Precinct Enhancement Package.

Refer to the Notes to the Capital Works Statement for further details on YTD performance and full year forecast variances.

Environmental Upgrade Agreements – Quarterly Statement
No new environmental upgrade agreements have been entered into this quarter.

There are currently five environmental upgrade charges in operation with a total value of $3,651,555.45. Charges due this year total $459,387.42, plus arrears of $95,460.14 and interest of $71,262.36. Total payments of $114,814.88 fell due this quarter, with $111,666.56 being paid.

Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP
We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people, and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse, and liveable region.
1.8 Good governance and sustainable financial management.

Risk Management

Strategic Risks

The following Strategic Risk/s have been identified as applicable to this report:
Council not financially sustainable (SR134)

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Poor performance against budget.	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Regular monitoring and reporting of performance against budget and forecast variances
Deterioration of Council's financial position against the adopted Finance Plan, resulting in diminished ability to achieve and maintain financial sustainability, as measured by the adjusted underlying operating result, liquidity and renewal and upgrade of assets.	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Linkage of budget setting and performance to the adopted Financial Plan.

Policy Considerations

The Quarter 3 Forecast Review has been prepared in accordance with accounting policies, Council's Budget Management Operational Policy and the 2021-2031 Financial Plan.

Financial Implications

The financial implications associated with this report are detailed in the March 2025 Quarter 3 Forecast Review report.

Legal/Statutory Implications

Section 101 of the Local Government Act 2020 provides that Council maintains a budgeting and reporting framework that is consistent with the principles of sound financial management. In addition, Section 97 requires that every 3 months a statement comparing the budgeted revenue and expenditure for the financial year with the actual revenue and expenditure to date is presented to Council at a Council meeting which is open to the public.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

No environmental or sustainability impacts have been identified in relation to this report.

Social Implications

No social impacts have been identified in relation to this report.

Gender Impact Assessment

Officers reviewed the Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) Operational Policy and understand the requirements in relation to conducting GIA's to ensure Council remains compliant with obligations outlined in the Gender Equality Act 2020.

The following determination was made by officers.

This report does not meet the criteria to require an assessment.

Economic Impacts

No economic impacts have been identified to this report.

Consultation

External consultation has not occurred regarding the contents of this report. Consultation, however, has and will take place on certain specific items within the budget as and when appropriate.

Strategic Links

a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

There are no links to the Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy.

b) Other strategic links

- 2021-2031 Financial Plan

Conclusion

This report presents the Quarter 3 forecast financial performance for the 2024/2025 financial year, in comparison to the 2024/2025 Adopted Budget and Q2 Forecast Review.

Attachments

1. March 2025 Q 3 Forecast Review and Council Monthly Financial Statements [**10.6.1** - 17 pages]

11 Sustainable Development Directorate

11.1 Asia Fruit Logistica 2024/2025

Author Team Leader - Business and Industry Development
Approved by Director Sustainable Development
Purpose For Decision by Council

Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* officers, delegates and persons engaged under a contract providing advice to Council must disclose any conflicts of interests.

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

1. **Note the outcomes from Greater Shepparton City Council's attendance at Asia Fruit Logistica Hong Kong 2024.**

2. **Approve the hosting of a trade stand at Asia Fruit Logistica and supporting activation opportunities as deemed appropriate, in 2025 in partnership with Fruit Growers Victoria.**

3. **Approve the Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer or an Executive representative to be included in the delegation for 2025.**

Executive Summary

The total value of agricultural output in Greater Shepparton is estimated to be more than $729M. The largest commodity produced was fruit, which accounted for 47.2 per cent of Greater Shepparton's total agricultural output in value terms, highlighting the importance of the industry to the region. On 2 September 2024 Greater Shepparton City Council, in partnership with Fruit Growers Victoria (FGV), led a delegation to Hong Kong to attend Asia Fruit Logistica.

The delegation consisted of the Mayor, Cr Shane Sali, Council's Chief Executive Officer, Fiona Le Gassick and Manager Economic Development, Anthony Nicolaci. Also in attendance was Fruit Growers Victoria's Michael Crisera and 21 local growers and representatives from the broader horticulture supply chain from the Greater Shepparton region. Council and FGV hosted, in partnership, a trade stand at the expo.

Asia Fruit Logistica covers the entire fresh produce industry value chain and its service support companies, as well as the latest, innovative products and ideas. It offers a unique opportunity to develop new business, make new top-level contacts, and gather essential market information on every aspect of the fresh produce trade throughout the entire Asian region.

This expo provides Council with an opportunity to support the region's horticultural industry, partner with the local growers, establish a presence at the event to demonstrate local government support and to market the region as the 'Fruit Capital of Australia' as a place to invest and do business.

Local fruit growers and the horticulture industry are supportive of Council's ongoing attendance at the expo and believe that having a dedicated stand at the 2025 event is a very worthwhile exercise to continue to diversify, grow and promote our economy.

It is the view of growers that Council's attendance in addition to providing a trade stand will continue to allow them to hold their meetings at a formal professional site which gives them an enhanced level of credibility amongst their international competition. Various local growers utilised the stand for trade negotiations at the September 2024 expo and it is expected growers will utilise the stand in 2025 at Asia Fruit Logistica Hong Kong.

Report Detail

In September 2024 Council in partnership with Fruit Growers Victoria (FGV) hosted a trade stand at Asia Fruit Logistica 2024 in Hong Kong. Council's presence at the expo increased the awareness of the region's horticultural offering and built on the opportunity for agreements to be negotiated between overseas buyers and Greater Shepparton growers, leading to increased economic outcomes within the region.

Similarly, in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2023 Council's presence at Asia Fruit Logistica in 2024 was a success with approximately 300 visitors to the trade stand across the three days of the expo. Unfortunately, the last day of the expo was delayed due to severe weather.

Outcomes and opportunities that have resulted from the 2024 delegation include the following:

- Attendance at Asia Fruit Logistica allowed Council to learn more about the changing world of fresh produce, to establish new business and Government contacts and to work towards growing the local agricultural sector, promoting Greater Shepparton as the Fruit Capital of Australia.
- Asia Fruit Logistica also presented the opportunity for Council to support the local growers and representatives from the broader horticulture supply chain who attended with a trade stand to utilise for trade negotiations. Contracts were signed between buyers and locals as a result of the Asia Fruit Logistica opportunity.
- Council has been recognised and commended for our progressive approach in relation to international engagement by Global Victoria and the Victorian Government Trade and Investment Department. Council met with the Deputy Commissioner – Greater China, Lucy Du and the Victorian Government Trade and Investment team whilst in Hong Kong discussing the 2025 trade expo and potential opportunity for attendance. This in part has resulted in further opportunities for our growers in the region, with the Deputy Commissioner – Greater China helping facilitate and lead a Global Victoria trade mission to include Greater Shepparton on 13 February, 2025. This trade mission saw importers from counties including India, Philippines, China, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Korea and Indonesia meet a number of Greater Shepparton growers on farm tours and also participate in a business matching and networking session at La Trobe University's Shepparton Campus. This has provided Greater Shepparton growers and industry an opportunity to showcase its world class produce firsthand to significant importers and stakeholders from the Asia region, helping develop networks and contacts to support further export opportunities into the future.

- Whilst at Asia Fruit Logistica, it was identified that there was a number of new export market opportunities for our region. Particularly, it was identified, that with new import protocols, Vietnam presents itself as a tremendous opportunity for our region's produce specifically for plums and is something that can be built on in the near future.
- Council officers and FGV have identified a number of areas for improvement and expansion to greater improve our presence and outcomes for Asia Fruit Logistica 2025.

As a result of the continued success of the trade stand at Asia Fruit Logistica, officers are proposing that a Greater Shepparton delegation attend Asia Fruit Logistica in Hong Kong in September 2025 (subject to a funding contribution from Fruit Growers Victoria). The Delegation would include the Mayor, Chief Executive Officer (or an Executive representative) and a Council officer.

Hosting a stand at the event in 2025 would provide the following benefits:
- Asia Fruit Logistica is the premier trade event for the international trade of fresh produce in Asia and is an ideal opportunity for Council to continue support the local exporters and for associated businesses to promote their products and services.
- Assist growers to facilitate investment opportunities by having a physical presence to market themselves and to display their fruit. It will also provide opportunities to be involved in business matching sessions and market insight tours.
- The stand will be strategically placed with industry bodies from Australia, further attracting visitors to the stand, matching buyers and potential trade opportunities.

Council would again enter into a partnership agreement to co-exhibit at Asia Fruit Logistica 2025, with Fruit Growers Victoria. The partnership agreement includes shared costs for the trade stand, marketing collateral and a strategic marketing approach to maximise the opportunity.

Fruit Growers Victoria also recognise the value and importance of having local growers and businesses participate in the delegation and will work with Council to promote and encourage further participation from local fresh produce exporters and supporting industry in the horticultural supply chain.

The proposed draft itinerary is as follows:
- 1 September – Depart Melbourne Airport | Arrive Hong Kong Airport
- 2 September - Asia Fruit Logistica | Set up
- 3 September – Asia Fruit Logistica
- 4 September – Asia Fruit Logistica
- 5 September – Asia Fruit Logistica | Depart Hong Kong for Melbourne Airport

Local fruit growers are once again supportive of this initiative and believe that having a dedicated stand will allow them to hold their meetings at a site which will give them an enhanced level of credibility amongst their competition. The international market highly values government relations, and growers consistently advocate that having Council partake in discussions with potential and existing clients is of significant benefit to their negotiations and reaching agreements with buyers.

In reviewing Council's participation in international opportunities to support the horticulture industry Council officers have further investigated in consultation with industry and our partner Fruit Growers Victoria other alternatives in place of Asia Fruit Logistica.

Alternative opportunities include Fruit Logistica – February 2026 – Berlin, Germany, Australia Pavilion – World Expo February – October 2026 – Boston, USA, Vietnam Food Expo – November 2025 (3 days, date to be advised) - Ho Chi Ming City, Vietnam and Guangzhou International Fruit Expo – August 2025 (Date to be advised) - Shanghai, China. Although these alternative concepts all have relevant merit it is recommended that the best and most beneficial event to support our lucrative horticulture industry is Asia Fruit Logistica.

To maximise attendance at Asia Fruit Logistica other opportunities that can further leverage and support activation on a 2025 delegation will include opportunities to partner with Global Victoria to leverage the Victoria House Pavilion in Shanghai China. Victoria House is the Victorian Government's dedicated showroom in the heart of Shanghai that is a dynamic business to business complex enabling Victorian companies to promote existing brands, test new and seasonal products and explore market possibilities. This innovative three floor in market trade promotional facility offers Victorian producers unparalleled opportunities to engage with importers and distributors in a practical, ongoing manner. In addition, Councill officers will work with Global Victoria and industry bodies to identify relevant trade missions our growers can participate in pre and post Asia Fruit Logistica to support growth and export opportunities.

Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

VIBRANT and DIVERSE ECONOMY
We will drive the visitor economy by growing visitor experiences and major events that provide employment and other opportunities to the community. Our economic development will focus on establishing a strong, adaptive, sustainable, and thriving region supported by agriculture and a diverse range of industries.
3.5 Encourage and facilitate investment and expansion.

Risk Management

Strategic Risks
The following Strategic Risk/s have been identified as applicable to this report:
No Strategic Risks have been identified in relation to this report

Operational, project and/or fraud risks
The following project risks have been identified.

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Public Criticism	3	3	Medium	Effectively communicate the purpose of the trade stand and delegation in supporting Greater Shepparton's economy and trade, as well as the outcomes achieved following the delegation.

Policy Considerations

Council's delegation and involvement in Asia Fruit Logistica aligns with the International Engagement Policy.

Financial Implications

The costs associated with sending a Council delegation to Asia Fruit Logistica (AFL) 2024 were as follows (and are Inclusive of GST):

Travel and Accommodation Expenses

Flights:	$4,363.47*
Food and transport:	$4,372.51*
Accommodation:	$4,008.89
Total cost to Council for delegation only	$12,744.87
Total cost for AFL Trade Stand Partnership:	$15,565.12

TOTAL Expenditure $28,309.99

*Flight costs include Council's contribution to half the expense of the return flight for a representative from Fruit Growers Victoria (FGV). This enables an industry representative to be on the stand to promote and advocate from a whole of industry perspective.
*Catering costs include business matching and networking session held at the Greater Shepparton stand.

It is estimated that to attend Asia Fruit Logistica 2025, it will cost Council $33,971.98 including GST. These costs are estimated based on the above 2024 figures with a 20% contingency to allow for cost increases and updated stand pricing provided to Council Officers in early 2025.

Please note FGV has been successful in obtaining a grant to support international export opportunities for industry to the value of $12,500.00. This funding will support an AFL stand and logisitics partnership with Council for 2025. Council will look for other opportunities to partner with further industry groups to potentially reduce Council's financial contribution.

Legal/Statutory Implications

There are no legal/statutory implications associated with this report.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no adverse environmental impacts associated with the international visit. The visit will create positive investment opportunities for Greater Shepparton and these opportunities will continue to be facilitated by the Economic Development department.

Social Implications

In the past at Asia Fruit Logistica, Council has developed a closer working relationship with our largest growers. Council has since been able to assist local growers with various developments including the extension of their facilities, grant assistance and lobbying efforts.

The proposed stand at the Asia Fruit Logistica 2025 will allow Council to further enhance the growth of Greater Shepparton's agricultural sector whilst also supporting local businesses and building international relationships.

Gender Impact Assessment

Officers reviewed the Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) Operational Policy and understand the requirements in relation to conducting GIA's to ensure Council remains compliant with obligations outlined in the Gender Equality Act 2020.

The following determination was made by officers.

A Gender Impact Assessment was not conducted.

This report does not meet the criteria to require an assessment.

Economic Impacts

Attending the Asia Fruit Logistica Expo and hosting a stand creates an opportunity to increase the awareness in relation to Greater Shepparton's interests in becoming widely known as a region that is proactive and receptive to international investment inquiries and opportunities.

The stand also provides an opportunity for growers in the region to organise and hold business meetings and trade negotiations at the stand.

Consultation

Council's Economic Development department consulted local fruit growers and horticultural industry body, Fruit Growers Victoria. Local operators and growers who were consulted recommended that Council have a presence at Asia Fruit Logistica 2025 and felt that Council's presence will support their negotiations and business dealings. In addition, it was noted that out of all of the International opportunities in this space Asia Fruit Logistica was the best option to support local growers.

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred, and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Strategic Links

a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Promote economic growth, business development and diversification, with a focus on strengthening the agricultural industry.

b) Other strategic links

- Economic Development, Tourism and Major Events Strategy
- International Engagement Policy

Conclusion

Council's presence at Asia Fruit Logistica 2024 in Hong Kong has enabled Council, Fruit Growers Victoria, local fruit growers, supporting supply chain and businesses with an opportunity to further develop our export economy, form international relationships, increase trade negotiations, and expand knowledge in international business, all whilst promoting our region as the Fruit Capital of Australia on an international platform.

After consideration and consultation with local businesses and organisations within the horticultural industry, Council officers have determined that because of the success of Asia Fruit Logistica 2024, hosting a stand in 2025 and sending a delegation would be a productive exercise and further increase the potential for exports and investment attraction.

This exhibition aligns with Council's ongoing commitment relating to enhancing investment opportunities, building relationships with overseas investors and also aligns with Council's International Engagement Policy.

Attachments

1. Letter of support for Asia Fruit Logistica 2025 [**11.1.1** - 1 page]

11.2 International Engagement Policy

Author Team Leader - Business and Industry Development
Approved by Director Sustainable Development
Purpose For Decision by Council

Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* officers, delegates and persons engaged under a contract providing advice to Council must disclose any conflicts of interests.

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council adopt the International Engagement Policy, as attached.

Executive Summary

The International Engagement Policy was first drafted and initially adopted at the June 2017 Scheduled Council Meeting with subsequent reviews undertaken in 2019 and 2021 with the next review date set for 2024.

The International Engagement Policy assists Council in taking appropriate measures when entering into a Friendship or Sister City agreement, managing delegations, determining which international visits are most appropriate for Council representatives to attend and maintaining current Friendship and Sister City Relationships.

This policy has now been reviewed with minor changes made, and the policy is now ready for Council adoption.

Report Detail

This International Engagement Policy was first adopted in 2017 and officers seek to re-adopt the policy as it is intended to aid Council in taking the appropriate measures when entering into a Friendship or Sister City agreement, managing delegations, deciding which international visits are most appropriate for Council representatives to attend and maintaining current Friendship and Sister City Relationships.
The International Engagement Policy consists of four major areas:

1. Sister City and Friendship City Agreements

The following Selection Criteria will be considered by Council when determining whether Council should enter into a Sister City or Friendship City Agreement:

- Economic and Social benefits that the relationship would create for Greater Shepparton.
- The likelihood of increasing the potential for trade between the two cities.
- Synergies that exist between the two cities and whether a clear demand exists for Greater Shepparton product or the opportunity to attract investment or imports.
- The potential to establish international student placement opportunities in conjunction with local Universities, secondary schools and GoTafe.

Each Sister City and Friendship City Agreement should feature the following within the agreement:

- A sunset clause
- A 12-month review period
- Agreed outcomes
- The opportunity to extend the formal relationship
- A clear purpose of the agreement

2. Delegations and Business visits

The following Selection Criteria will be considered by Council when determining whether Council should host an international delegation:

- A clear intention of the visit has been articulated by the potential visitor and there is also a clear understanding of the potential outcomes that can be created as a result of the visit.
- Visit fits within allocated budget constraints.
- Federal and State Government policies.

3. Invitations to International Cities

The following Selection Criteria will be considered by Council when determining whether Council will accept an international invitation:

- A formal invite has been received from the City.
- Local Greater Shepparton businesses are interested in joining the delegation to visit.
- A clear purpose of the invite has been articulated by the city/state, authorities/government and there is a clear understanding of the potential outcomes that can be created as a result of the visit.
- The visit is a priority taking into consideration other intended overseas visits for the financial year if any.
- Whether there is budget allocation for the visit.

4. Maintaining current Sister and Friendship City relationships

- All relationships should have a focus on creating both economic and social benefits.
- All relationships should demonstrate economic progression and create opportunities for local business.
- All existing relationships should align with the direction of this policy.
- Should it be determined that existing relationships are not achieving economic and social outcomes, the relationship should be considered not a priority. If a sunset clause applies to the relationship, the relationship should not be extended.
- Focus should be applied towards existing prosperous relationships and entering into relationships with other international cities where benefits can be created between our region and the city.

There have been minor changes to the International Engagement Policy which includes:

- Updating the Next Review and Version figures and dates
- Removal of references to the International Engagement Strategy. This is no longer in place and has been replaced by an operational International Engagement Action Plan that officers will use as a guide to support the Policy and update annually.
- Definitions included pertaining to Sister City and Friendship City Agreements
- Addition of information to the document revisions section

Officers are now seeking endorsement of the revised International Engagement Policy.

Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

VIBRANT and DIVERSE ECONOMY

We will drive the visitor economy by growing visitor experiences and major events that provide employment and other opportunities to the community. Our economic development will focus on establishing a strong, adaptive, sustainable and thriving region supported by agriculture and a diverse range of industries.

3.5 Encourage and facilitate investment and expansion.

Risk Management

The following project risks have been identified.

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Public Criticism	3	3	Medium	Effectively communicate the purpose of the policy. This policy has been developed to mitigate risks by outlining an approach when dealing with international enquiries and the managing of relationships.

Policy Considerations

The policy aligns with existing Council policy and Council's strategic direction which includes the Council Plan and the Economic Development Strategy.

Financial Implications

The adoption of the International Engagement Policy does not have any direct financial or budgetary implications for Council. The proposed policy has been developed to assist in ensuring a consistent and transparent process when dealing with international inquiries and managing relationships which would also assist in guiding Council with associated expenditure.

Legal/Statutory Implications

There are no legal/statutory implications associated with the adoption of the International Engagement Policy.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no adverse environmental impacts associated with the adoption of International Engagement Policy.

Social Implications

There are no adverse social impacts associated with the adoption of the International Engagement Policy. The Policy aims to support social benefits and outcomes in international relations actions.

Gender Impact Assessment

Officers reviewed the Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) Operational Policy and understand the requirements in relation to conducting GIAs to ensure Council remains compliant with obligations outlined in the Gender Equality Act 2020.

There are no direct significant gender implications arising from this Policy.

Economic Impacts

The International Engagement Policy aims to support Council with decision making when dealing with international enquiries and the managing of relationships. Economic impacts are a significant component of international relation actions.

Consultation

Officers have consulted internally on the review of the policy with Governance to ensure that the revision meets required legislation, governance and policy requirements.

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred, and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Strategic Links

a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Promote economic growth, business development and diversification, with a focus on strengthening the agricultural industry.

b) Other strategic links

- Economic Development Strategy

Conclusion

The purpose of the International Engagement Policy is to aid Council in taking the appropriate measures when entering into a Friendship or Sister City Agreement, managing delegations, deciding what international visits are most appropriate for Council representatives to attend and maintaining current Friendship and Sister City relationships.

Officers are now seeking endorsement from Council regarding the updated International Engagement Policy.

Attachments

1. International Engagement Policy 2025 [**11.2.1** - 6 pages]

11.3 Public Infrastructure Works Policy

Author	Strategic Growth Coordinator
Approved by	Director Sustainable Development
Purpose	For Decision by Council

Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* officers, delegates and persons engaged under a contract providing advice to Council must disclose any conflicts of interests.

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council adopt the Public Infrastructure Works Policy, as attached.

Executive Summary

Policies are essential to ensure that legal, fair and consistent decisions are made across the Council. They support Council in achieving its corporate objectives and provide crucial guidance for Councillors, staff and stakeholders.

