



MANNINGHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Date:	Tuesday, 25 March 2025
Time:	7:00pm
Location:	Council Chamber, Civic Centre 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster

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**MANNINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 25 MARCH 2025 AT 7:00PM
IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE
699 DONCASTER ROAD, DONCASTER**

The meeting commenced at 7pm.

PRESENT:

- Councillor Deirdre Diamante (Mayor)**
- Councillor Andrew Conlon (Deputy Mayor)**
- Councillor Peter Bain**
- Councillor Anna Chen**
- Councillor Isabella Eltaha**
- Councillor Geoff Gough**
- Councillor Jim Grivas**
- Councillor Carli Lange**
- Councillor Laura Mayne**

OFFICERS PRESENT:

- Chief Executive Officer, Mr Andrew Day**
- Director City Planning & Liveability, Mr Andrew McMaster**
- Director Experience and Capability, Ms Kerry Paterson**
- Director City Services, Ms Rachelle Quattrocchi**
- Acting Director Connected Communities, Ms Emma Michie**
- Manager Integrity, Ms Carrie Bruce**

1 WELCOME

The Mayor read an opening prayer and statements of acknowledgement.

2 APOLOGIES AND REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

There were no apologies.

3 PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Chairperson asked if there were any written disclosures of a conflict of interest submitted prior to the meeting and invited Councillors to disclose any conflict of interest in any item listed on the Council Agenda.

There were no disclosures made.

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: CR CARLI LANGE

SECONDED: CR JIM GRIVAS

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25 February 2025 be confirmed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5 PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Manningham Staff Service Awards

The Mayor acknowledged the following Council officers whom have recently celebrated significant years of service at Manningham:-

20 years of service:

- Amber Thorgersen, Emergency Management Team
- Anna Wheeler, Environmental Health Team

25 years of service:

- Maria Nakopulo, Infrastructure Business Support Team
- Mary Sciorto, Customer Service Team

40 years of service:

- David Wadsworth, Parks and Natural Environment Team

45 years of Service:

- Brent Olney, Sustainable Maintenance Team

The Mayor thanked staff for their contribution, dedication, and hard work during their time with Council.

6 PETITIONS

6.1 Requesting Parking Signage along St Andrews Crescent and Spear Court, Bulleen

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: CR GEOFF GOUGH
SECONDED: CR JIM GRIVAS

That the Petition with 43 signatories requesting Council to place parking restrictions in St Andrews Crescent and Spear Court, Bulleen, be received and referred through to the appropriate Officer for consideration.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.2 Proposal to remove the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags in Manningham and 'Welcome' and/or 'Acknowledgement of Country' from meetings or Council functions

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: CR ANDREW CONLON
SECONDED: CR PETER BAIN

That the Petition with 12 signatories requesting Council to remove from permanent display, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags from all flagpoles within the jurisdiction of the MCC and to cease practice of verbally stating "Welcome" and/or "Acknowledgement of Country" before any meeting or function arranged by Council, be received and referred through to the appropriate Officer for response.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.3 Retain existing Carport at 18 Canara Street, Doncaster East

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: CR LAURA MAYNE
SECONDED: CR ANDREW CONLON

That the Petition with 10 signatories requesting Council to retain the existing carport at 18 Canara Street, Doncaster East, be received and referred through to the appropriate Officer for consideration.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

In accordance to sub rule 58.9 of the Governance Rules, once a written response has been issued to the lead petitioner it will be tabled at the next Council meeting for noting.

The written responses to the petitions listed below are attached on the following pages.

- Residents proposing to establish Ilma Court and Robb Close as a Residents only parking area
- Parking issue related to North East Link Parking in Rocklea Road and Golden Way area, surrounding Streets and Courts

Petition Name	Residents proposing to establish Ilma Court and Robb Close as a Residents only parking area
Council Meeting Date	25 February 2025
Council Meeting Item Number	Item 6.1
Response Date	10 September 2024 via email (attached below)

3 March 2025



Email: 

Dear Mr Atkin,

Re: Petition to Manningham City Council – Parking by North East Link (NEL) workers in Ilma Court and Robb Close, Bulleen.

I am writing in response to your petition which was tabled at the Council Meeting on 25 February 2025 regarding Parking by North East Link (NEL) workers in Ilma Court and Robb Close, Bulleen.

Manningham Council is aware of the recent and significant increase of parking issues in the residential streets opposite NELP's Bulleen Site near Manningham Rd. Manningham Council have been communicating with NELP and their contractor Spark, to understand why this issue has occurred and how this can be managed into the short and long term until project completion in 2028. Spark have confirmed that they have now closed the remaining section of parking within their compound to worker vehicles due to construction works in the site.

In the short term Council has:

- requested Spark manage the issue of their worker parking, and to meet their Project obligations to minimise parking impacts on residential streets and businesses. This is a state project and Council expect the state to manage their project impacts.
- Council's local laws team are also undertaking inspections of the area and issuing fines if cars are parked illegally – for example in situations where cars are parked too close to driveways, fire hydrants and intersections. Patrols have been occurring daily as resources allow.

Other options are also being considered by Council to address the Spark worker parking and these discussions with Spark are continuing.

Council officers have prepared numerous options to be considered by Council at a Council meeting as soon as possible. Some of these include implementing parking restrictions. If parking restrictions are considered the solution, implementation will be fast-tracked as much as possible.



Interpreter service

9840 9355

普通话 | 廣東話 | Ελληνικά

italiano | العربية | فارسی

Manningham Council
699 Doncaster Road (PO Box 1), Doncaster, Victoria 3108
p 03 9840 9333 f 03 9848 3110
e manningham@manningham.vic.gov.au
ABN 61 498 471 081 manningham.vic.gov.au

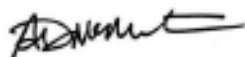


Council continues to encourage the community to raise any NELP related concerns directly with the Project and their contractors (Spark in this instance) so that they are accountable to the impact they are causing. The Project is obliged to collect data which demonstrates the impact they are having on the community, and demonstrating to the State government how they have responded to the concerns raised by the community.

Of course, Council will continue to advocate on residents' behalf to address matters such as these.

A number of questions regarding North East Link parking were raised at the 25 February Council Meeting and it may be beneficial for you to watch the recording of the Council Meeting available at: <https://www.manningham.vic.gov.au/events/council-meeting-25-february-2025>.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew McMaster
Director City Planning & Liveability

Petition Name	Parking issue related to North East Link Parking in Rocklea Road and Golden Way area, surrounding Streets and Courts
Council Meeting Date	25 February 2025
Council Meeting Item Number	Item 6.2
Response Date	10 September 2024 via email (attached below)



Return Address:
PO Box 1
DONCASTER
VIC 3108

3 March 2025



Email:

Dear Mr Bourke,

Re: Petition to Manningham City Council – North East Link parking in Rocklea Road, Golden Way area and surrounding streets and courts.

I am writing in response to your petition which was tabled at the Council Meeting on 25 February 2025 regarding North East Link parking in Rocklea Road, Golden Way area and surrounding streets and courts.

Manningham Council is aware of the recent and significant increase of parking issues in the residential streets opposite NELP’s Bulleen Site near Manningham Rd. Manningham Council have been communicating with NELP and their contractor Spark, to understand why this issue has occurred and how this can be managed into the short and long term until project completion in 2028. Spark have confirmed that they have now closed the remaining section of parking within their compound to worker vehicles due to construction works in the site.

In the short term Council has:

- requested Spark manage the issue of