The Public Infrastructure Works Policy has been updated to address a finding from the audit on the Developer Contribution Plans that rely on this policy.

The Audit identified that the delegations under this policy did not align with the Council's adopted delegations. The revision of the current policy is to respond to the audit findings and update it to ensure it aligns with the delegations.

Report Detail

The Public Infrastructure Works Policy has been updated in response to the Developer Contributions Audit completed in June 2024.

Greater Shepparton City Council has four existing residential growth corridors within its municipal boundaries and is awaiting the approval from the Minister for Planning for a fifth.

These corridors are the South Growth Corridor, the North Growth Corridor, Mooroopna West Growth Corridor and the Shepparton North-East Growth Corridor. The upcoming corridor is the Shepparton South-East Growth Corridor.

These growth corridors have been integrated into the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme and have had structure plans and DCPs prepared and adopted to facilitate development within these corridors. A significant degree of development has already occurred within the existing Growth Corridors.

In addition to DCP's, S173 Agreements are used to deliver infrastructure, and officers use this policy to facilitate the construction of these public infrastructure works.

The revised policy provides for approvals of total net payments for Public Infrastructure Works and/or acquisition of Public Infrastructure Land with the thresholds referring directly back to the Council's adopted delegations for the Director under S7 and the CEO under S5.

The current policy has the Director's delegation at $200,000 and the CEO's delegation at $5million. The policy will be updated to refer to the S7 delegations. Additionally, S5 delegations will be updated to include Public Infrastructure Works, which enables the Policy to also refer to S5 delegations. Changing the policy to refer to approved delegations also avoids the need to update the policy each time the S5 and S7 financial delegations are changed.

The proposed S5 and S7 delegations being considered by Council at the April OCM, will set the delegations as per below:

- Director's delegation at $750,000 or, against already Council approved contracts at $2,000,000;
- Chief Executive Officer's delegation at $5,000,000 for Public Infrastructure Works or Public Infrastructure Land.

All other sections of the policy have remained as per the 2021 review.

Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

INFRASTRUCTURE and TECHNOLOGY
We will focus on the planning of our region's requirements to enable delivery of technology and infrastructure to meet the current and future needs of the community.
4.10 Progress housing and business development opportunities.
4.11 Develop and improve Community and recreation facilities.

Risk Management

Strategic Risks
No Strategic Risks have been identified in relation to this report

Operational, project and/or fraud risks
There have been no risks identified with the adoption of this Policy.

Policy Considerations

This policy supports the administration of DCPs.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with the adoption of this policy.

Legal/Statutory Implications

There are no legal / statutory implications associated with this policy.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental / sustainability impacts associated with this policy.

Social Implications

There are no social implications associated with this policy.

Economic Impacts

There are no economic impacts associated with this policy.

Gender Impact Assessment

Officers reviewed the Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) Operational Policy and understand the requirements in relation to conducting GIA's to ensure Council remains compliant with obligations outlined in the Gender Equality Act 2020.

The following determination was made by officers.

This policy does not meet the criteria to require an assessment.

Consultation

Officers have consulted internally with the following departments as part of the development of this policy:

- Finance and Rates
- Building Planning and Compliance
- Engineering and Assets

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred, and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Strategic Links

a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

SETTLEMENT - Commitment to growth within a consolidated and sustainable development framework.

• Growth.

ENVIRONMENT - Conservation and enhancement of significant natural environments and cultural heritage.

• Sustainable / Best practice land management.

INFRASTRUCTURE - The provision and restructure of urban and rural infrastructure to enhance the performance of the municipality and facilitate growth.

• Urban services.

Conclusion

The adoption of the updated Public Infrastructure Works Policy is intended to respond to the audit findings and update the policy to ensure it aligns with the delegations. It is therefore recommended that Council adopt the updated Public Infrastructure Works Policy.

Attachments

1. Public Infrastructure Works Policy [**11.3.1** - 28 pages]

11.4 Adoption of Onsite Wastewater Management Plan

Author Manager - Environment
Approved by Director Sustainable Development
Purpose For Decision by Council

Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* officers, delegates and persons engaged under a contract providing advice to Council must disclose any conflicts of interests.

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council adopt the Onsite Wastewater Management Plan 2025 – 2030, as attached.

Executive Summary

In accordance with the Environment Protection Act 2017, Council is required to develop and implement an Onsite Wastewater Management Plan (OWMP).

Council's OWMP is a strategic document that seeks to identify and manage the risks to human health and the environment from onsite wastewater systems (OWS), otherwise known as septic tank systems.

The draft Onsite Wastewater Management Plan 2025 – 2030 was released for public consultation between 26 February and 14 March 2025.

The feedback from 56 respondents has been considered and incorporated into the final Onsite Wastewater Management Plan 2025 - 2030.

Report Detail

Council endorsed the draft Onsite Wastewater Management Plan (OWMP) 2025-2030 for release for public engagement at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 25 February 2025. Consultation took place between 26 February and 14 March 2025.

The consultation process included:

- Online survey with 20 questions seeking feedback on the draft Onsite Wastewater Management Plan posted on Council's website and Council's social media page that included links to the draft plan and survey.
- Advertisement in local print media (Country News, Shepparton News, The Adviser, Dookie Saddleback News).
- Officer attendance at Dookie Community Planning Committee on 24 February 2025, with 8 people attending.
- Officer attendance at Toolamba Community Planning Committee on 12 March 2025, with 7 people attending.
- Council received 2 emails (one internally and one externally).

- Two meetings (a resident from Dookie, and 3 staff from Goulburn-Murray Water).
- Phone conversation with a contractor who pumps out septic tank systems.

Overall, fifty-one responses were received from the online survey, two responses of general feedback were received via email and three via personal conversations.

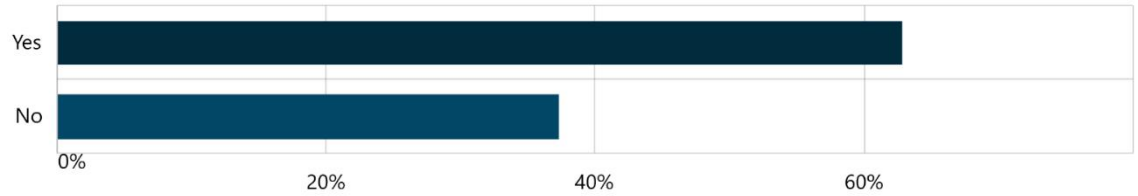
Survey responses were received from the following locations:

Priority Locations	No.
Arcadia Downs Drive	3
Dobsons Estate	3
Dookie	7
Kialla Central	2
Matilda Drive	3
Shepparton East	1
Tallygaroopna	2
Toolamba	16
Total	**37**

Other locations	No.
Arcadia (township)	4
Caniambo	1
Congupna	1
Dhurringile	2
Grahamvale	1
Katandra/Katandra West	3
Kialla West	1
Tatura	1
Total	**14**

When asked if we had described the key features, challenges and priorities for the localities, two thirds responded yes.

4. Have we got the key features, challenges and priorities right for these locations? Required
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 51 (100%)



19 out of 51 respondents provided further information. Some of the responses include:

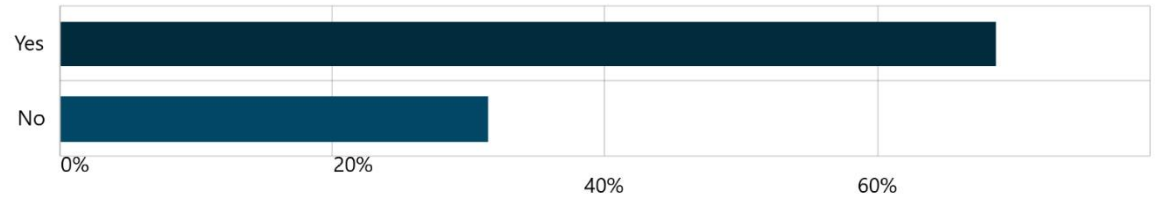
- Constraints on further development/growth within the town, and use of land due to OWMS. There is an opinion that growth and provision of sewer is prioritised for Shepparton, and other towns are overlooked.
- Many respondents in the townships of Dookie and Toolamba desire reticulated sewerage to resolve issues regarding smell of greywater being discharged to the street from old OWMS. This was also echoed from responses in other localities.
- Many residents from Dookie and Toolamba fear shrinkage of the town due to OWMS preventing expansion and growth with a lack of young families moving to the area, the inability to increase the number of students at the local school and an aging population moving away from their homes to receive the care they need.
- Many Toolamba residents are concerned about impacts from offsite discharge from old properties with old OWMS onto the Goulburn River nearby.
- Townships such as Congupna, Katandra West and Kialla West were not included in the priority locations list and the respondents believe they should be.
- Requests for further information about costs to upgrade and maintain many aging OWMS, and the process and costs to connect to sewer. There was also conflict in that some respondents have recently installed an OWMS and do not want to spend money on connection to sewer.
- Roadside drainage concerns resulting in odour and poor flow causing flooding.

Many of the responses were comments and are noted. In relation to respondents that felt their locality should have been included as a priority township, officers considered this was warranted and have updated the plan to include the following townships – Arcadia, Congupna, Katandra &Katandra West, Kialla West, Medlands Estate, Murchison East and Undera. Responses related to drainage will be forwarded to the relevant officers for a response.

The survey explored questions around what further information people would like to receive and how they would like it to be delivered. This information has provided valuable insight into how best to provide this information when it is developed.

The online survey asked respondents about their interest in environmental monitoring for wastewater contamination, with 69% responding they were. This provides us with verification that Council should publish these reports and notify the relevant community at the relevant time.

17. Would you like know about the results of any environmental monitoring? Required
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 51 (100%)



No concerns about flood impacts on OWMS were received, except to state that connection to reticulated sewer would address any concerns about contamination of flood waters from septic effluent, or reduction in performance of the OWMS during a flood.

The feedback received from emails related to the layout of the plan, with suggestions to further explain the risk assessment process, and include the wastewater profile of other localities, with an explanation as to why certain localities were identified. This has been taken on board and adjustments to the layout have been made.

The feedback received from Goulburn Murray Water (GM Water) was positive with a strong desire to commence regular meetings about wastewater management between the two agencies. GM Water are keen to see environmental monitoring and inspections of OWMS to ensure they are still performing as intended despite their age and not contributing to environmental harm.

The feedback from a septic tank pump-out contractor was focussed on the difficulty experienced in pumping out the contents of a particular type of secondary wastewater treatment plant due to its design and sought support to raise this issue with the manufacturer and the Environment Protection Authority who approve them. He explained that he feels the increasing number of this type of system being installed within our municipality will impact on the ability to properly maintain system performance. Council will advocate to the EPA and the manufacturer in relation to this, as it relates to the owner's General Environmental Duty.

The OWMP has been updated to reflect the community consultation and officers now consider it ready for adoption by Councillors.

Council Plan / Key Strategic Activity

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.
1.3 Council services will be realistic and delivered in an efficient and effective manner with the aim of continuously looking for delivery that matches our ever-changing environment.

VIBRANT and DIVERSE ECONOMY

We will drive the visitor economy by growing visitor experiences and major events that provide employment and other opportunities to the community. Our economic development will focus on establishing a strong, adaptive, sustainable and thriving region supported by agriculture and a diverse range of industries.
3.10 Efficient land use planning to encourage and support future development.

ENVIRONMENT and CLIMATE EMERGENCY

We will prioritise our environment and take urgent action to reduce emissions and waste in order to protect public health and create a region that mitigates and adapts to climate change.
5.4 Council commits to improving biodiversity and the natural environment within Greater Shepparton.
5.7 Conserve and improve biodiversity and our natural environment and protect and improve river health.

Risk Management

It is statutory requirement under the *Environment Protection Act 2017* for councils with onsite wastewater systems installed within its municipality, to prepare an Onsite Wastewater Management Plan.

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Council does not comply with legislative obligations	Unlikely	Minor	Low	Council to adopt the OWMP.
Lack of operational policies and procedures lending to inconsistencies in decision making and due process by authorised officers	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Action plan within the OWMP includes development of operational policies, procedures and information resources for the public.
Incomplete and inadequate data about OWS affecting staff ability to plan and respond to emergencies, investigate complaints and monitoring owner's maintenance obligations	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Action plan includes review of data management systems, integration with GIS mapping systems and in-field ICT tools to enhance data capture.

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Risks from poorly maintained OWS causing harm or damage to the environment and public health	Likely	Major	High	Action plan includes information material for the owner of OWS regarding the maintenance of their OWS, the establishment of an inspection program of existing OWS, environmental monitoring and the development of an enforcement framework.
Conflict from the community with either a strong desire or objection to connection to sewer	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Action plan includes advocacy and consultation with responsible authorities to scope solutions and present these to the community.

Policy Considerations

Council's Environmental Health Officers are authorised officers under the *Environment Protection Act 2017*, and are delegated to:

- Assess and approve permits to install/alter domestic OWS up to 5,000 litres per day under *Parts 4.2, 4.3 and 4.5 Environment Protection Act 2017,* and *Part 4.3 Environment Protection Regulations 2021.*
- Enforce the requirement for the operation and maintenance of OWS by owners and occupiers under *Part 5.7 Environment Protection Regulations 2021*.
- Enforce the General Environmental Duty (GED) to owners and occupiers of OWS under *Part 3.2 Environment Protection Act 2017*.

Council is required to comply with its statutory obligations outlined in the *Environment Protection Act 2017* in relation to the development of the OWMP

This OWMP also links with the following Council Plans and strategic documents

- Council Plan 2021 - 2025
- Greater Shepparton Council Planning Scheme
- Greater Shepparton Climate Emergency Action Plan
- Stormwater Management Plan
- Environmental Sustainability Strategy
- Climate Adaptation Plan
- 2030 Zero Emission Plan
- Greater Shepparton Public Health Strategic Plan 2018 - 2028
- The Shepparton and Mooroopna 2050: Regional City Growth Plan
- Greater Shepparton affordable housing strategy

Financial Implications

Many actions in the OWMP are absorbed into the current budget. The actions that require either a new budget bid or capital budget bid will occur in the nominated financial year as part of the annual budget bid process.

Legal / Statutory Implications

- Local Government Act 2020
- Environment Protection Act 2017
- Planning and Environment Act 1987
- Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008

Environmental / Sustainability Impacts

Adoption of this OWMP will continue to protect the natural environment from unauthorised discharge to the environment.

Review of data management systems and technologies to transition from paper-based applications to electronic online applications will reduce paper and improve data management.

The plan will be a tool for climate change adaptation. Improved data management systems will assist in the targeted preparation and response to increased flood events due to climate change. Information and recommendations can be provided to homeowner in predicted areas of impact ahead of the event, and estimated costs for recovery can be budgeted for.

Policies around greywater re-use in times of drought will assist in exploring avenues for water reduction and reducing environmental harm.

Social Implications

Working in collaboration with water authorities to investigate the provision of sewerage for township will have positive development and economic implications for township communities.

Gender Impact Assessment

Officers reviewed the Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) which was undertaken during the development of this procedure / policy to ensure it remains compliant with Councils obligations outlined in the Gender Equality Act 2020

A Gender Impact Assessment was not conducted.

This report does not meet the criteria to require an assessment.

Economic Impacts

There are no economic impacts arising from adoption of the plan.

Consultation

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred, and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Strategic Links

a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

- Environment – to protect and manage the natural resources of water, air and land by ensuring new development have provision for adequate on-site disposal and no adverse impacts on nearby watercourse.
- Environment – to minimise the impacts of flooding to people and property by controlling development in flood prone areas.
- Environment – to ensure all new development have adequate effluent disposal systems to protect watercourses and water quality, and to maintain and enhance water quality for both urban and rural use.

- Environment – to support and promote approved innovative methods of effluent disposal.

b) Other strategic links

- Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014-2030 – Healthy, productive and sustainable water resources - to review DWMP, implement 80% actions with specified timeframes, and initiate a wastewater system monitoring compliance program.

Conclusion

Feedback from the community consultation has been considered and incorporated into the Onsite Wastewater Management Plan 2025 – 2030 where relevant. The responses received align with the strategies and actions presented in the OWMP.

Attachments

1. Online Wastewater Management Plan - 2025-2030 [**11.4.1** - 71 pages]

11.5 Dhurringile Future Options

Author Team Leader - Visitor Economy
Approved by Director Sustainable Development
Purpose For Decision by Council

Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* officers, delegates and persons engaged under a contract providing advice to Council must disclose any conflicts of interests.

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

1. **Note the Dhurringile Estate Options Assessment Report.**
2. **Note the significant challenges that the community use restriction has on any purchase during the First Right of Refusal process.**
3. **Withdraw the tentative expression of interest to the First Right of Refusal Process to purchase the Dhurringile Estate.**
4. **Support where possible, and outside of the First Right of Refusal Process, suitable private investment opportunities that could benefit the region.**

Executive Summary

In 2024, the Victorian Government announced the closure of two prisons, including Port Phillip Prison in Truganina and Dhurringile Prison in Tatura, due to declining low security prison population since the pandemic. As such, the Victorian Government is looking to sell the facility, with part of the First Right of Refusal (FROR) process providing the opportunity for other government entities to purchase the site. The FROR process currently stipulates that a purchase via this process needs to be linked to the future use of the site for community purposes.

To assist with determining Council's formal position on the site Urban Enterprise was engaged to prepare an options assessment for Dhurringile Estate ("Dhurringile"). The purpose of the options assessment is to assess potential uses for Dhurringile and to provide Councillors with sufficient information to make a decision in relation to whether to pursue this opportunity. The Dhurringile Estate Options Assessment ("Options Assessment") further details potential costs, benefits, risks, and operational impacts associated with the purchase.

After reviewing the Options Assessment and considering the Government's intention to impose a community purposes restriction for a sale of surplus government property to Council as part of the FROR process (ensuring that future use of Dhurringile provides a beneficial gain to the community), and that no commercial profit is made from that use Council officers are recommending that Council does not progress with the purchase of Dhurringile. This recommendation is also supported by the overall organisational financial risks and liabilities associated with this purchase.

Report Detail

Greater Shepparton City Council (Council) engaged Urban Enterprise to prepare an options assessment for Dhurringile.

The purpose of the options assessment is to assess potential uses for Dhurringile and the appetite for Council to consider purchasing the site.

This report includes the following:

- Overview of the site and history;
- Overview of the site's assets;
- Regional context;
- Tourism context;
- Overview of potential uses and opportunities;
- Options assessment; and
- Conclusions and recommendations.

In 2024, the Victorian Government announced the closure of two prisons, including Dhurringile Prison in Dhurringile, due to declining low security prison population since the pandemic. As such, the Victorian Government is looking to sell the facility, with part of the first right of refusal process providing the opportunity for government entities to purchase the site. As part of the FROR process the purchase by Council should be linked to the future use of the site for community use. The following advice is provided by the Department of Treasury with regard to this:

"Government's intention in imposing the community purposes restriction for a sale of surplus government property to Councils is to ensure that future use of a property provides a beneficial gain to the community, and to also ensure that no commercial profit is made from that use."

Site Overview: 870 Murchison-Tatura Road, Dhurringile 3610

The site occupies an area of approximately 259 hectares and is bordered by Murchison-Tatura Road to the west, Baulch Road to the south, Kiota Road to the north and Dhurringile Road to the East. Primary access to the site is via Murchison-Tatura Road (see Image 1 below for site boundary).

Under the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme, the property is currently zoned Farming Zone (FZ) with a selection of overlays including Land Subject to Inundation (LSIO), Public Acquisition (PAO), Floodway (FO), Heritage (HO) and Specific Controls (SCO).

Around 70% of the site is used for farmland, with the remaining 30% having a significant number of built assets that were used for prison purposes. The site is serviced by reticulated water, sewer, and power suitable for high-capacity use. The farmland has a modern irrigation system with water rights. However, the Victorian Government has recently clarified that the water rights are not included in the First Right of Refusal Process.

Image 1.

History of Dhurringile

Dhurringile is a highly significant heritage asset that reflects post European settlement farming in Victoria. The site name is taken from an Aboriginal word meaning crouching emu. The site is on the Victorian Heritage Register. The significant parts of the site include the mansion, shearing shed, stables and all fixtures attached to the buildings.

Furthermore, the site reflects the role of Tatura and Murchison in housing World War II prisoners of war and internments. There is opportunity for the site to be a heritage destination with interpretation of First Nations, early European settlement and World War II history.

Key Assets Overview

Dhurringile mansion, stable and farm administration

These heritage sites present opportunities for reuse as tourism assets. They are protected heritage assets and may be suitable for visitor accommodation, arts, culture, events spaces. Significant cost would be required to refurbish these sites for tourism uses, with estimates of base refurbishment of the mansion estimated at $3 million minimum.

Prison administration, dining halls, multipurpose buildings, kitchens and visitor facilities
There is a collection of large administration, dining halls and visitor facilities that are generally in good condition that are adaptable to community and events spaces including meeting rooms, indoor conferencing and food venues. These would support events uses on the site.

Former prison accommodation
There is former prison accommodation that is mostly in good condition that are adaptable to visitor accommodation or potentially worker housing. These facilities including 42 self-contained units with multiple bedrooms, kitchens, lounge spaces and bathrooms.
The higher security prison accommodation would have more limited uses than the lower security houses.

Large sheds
There are a number of large sheds that were utilised for trades on site that are in very good condition and highly adaptive to other uses including small scale agritourism, manufacturing, farm uses or events spaces.

Training facilities
Training facilities are located on the site which include classrooms and trade training facilities. These may be useful for potential uses including school camps or meeting rooms.

Overview of Potential Uses
Preliminary research and assessment reviews outlined potential uses that may be considered for the Dhurringile site. The options assessment included a review of each use against assessment criteria to highlight best fit uses.

Best fit uses include:
- Equine
- Visitor accommodation
- Arts, culture and food
- Agriculture
- Education
- Events

Further work is required to assess the feasibility of uses, however, on the assessment of uses undertaken in this report Dhurringile is best suited to the establishment of an equine, events and tourism precinct. This could support freeing up of strategic sites within Tatura and Shepparton for future growth and maximise the assets at Dhurringile as well as drive community and economic benefit.

It was identified that based on the assessment criteria the following uses for an aerodrome of worker accommodation are unlikely to be suitable for the subject site.

Further work is required to determine the comparability of existing uses on the site and the site's capacity to support these uses together.

Positive and Negative Considerations of Purchase

The following provides a high-level overview of positive considerations and negative considerations of the purchase of the site.

Positive considerations	Negative considerations
Unique opportunity to purchase a site for approximately $2.5 million which has substantial capital value through built assets and water rights. Note this value is to be definitively determined by VGV. The current assessment does not include the water rights. The site could be valued higher or lower based on the VGV assessment.	Purchase of site through FROR process limits use of site to actions that provide community benefit only, with no commercial profits to be made from that use.
Could resolve long term issues with Tatura Park and its competing use as a recreation asset and minimise costs associated with Sports City.	Ongoing maintenance costs estimated to be in the order of $400,000 annually would need to be funded or mitigated.
Opportunity to establish an equine precinct that combines all equine uses in one location.	Liability of current heritage buildings, base restoration is estimated at $3 million (minimum).
Will drive visitation, expenditure and jobs in Greater Shepparton and create much needed visitor economy product that would encourage visitors to stay longer and stay overnight.	Cost to establish a potential equine and events infrastructure, including relocation of existing infrastructure from i.e. Tatura Park.
Will support overnight visitation through the establishment of visitor accommodation on site.	Inherent constrains on future use of heritage listed buildings i.e. development for visitor accommodation
Opportunity to protect and celebrate a key piece of Greater Shepparton's history.	Opportunity cost relating to budget and resources being directed to Dhurringile could result in other current Council priorities being pushed out or not completed. Potential long-term impacts on Councils budget position.
	Significant number of unquantified costs associated with the potential relocation of existing council facilities to the Dhurringile site and the rehabilitation of the previous locations.
	Spread of assets across the site – noting the three key heritage buildings are dispersed with other infrastructure located in between may limit the ability to parcel and into strategic investment development areas.
	Cost related to decommission, demolition or relocation of unrequired assets on site.

Positive considerations	Negative considerations
	Further strategic planning work needs to be undertaken to fully understand site's best future use. This includes detailed feasibility study, site masterplan, business plan and business case to then inform the delivery of a masterplan. This work would take up to 24 months to develop, further highlighting organisational financial risk before any development and return on investment opportunities are achieved.

First Right of Refusal (FROR) Additional Information

To further understand FROR process Council officers have worked with the various government agencies to understand any further considerations that need to be considered in determining a final position on this matter. The FROR process is for all tiers of government to express an interest in the site for a "government use". The FROR is limited to government, rather than commercial organisations.

The definition of community purposes through the FROR process can be described further as:

- This is an overarching description, and the exact wording that goes on the title is often more specific. e.g. public open space, public sporting and recreational use, etc. This restriction on the title means that the land value would be less than an unrestricted use on the title.
- A narrower restriction is likely to result in a lower sale value, though this will be determined by the Valuer General Victoria (VGV).
- Community purposes is not expected to allow "profit" making commercial, retail, or industrial uses.
- Community purposes could include a variety of council/community functions.

In determining the "no commercial profit is made from that use" as part of the FROR process it has been outlined that the expectation is that the main use of the site is to benefit the community and not for commercial benefit. If for example, Council built a sports and recreation centre, it may contract to an organisation such as the YMCA to operate, and users of the facility would have to pay a fee. It may also include a café to benefit the users of the facility, and whilst the café may be commercial in nature, it is there to complement the service being provided.

Further clarification was sought in relation to an exemption to the community purposes and commercial profit clause and the process relevant to that exemption, and timeframe. Response provided was that:

- Council could elect to purchase the land without a restriction on title however this would require Council to pay the full market value as assessed by the VGV.

Officers also queried about should Council determine to purchase the site, and at some stage in the future determine that the site was surplus to our needs, are there any restrictions in relation to the sale. The feedback on this was that:

- If Council purchases the land with no restriction on the title, it can sell the site at any time without seeking permission/approval from the State Government.

- If Council purchases the land with a restriction on the title, it may find it difficult to sell the land later unless the restriction is removed. If Council wanted to remove the restriction to enable its sale, DTP could facilitate this, but Council would have to pay an 'uplift' amount, determined by the VGV as the difference in price between the restricted and unrestricted title.

Key Conclusions

The report determined that the estimated approximate $2.5 million noting that this is yet to be definitively determined by VGV. The current assessment does not include the water rights. The site could be valued higher or lower based on the VGV assessment. If a figure is in the $2.5 million range the purchase of the Dhurringile site potentially presents excellent value as a property asset given the level of infrastructure and quality agricultural land on the site. Most property assets in Dhurringile have been built in the past 30 years and have potential for reuse and repurpose.

Purchase of the site presents a significant strategic opportunity for Greater Shepparton to acquire a large land holding that can support the future recreation and community needs of Greater Shepparton and supports relocation of existing facilities that are at capacity or limiting capacity for growth e.g. Tatura Park.

The heritage mansion is a financial liability however, even though it does have cultural and heritage value for the region. It also has the opportunity to be repurposed and leased to a private operator. Although we note the Government's intention in imposing the community purposes restriction for a sale of surplus government property as part of the FROR process to Council is to ensure that future use of a property provides a beneficial gain to the community, and to also ensure that no commercial profit is made from that use. This leaves this option as questionable. Lessoning of the community use restriction would make the site more appealing (noting that is not possible under the FROR process) as an investment opportunity which makes the sale of Dhurringile on the open market a more suitable proposition. Council could elect to purchase the land not through the FROR process and without restriction on title however this would require Council to pay the full market value as assessed by VGV.

There are significant financial liabilities relating to maintenance of the site as articulated further in the financial considerations section of this report and particularly the built assets along with a number of unknown costs including relocation of existing equine infrastructure from Tatura Park along with decommission and demolition of unrequired assets along with substantial upgrades required to the site to make Dhurringile suitable for such purposes.

There is further strategic planning work including detailed feasibility study, site masterplan, business plan and business case to then inform the delivery of a masterplan still required and that would take up to 24 months to develop further highlighting organisational financial risk before any development and return on investment opportunities are achieved.

It is Council Officer's position that despite this being an exciting opportunity it is not something that it has to lead or invested into by Council. Our best role in the next phase of this opportunity is to support where possible, and outside of the First Right of Refusal Process suitable private investment opportunities that could benefit the region for this site. A private sale of the land by Government will also not be constrained by the community use restrictions.

Council has a number of long-term strategic capital expenditure priorities that will also drive economic benefit, and these are supported by currently endorsed Council Financial Plan.

The organisation is best to continue to prioritise investment into these areas rather than taking on a new initiative that has such high risks and financial liability.

Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.

1.1 Council to take an active leadership role for access and inclusion in our community.
1.3 Council services will be realistic and delivered in an efficient and effective manner with the aim of continuously looking for delivery that matches our ever-changing environment.
1.8 Good governance and sustainable financial management.
1.9 Provide a high-profile collaborative advocacy role.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY and WELLBEING

We will support the mental and physical health and wellbeing of all in our community, ensuring universal access to information, services, housing, healthcare and learning opportunities.

2.7 Address issues contributing to homelessness.

VIBRANT and DIVERSE ECONOMY

We will drive the visitor economy by growing visitor experiences and major events that provide employment and other opportunities to the community. Our economic development will focus on establishing a strong, adaptive, sustainable and thriving region supported by agriculture and a diverse range of industries.

3.2 Council to prioritise the redevelopment of the Shepparton Sports and Events Centre.
3.5 Encourage and facilitate investment and expansion.
3.6 Attract people to live, work, study and remain in our region.
3.8 Maximise utilisation and investment return on Council assets.
3.9 Expand Greater Shepparton's visitor economy.
3.10 Efficient land use planning to encourage and support future development.

INFRASTRUCTURE and TECHNOLOGY

We will focus on the planning of our region's requirements to enable delivery of technology and infrastructure to meet the current and future needs of the community.

4.6 Engage with historical societies and museums to develop a plan that ensures their sustainability.
4.8 Plan, prioritise and communicate asset maintenance and new asset delivery.
4.10 Progress housing and business development opportunities.

Need to refine and add to these strategic links.

Risk Management

The following provides a summary of risk considerations.

Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation
Organisational Financial Risk and Liabilities A number of the uses for the site are untested and the isolation of the site presents the largest risk to feasibility of the uses identified. Whole of life operating costs, including asset maintenance, operations and management, heritage requirements, decommissioning and demolition costs and relocation costs are not well established and represent financial risk. There is no provision for this in Council's current financial plan and their addition would have an unfavourable impact, requiring the reprioritisation of other strategic deliverables.	Almost certain	Major	Extreme	Collocation of uses and investment in product will support the feasibility of uses. Undertaking a feasibility study and subsequent business case, business plan and site masterplan will support best future use.

Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation
Capital Investment Required Capital is required to repurpose and relocate infrastructure to the site. Key costs would include: Establishment of equine and events infrastructure and repurposing of the mansion for visitor accommodation. This is not currently provided for in Council's financial planning. Other strategic projects would need to be deprioritised to free up liquidity to fund capital investment.	Almost certain	Major	Extreme	Mitigation of costs for establishment of equine and events infrastructure can be made by relocating infrastructure from Tatura Park (noting feasibility and costs of this are unknown). Costs relating to redevelopment of the Mansion could be undertaken by a private sector investor if feasible under the FROR process. The community and economic uses identified for the site would be well suited to State and Federal Government Grants programs.

Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation
Ongoing Site Maintenance Ongoing site maintenance is estimated at in excess of $400k per annum. Establishment of the site to a level capable of generating sufficient revenue to cover the cost of site maintenance will take time and capital investment. The service would be subsidised by ratepayers until this occurred.	Almost certain	Major	Extreme	These costs may be mitigated through leasing out assets including the agricultural land and mansion. These costs would also be offset as the site would house relocation of existing uses including Tatura Park and WB Hunter which already have maintenance budgets allocated. Events at the site would also drive revenue to cover asset maintenance.

Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation
Heritage Building liability Costs A heritage report shows that $3 million (minimum) is required for improvement to heritage buildings. Given the significant heritage obligations and heritage works required to be undertaken to comply with the Heritage Act 2017, as well as the demolition and removal of assets etc. the site may in fact have a negative value. A negative-value property refers to a property that costs more to maintain, repair, or manage than the income it generates. This can occur due to high maintenance costs, low rental income, or other financial burdens.	Almost certain	Major	Extreme	Improvement to the Mansion as identified in the heritage report may be undertaken by the private sector if the site was leased for investment and operation. If feasible under the FROR process.
FROR process community benefit Purchase of site through FROR process limits use of site to actions that provide community benefit only, with no commercial profits are to be made from that use.	Likely	Major	High	Further investigation is required to determine how Council could best use site to drive community benefits without incurring significant financial liability

Policy Considerations

Consideration will need to be given to the following policies should the proposal be accepted:

- Accounting for Property, Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment
- Asset Management Policy
- Community Asset Committee Policy
- Community Planning Policy
- Investment and Cash Management Policy

- Sustainable Decision-Making Policy
- Procurement of Public Infrastructure Works Policy

Financial Implications

Urban Enterprise have made recommendations based on a balance of both the positive and negative aspects of purchasing the land, however a summary of the immediate and estimated ongoing financial implications is summarised below:

- Estimated purchase price of $2.5 million (noting that this is yet to be definitively determined by VGV as noted earlier in the report).
- Liability of heritage buildings approximately $3 million minimum.
- Estimated ongoing site maintenance costs of $400,000 annually. This would include key maintenance areas such as building essential safety measures, building maintenance, road maintenance, footpath maintenance and cleaning.

In addition, fencing, security and utilities costs are unknown.

It has been noted that leasing of assets and agricultural land to drive revenue may offset these ongoing costs, noting that the Government's intention to impose a community purposes restriction for a sale of surplus government property to Council as part of the FROR process, ensuring that future use of Dhurringile provides a beneficial gain to the community, and that no commercial profit is made from that use.

The financial considerations outlined in the Options Assessment does not account for significant unknowns relating to the purchase and redevelopment of the site, this includes the following:

- Costs of decommissioning or demolition or removal of parts of the site that are not required for future use.
- Costs of improving site infrastructure related to altered land use e.g. upgrades to roads, alternate access points and fencing to accommodate equine facilities.
- Inherent constraints on potential future use of heritage buildings i.e. development of visitor accommodation
- Potential relocation costs of existing council facilities to the new site e.g. Tatura Park or WB Hunter.
- Resourcing of the management of the site while further strategic planning is undertaken.

In addition, other significant costs are likely to be incurred through actions to support decision making regarding the ultimate future use of the site, including feasibility studies of identified uses, business plans and business cases and then delivery of an overarching site masterplan.

This investment and ongoing operating costs are not considered in Council's financial planning.

Increased operating costs will have an unfavourable impact on Council's underlying operating result and further pressure Council's ability to move towards budgeting for and achieving a true underlying operating surplus. Funding to purchase the land or invest in future restoration or redevelopment of the site are also not considered in Council's financial planning. As a result, Council would need to reprioritise other strategic projects in order to fund any unplanned investment.

In summarising based on information currently available the purchase of Dhurringile presents a significant organisational financial liability.

Legal/Statutory Implications

Statutory planning conditions related to the potential redevelopment and leasing of parcels within the precinct would need to be considered.

Ongoing consideration of the caveat that any future development the property must provide a beneficial gain to the community, and to also ensure that no commercial profit is made from that use, and determining how this is interpreted to support potential development and partnership with investors.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

By pursuing purchase of this site, the Council will be securing the longevity of this key historical precinct. The site is connected to significant amenity including sewerage, reticulated gas, power and irrigation channels, this amenity would support the future development of this site in a sustainable manner.

Social Implications

The sale of this property has already garnered significant public attention, the purchase by Council of this site may support the priorities of local community advocacy groups, specifically those with interests in the fields of equine and local history.

The preservation of this key historical asset has immense cultural and heritage value for the region, with significant connections to local history, multiple active museums, and local history groups in both Tatura and Murchison – as well as Days Mill, the Murchison Osario, and local War Camps and Cemeteries.

Many of the potential uses outlined in the Options Assessment would positively impact community including the following:

- Supports community engagement in arts and cultural activities
- Provision of jobs in sectors such as visitor economy
- Encourages locals to engage in physical activity resulting in health and wellbeing benefits
- Supports community events and provides opportunity for residents engage in large scale events that may not have been otherwise attracted to Greater Shepparton

Gender Impact Assessment

Officers reviewed the Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) Operational Policy and understand the requirements in relation to conducting GIAs to ensure Council remains compliant with obligations outlined in the Gender Equality Act 2020.

The following determination was made by officers.

This report does not meet the criteria to require an assessment at this stage as this report is for internal decision making only. If the decision is made to proceed with the purchase a GIA will be required at this time.

Economic Impacts

Beyond accounting of immediate financial considerations relating to purchase, the property could provide significant economic benefits to both Council and the region including:

Cultural tourism benefits, attracting visitation from high yielding visitors in our desired visitor audience the ‘arts and culture enthusiasts’. This audience is known to stay longer and spend more, seeking out high quality experiences in their travels.

The Historic buildings of Dhurringile Mansion and the stables would add to other significant modern architectural constructions including the buildings of Shepparton Art Museum and the Shepparton Courthouse, creating an opportunity to package the experiences for marketing as a 'history trail'.

At this point no formal economic impact studies have been conducted but further detail on economic opportunities can be developed at future stages should further work on the site options progress.

The potential of this site needs to be tempered with consideration for the isolation of the site.

Consultation

In undertaking background research and collecting information to assist Council in forming its position on this decision, the following points of consultation were undertaken:

Council staff participated in a site visit alongside staff from Urban Enterprise, this included time with local historians preparing a display of memorabilia and historic images of the site. Council staff workshopped information gathered with Urban Enterprise staff to develop a comprehensive understanding of potential future uses and limitations of the site.

Dhurringile Revitalisation Committee has presented to Council about its vision for an Equine, Events, Accommodation and Tourism Precinct. This information was taken into account in the preparation of the report.

Dhurringile Revitalisation Committee has also recently hosted a community meeting on 20 March 2025. This meeting had significant attendance from the community. It was noted that not all of the attendees were aligned with the Dhurringile Revitalisation committees focus on equestrian use and that there was genuine understanding from the community about the challenges that the community use restriction under the FROR process places on any purchase/r.

There has not been a public consultation period on this opportunity. Council officers have recommended that via the Options Assessment review report presented and after further considerations as detailed in this report that Council not pursue the FROR process any further. Should Council pursue the purchase of Dhurringile Estate via the FROR process then it would be recommended that a public consultation process be implemented prior to any decision.

Strategic Links

a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

- The Strategy provides a vision for the future development and investment in the municipality.

b) Other strategic links

- Hume Regional Growth Plan, Victorian State Government 2014
- Council Plan 2021-2025
- Economic Development Strategy
- Sport 2050 Strategic Plan
- Financial Plan
- Creative Cities Strategy
- Goulburn Region Destination Management Plan
- Goulburn Regional Economic Development Strategy

Conclusion

In 2024, the Victorian Government announced the closure of two prisons, including Dhurringile Prison in Tatura, due to declining low security prison population since the pandemic. As such, the Victorian Government is looking to sell the facility, with part of the FROR process providing the opportunity for Local Government to purchase the site. As part of the FROR process any purchase by Council needs to be linked to the future use of the site for community use.

In order to inform Council's position on this opportunity an options assessment for Dhurringile was prepared. The purpose of the options assessment is to assess potential uses for Dhurringile and the appetite for Council to purchase the site. The options assessment provides Council with further knowledge about the site and provides detail on the strategic opportunities that exist with the sites purchase that can benefit the community. Council must now consider these opportunities including potential costs, benefits, risks, and operational impacts associated with the potential purchase.

After consideration of the Options Assessment, community purposes restriction for a sale and the assessment of the overall organisational financial risks and liabilities associated with this purchase Council officers are recommending that Council does not progress with the purchase of Dhurringile.

Attachments

1. Dhurringile Estate Options Assessment Report [**11.5.1** - 52 pages]

12 Infrastructure Directorate

12.1 Draft Road Management Plan

Author Manager - Infrastructure Maintenance
Approved by Director Infrastructure
Purpose For Decision by Council

Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* officers, delegates and persons engaged under a contract providing advice to Council must disclose any conflicts of interests.

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

1. **endorse the draft Road Management Plan to be released for public consultation from 23 April 2025 to 20 May 2025; and**

2. **note that following consideration of any submissions received, the final Road Management Plan will be presented to Council for adoption at the 24 June 2025 Scheduled Council Meeting.**

Executive Summary

The Road Management Plan (RMP) is a document that describes road assets and vegetation within road reserves for which Council is responsible.

The document sets inspection intervals and response times as well as states management systems which Council will implement to ensure that its responsibilities within the *Act* are met.

For Council to show that it has satisfied its duty of care to road users, it is required to demonstrate that it has a reasonable regime in place for inspecting the road network to discover defects and a reasonable regime for planning and implementing repairs to overcome those defects.

Council has updated its existing document into the new Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) RMP template as per advice from Council's risk team.

Report Detail

The Chief Executive Officer has delegated the various functions under the *Road Management Act 2004* (the *Act*) and the *Road Management (General) Regulations 2016 (*the *Regulations)* to the respective officers of Council detailed in an Instrument of Sub-Delegation. This allows the Council, through its various members of staff, to respond quickly to technical and administrative matters under the Plan.

In accordance with Section 49 and 50 of the *Act*, the purposes of this Plan are:

- To provide for the inspection, maintenance and repair of public roads under the care and management of the Council as the Road Authority;
- To establish a management system for the road management functions of the Council which is based on policy and operational objectives and available resources; and
- To set the relevant standards in relation to the discharge of duties in the performance of those road management functions

In 2004, the Road Management Act was introduced into Parliament. Its purpose was to reduce trips, falls and motor accidents on Victorian roads - through a proactive maintenance regime.

The Road Management Act allows Councils to determine the levels of inspection, maintenance and repair of their roads through the adoption of an RMP.

The RMP must be updated and adopted within 6 months following a Council election.

Council delegated officers have reviewed the plan and have made minor changes to the previous version. The list of changes is attached to this report.

The major change is the new template provided by Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV). In 2024, MAV undertook a review of all Victorian Council RMP's. Following the review, they noted RMP's varied widely between Councils, in respect to what they covered and what standards were set. MAV proceeded to develop a template that allowed Councils to have similar templates, allowing us to determine our own standards within ranges that are reasonable based on in-depth benchmarking analysis and legal advice.

Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.
1.1 Council to take an active leadership role for access and inclusion in our community.
1.3 Council services will be realistic and delivered in an efficient and effective manner with the aim of continuously looking for delivery that matches our ever changing environment.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY and WELLBEING

We will support the mental and physical health and wellbeing of all in our community, ensuring universal access to information, services, housing, healthcare and learning opportunities.
2.1 Council will promote the use of the Universal Design Principles across the region to ensure fair and reasonable access for all members of our community.
2.9 Community members are supported to achieve and sustain physical, emotional and creative wellbeing.

VIBRANT and DIVERSE ECONOMY

We will drive the visitor economy by growing visitor experiences and major events that provide employment and other opportunities to the community. Our economic development will focus on establishing a strong, adaptive, sustainable and thriving region supported by agriculture and a diverse range of industries.
3.8 Maximise utilisation and investment return on Council assets.

INFRASTRUCTURE and TECHNOLOGY
We will focus on the planning of our region's requirements to enable delivery of technology and infrastructure to meet the current and future needs of the community.
4.8 Plan, prioritise and communicate asset maintenance and new asset delivery.

Risk Management

Council have an RMP in place to reduce risk associated with civil infrastructure defects.

The risk is determined by the severity of the deterioration of an asset, considering the safety of users, integrity of the road infrastructure, the location, type, quantity, overall condition, hierarchy, and classification of the asset.

All defects raised through this plan will have various risk ratings. These defects will form part of a maintenance program and have nominated response times to reduce liability.

Greater Shepparton City Council have worked with the MAV to produce a generic document that is consistent with other Councils. This consistent approach is aimed at helping Councils protect themselves from litigation.

Policy Considerations

Related Policies and Directives:

- Asset Management Policy
- Asset Management Strategy
- Asset Management Plans
- Service Plans
- Asset Preservation Operational Policy
- Infrastructure Design Manual

Financial Implications

Significant financial implications may occur if assets are not kept in good condition. By not following this RMP, Council may be at significant financial risk and the likelihood of litigation increases. With an RMP in place and regular inspections occurring, Council's Maintenance Teams can act accordingly to reduce risks and remove defects in a timely manner.

Council Officers do not envisage any budget increases regarding these proposed changes. Although inspections will increase, Council's Inspectors are already inspecting these road networks for defects and adding these new inspections will not significantly add to their workload.

Council Officers believe that minimal maintenance will increase due to these changes.

Legal/Statutory Implications

Related legislation includes:

- Local Government Act 2020
- Road Management Act 2004

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

Council officers will use recycled products where applicable, products including, asphalt, crushed concrete, premix concrete when undertaking any maintenance activities. Small battery operated tools will be used for minor maintenance works.

Social Implications

Following this RMP will allow the local community to feel safe when using civil infrastructure and will allow better access to road and path networks.

Gender Impact Assessment

Officers reviewed the Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) Operational Policy and understand the requirements in relation to conducting GIA's to ensure Council remains compliant with obligations outlined in the Gender Equality Act 2020.

The following determination was made by officers.

This policy does not meet the criteria to require an assessment.

Economic Impacts

There are no economic impacts associated with this report.

Consultation

The Infrastructure Maintenance team has consulted with the Engineering and Assets team and the Parks, Sport and Recreation team to discuss and work through these positive changes. They are comfortable that the changes will not increase the workload of inspectors and field officers.

Council officers also held internal meetings with the Risk and Assurance team to try and consolidate the current RMP format. Fortunately, MAV was in the process of forming a new document that all Councils could use when updating their RMP for new Councillors.

Council will release the RMP for public consultation for 28 days. This will allow the community to make any submissions regarding the proposed RMP.

Strategic Links

a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

COMMUNITY LIFE - Enhance social connectedness, physical and mental health and well being, education and participatory opportunities in order to improve liveability and provide a greater range of community services.

- Safe and accessible environments.

INFRASTRUCTURE - The provision and restructure of urban and rural infrastructure to enhance the performance of the municipality and facilitate growth.

- Traffic and transport systems.
- Urban services.

Conclusion

Approval of these changes will ensure the future management of Council's civil infrastructure is conducted in an efficient, transparent, and equitable manner that contributes to achieving outcomes in the best interest of Council and its residents.

Officers believe that the matter is now ready for consideration and if approved, release for public consultation from 23 April 2025 to 20 May 2025.

Attachments

1. Draft Road Management Plan [**12.1.1** - 30 pages]

12.2 Awarding of Contract 2353 Design and Construction of Princess Park Multi Use Events Pavilion

Author	Manager Projects Delivery
Approved by	Director Infrastructure
Purpose	For Decision by Council

Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* officers, delegates and persons engaged under a contract providing advice to Council must disclose any conflicts of interests.

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

1. **award Contract 2535 Design and Construction of Princess Park Multi Use Events Pavilion to Tenderer 3 for the lump sum price of $4,894,970.30 (including GST.)**

2. **authorise the Chief Executive Office to execute such documents as are necessary to give effect to this Resolution.**

Executive Summary

WB Hunter Pavilion at Princess Park precinct located at 36 – 50 Marungi Street Shepparton was heavily impacted and inundated in the October 2022 floods and has since been appraised for demolition. This contract is for the design and construction of the Multi Use Events Pavilion at this location.

The open Request for Tender was advertised on Friday 14 February 2025 and closed on Wednesday 26 March 2025. The tender period was open for over five weeks. Six submissions were received in total, two from local contractors within the Greater Shepparton municipality and four from outside the region.

Tenderer 3 is a local tenderer who submitted a conforming tender, demonstrated capacity and capability to carry out the works under this contract, submitted the lowest price and received the overall highest moderated score.

The tender evaluation panel recommends the award of the contract to Tenderer 3 for the lump sum price of $4,894,970.30 including GST.

The contractor shall review the existing Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) and Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) reports to inform the design of required materials and be inclusive of Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA) and Council Planning Department requirements.

The design submission will include floor plans, elevations, 3D renders and itemised cost estimates. Design and Construction of this pavilion must be single storey, provide satisfactory viewing, fully Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) accessible, an environmentally sustainable design, inclusive of universal design and gender equity, and meet all building compliance requirements.

The works to be completed under this contract include:
Task 1: Inception Meeting
Task 2: Detailed Design
Task 3: Finalise Design
Task 4: Construction
Task 5: Practical Completion and Occupancy

Each task throughout design will involve review with user group stakeholders.

Tenders

The open Request for Tender was advertised on Friday 14 February 2025 and closed on Wednesday 26 March 2025. The tender period was open for over 5 weeks.

Tenders were received from:

Tenderers	Price (ex GST)	Weighting
Tenderer 4	$4,546,150.00	80.77%
Tenderer 3	$4,449,973.00	86.74%
Tenderer 2	$4,566,677.68	67.34%
Tenderer 6	$4,399,355.14	79.31%
Tenderer 1	-	-
Tenderer 5	$5,389,000.00	65.77%

Tender 1 was deemed non-conforming due to not completing all the required documentation, did not demonstrate an understanding of the scope and provided a price for cleaning of the facility only.

Tender Evaluation

Tenders were evaluated by:

Title	Branch
Manager	Project Delivery
Manager	Park, Sport & Recreation
Project Manager	Project Delivery
Procurement Advisor	Contracts & Procurement
Community Member	Len Price

The tender evaluation panel includes an additional member nominated by the User Groups to provide advice and input during the procurement process as per agreement.

Evaluation Criteria

Tenders were evaluated on the following criteria:

Evaluation Criteria	Weighting
Price	40%
Capacity to Complete – schedule & methodology	15%
Relevant past experience and capability	15%
Design Compliance with Pavilion requirements	10%
Environmental Sustainability	10%
Benefit to the Local Region	10%
OH&S systems	Pass/Fail

Six tenders were received in total, two from local contractors within the Greater Shepparton municipality and four from outside the region.

Tenderer 3 is a local tenderer who submitted a conforming tender, demonstrated capacity and capability to carry out the works under this contract, submitted the lowest price and received the overall highest moderated score.

Tenderer 3 has previously completed similar (and more complex) projects for other Local Government agencies also including the Department of Education. This was demonstrated in their supplied documentation.

The tender evaluation panel deemed Tenderer 1 non-conforming due to not completing all the required documentation, did not demonstrate an understanding of the scope and provided a price for cleaning of the facility only.

Council outlined a project budget of $4,450,000 (excluding GST) as part of the tender specifications. Although three submissions surpassed the budget, Council officers conducted evaluations on all tenders using consistent criteria to achieve the established award outcome.

Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

INFRASTRUCTURE and TECHNOLOGY

We will focus on the planning of our region's requirements to enable delivery of technology and infrastructure to meet the current and future needs of the community.
4.8 Plan, prioritise and communicate asset maintenance and new asset delivery.

ENVIRONMENT and CLIMATE EMERGENCY

We will prioritise our environment and take urgent action to reduce emissions and waste in order to protect public health and create a region that mitigates and adapts to climate change.
5.2 Council will focus on emission reductions committing to a Zero Emissions 2030 Target.
5.3 Council commits to supporting the establishment of a circular economy within Greater Shepparton.

Risk Management

Strategic Risks

The following Strategic Risk/s have been identified as applicable to this report: Sustainable asset management (SR151) Failure to provide adequate services and infrastructure to accommodate growth of the region (SR136).

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
On-site construction risks - Safety	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Contractor to provide sufficient OH&S systems, traffic & pedestrian management and regular compliance checks
Material Supply Unavailability -Time	Likely	Moderate	Medium	Contractor is to order all materials upon approval of the design to ensure supply for duration of works.
Stakeholder Engagement – unavailable/time	Likely	Minor	Medium	Ensure timely request for attendance at meetings and provide updates also in writing

Policy Considerations

Consideration has been given to the Procurement Policy in reaching this recommendation with no identified conflicts with Council Policy.

Financial Implications

A capital budget allocation of $4,450,000 excl. GST has been allocated to the Design and Construction of the Princess Park Multi Use Events Pavilion.

	Approved Budget Estimate for this proposal[1] $	This Proposal GST Exclusive $	Variance to Approved Budget Estimate $	This Proposal GST Inclusive[2] $
Revenue	3,829,807			
Expense	4,450,000	4,449,973	-27.00	4,894,970.30
Net Total	623,193	4,449,973	-27.00	4,894,970.30

[1] Budgets are GST exclusive

[2] For Contract Award reports the GST inclusive expense shall match the amount reported in the recommendation

Legal/Statutory Implications

The Request for Tender process has been carried out according to the requirements of Sections 108 and 109 of the Local Government Act 2020.

In accordance with Section 109(2) of the Local Government Act 2020, Council has considered opportunities for collaboration with other Council and public bodies. In this instance, however, due to the specific location, nature of the works being undertaken and current market conditions, opportunities for collaboration were not available.

Council will source any associated goods or services from existing collaborative arrangements where possible.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

Environmental impacts and the contractor's response has been critiqued during the tender process and formed 10% of the evaluation criteria.

Tenderer 3 have an Environmental Policy that outlines how their organisation is committed to protecting and preserving the environment and assisting in provision for a sustainable generation.

Tenderer 3 Environmental Management Plan (EMP) oversees the environmental impact of construction activities while ensuring compliance with environmental regulations and Greater Shepparton City Council's 2030 Zero Emissions Plan. The EMP includes adhering to strict waste management practices and sit protection protocols to minimise ecological disruption and promote sustainable building practices.

The contractor will allow for controlling water and waste management on site and separate and sort recycling material from waste. The contractor will provide separate stack sites or provide bins for waste and recycling material and ensure employees are trained in the segregation procedures.

Social Implications

The contractor is required to consider usage of the area and the day-to-day impact of the works under contract on the community during delivery.

Economic Impacts

The recommended tenderer is a local business and employs majority of staff from within the Greater Shepparton municipality. The tenderer has indicated that they will be using local sub-contractors and purchasing materials locally where possible for works under this contract.

Gender Impact Assessment

Officers reviewed the Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) Operational Policy and understand the requirements in relation to conducting GIA's to ensure Council remains compliant with obligations outlined in the Gender Equality Act 2020.

The following determination was made by officers.

A Gender Impact Assessment was conducted.

Officers have reviewed any recommendations that were made.

Consultation

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Strategic Links

a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

- Infrastructure – to provide sustainable infrastructure to support growth and development of the municipality.

Conclusion

Tenderer 3 submitted a conforming tender and achieved the highest moderated score against the evaluation criteria. Tenderer 3 are a local contractor and have previously successfully completed contracts for Greater Shepparton and other Local Government Agencies.

The Tender Evaluation Panel is satisfied that Tenderer 3 have the capability and experience to complete the works under contract.

The Tender Evaluation Panel recommends acceptance of the tender submitted by Tenderer 3 for the lump sum price of $4,894,970.30 including GST, and council award this contract accordingly.

Attachments

Nil

13 Confidential Reports

13.1 Designation of Confidentiality of Information - Report

The following report has been designated confidential by the Chief Executive Officer under Governance Rule 111 and in accordance with the definition of *Confidential Information* in the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act).

- Cultural Heritage Awards 2025

This document contains information which is consistent with the definition of 'personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs'

13.2 Close Meeting to Members of the Public

RECOMMENDATION

That pursuant to section 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020, resolve that the Council meeting be closed to members of the public for consideration of the following confidential item:

- **Cultural Heritage Awards 2025**

13.3 Cultural Heritage Awards 2025

13.4 Reopening of Meeting to the Public

14 Documents for Signing and Sealing

14.1 Pathway Agreement

Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* officers, delegates and persons engaged under a contract providing advice to Council must disclose any conflicts of interests.

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to execute a five year contract and licence extension with Infor Global Solutions (ANZ) Pty Ltd, for a total cost of $1,649,840.50 (GST inclusive).

Executive Summary

Pathway, our Rates & Revenue system, is transitioning to a new agreement as our current one concludes. This new agreement will migrate Pathway to a Cloud-based Software as a Service (SaaS) solution, ensuring we stay current with the latest updates and receive ongoing support. We have negotiated a 10% discount for the lifetime of the 5 year contract. The total cost for 5 years is $1,499,855.00 ex GST. This will be billed annually at $299,971.00 ex GST.

15 Councillor Reports

15.1 Councillor Activities - March 2025

Author Executive Assistant to Mayor and Councillors
Approved by Director Corporate Services
Purpose For Noting

Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

Under section 130 of the Local Government Act 2020 officers, delegates and persons engaged under a contract providing advice to Council must disclose any conflicts of interests.

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interests regarding the matter under construction.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council receive and note the summary of the Councillors' Community Interactions and Informal Meetings of Councillors.

Mayor's Community Interaction and Briefing Program

From 01 March 2025 to 31 March 2025, the Mayor has been involved in the following activities:

Tatura Park Advisory Committee Meeting
Mayor Cr Shane Sali

Shepparton RSL Service for the Fallen & Launch of the Chauvel Australian Light Horse Anniversary Ride
Mayor Cr Shane Sali

Community Budget presentations
Mayor Cr Shane Sali

International Women's Day Breakfast (IWD)
Mayor Cr Shane Sali

Citizenship Ceremony
Mayor Cr Shane Sali

Fairley Leadership Program Launch
Mayor Cr Shane Sali

Q1 Advisory Board Meeting
Mayor Cr Shane Sali

Interfaith Iftar Dinner / Ramadan 2025
Mayor Cr Shane Sali

Shepparton Central Rotary Club
Mayor Cr Shane Sali

Greater Shepparton Business Network (GSBN)
Mayor Cr Shane Sali

Goulburn Murray Trades Skills Centre Stage 2 Opening
Mayor Cr Shane Sali

Banmira Specialist School Opening
Mayor Cr Shane Sali

20th Falcon GT National 2025 Official Opening
Mayor Cr Shane Sali

Shepp Feathers Doubles Tournament
Mayor Cr Shane Sali

Northern Victorian Showjumping Club World Cup Qualifier
Mayor Cr Shane Sali

2025 Falcon GT Nationals – Awards Dinner
Mayor Cr Shane Sali

2025 Cultural Diversity Week Art Exhibition
Mayor Cr Shane Sali

Embedding Area Wide Management in the GMV
Mayor Cr Shane Sali

Launch | Monopoly Shepparton Edition
Mayor Cr Shane Sali

Regional Cities Victoria (RCV)
Mayor Cr Shane Sali

Dhurringile Revitalisation Committee – Community Meeting
Mayor Cr Shane Sali

Presentation of Australia's Best Hot Cross Bun & Vanilla Slice
Mayor Cr Shane Sali

Canberra Region Joint Organisation & Regional Cities Victoria (RCV) meeting
Mayor Cr Shane Sali

CKH Painting Shepparton Cup
Mayor Cr Shane Sali

Annual Dahlia Show
Mayor Cr Shane Sali

SOD Turning – All Saints Anglican School
Mayor Cr Shane Sali

Murchison Community Meeting – SES Unit
Mayor Cr Shane Sali

GSCC | Visitor Economy Industry Luncheon
Mayor Cr Shane Sali

Mayor and Councillors' Community Interaction and Briefing Program

From 01 March 2025 to 31 March 2025, some or all of the Councillors have been involved in the following activities:

Murray Darling Association Region 2 - Extraordinary Meeting
Cr Geoff Akers

Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting
Cr Fern Summer

Tatura Park Advisory Committee Meeting
Cr Rod Schubert

Shepparton RSL Service for the Fallen & Launch of the Chauvel Australian Light Horse Anniversary Ride
Deputy Mayor Cr Anthony Brophy
Cr Kieron Eddy
Cr Sam Spinks
Cr Rod Schubert

Community Budget presentations
Deputy Mayor Cr Anthony Brophy
Cr Geoff Akers
Cr Kieron Eddy
Cr Sam Spinks
Cr Fern Summer
Cr Steven Threlfall
Cr Paul Wickham
Cr Rod Schubert

International Women's Day Breakfast
Deputy Mayor Cr Anthony Brophy
Cr Sam Spinks
Cr Paul Wickham

Fairley Leadership Program Launch
Deputy Mayor Cr Anthony Brophy

Interfaith Iftar Dinner / Ramadan 2025
Deputy Mayor Cr Anthony Brophy

Tatura International Women's Day Breakfast (IWD)
Cr Rod Schubert

Shepparton Multi-Disciplinary Centre (MDC) Launch
Deputy Mayor Cr Anthony Brophy
Cr Sam Spinks

Celebrating International Women's Day – Education First Youth
Cr Sam Spinks

Riverlinks | 2025 Season Launch
Deputy Mayor Cr Anthony Brophy
Cr Geoff Akers
Cr Steven Threlfall

International Women's Day – Activities in the Park
Cr Paul Wickham

Greater Shepparton Business Network (GSBN)
Deputy Mayor Cr Anthony Brophy
Cr Kieron Eddy
Cr Rod Schubert

Goulburn Murray Trades Skills Centre Stage 2 Opening
Deputy Mayor Cr Anthony Brophy

Holi Festival of Color
Deputy Mayor Cr Anthony Brophy

Festival of Small Halls
Deputy Mayor Cr Anthony Brophy
Cr Sam Spinks
Cr Paul Wickham

Northern Victorian Showjumping Club World Cup Qualifier
Cr Geoff Akers

2025 Falcon GT Nationals – Awards Dinner
Deputy Mayor Cr Anthony Brophy
Cr Kieron Eddy
Cr Fern Summer
Cr Steven Threlfall
Cr Rod Schubert

2025 Cultural Diversity Week Art Exhibition
Deputy Mayor Cr Anthony Brophy
Cr Fern Summer
Cr Rod Schubert

Community Emergency Management Plans – Undera
Cr Kieron Eddy

Launch | Monopoly Shepparton Edition
Deputy Mayor Cr Anthony Brophy
Cr Paul Wickham

South Shepparton Community Lunch
Cr Sam Spinks

Community Emergency Management Plans – Tallygaroopna
Cr Geoff Akers

Horses for Hope
Deputy Mayor Cr Anthony Brophy

Hiring for Hope: Breakfast with Headspace
Cr Sam Spinks

Alliance for Gambling Reform
Cr Sam Spinks

Dhurringile Revitalisation Committee – Community Meeting
Cr Geoff Akers
Cr Paul Wickham
Cr Rod Schubert

Presentation of Australia's best Hot Cross Bun & Vanilla Slice
Deputy Mayor Cr Anthony Brophy
Cr Kieron Eddy
Cr Rod Schubert

Shepparton Art Museum (SAM) – "The Shape of Things to Come" Launch
Cr Paul Wickham

2025 Victorian Convention of Councillor Weekend
Deputy Mayor Cr Anthony Brophy
Cr Sam Spinks

Annual Dahlia Show
Cr Geoff Akers

Women's Charter Advisory Committee - Financial Wellbeing for Women
Cr Sam Spinks

Media Opp – Lenne Street
Cr Paul Wickham

CFA VFBA State Firefighting Championships
Deputy Mayor Cr Anthony Brophy
Cr Rod Schubert
Cr Kieron Eddy
Cr Geoff Akers
Cr Sam Spinks

Vaisakhi Hockey Festival
Deputy Mayor Cr Anthony Brophy

Rural Ambassador Award – Judging
Deputy Mayor Cr Anthony Brophy

Shepparton Italian Festa
Cr Sam Spinks
Cr Rod Schubert
Cr Fern Summer
Cr Geoff Akers

Shepparton Theatre Arts Group celebrates 50years
Deputy Mayor Cr Anthony Brophy

GSCC | Visitor Economy Industry Luncheon
Cr Rod Schubert

Attachments

1. Informal Meetings of Councillors - Councillor Briefing - 4 March 2025 [**15.1.1** - 3 pages]
2. Informal Meetings of Councillors - Councillor Briefing - 11 March 2025 [**15.1.2** - 2 pages]
3. Informal Meetings of Councillors - Councillor Briefing - 18 March 2025 [**15.1.3** - 3 pages]
4. Informal Meetings of Councillors - CEO and Councillor Catch Up - 4 March 2025 [**15.1.4** - 2 pages]
5. Informal Meetings of Councillors - CEO and Councillor Catch Up - 25 March 2025 [**15.1.5** - 3 pages]

16 Notice of Motion, Amendment or Rescission

Nil Received.

17 Urgent Business not Included on the Agenda

Nil Received.

18 Close of Meeting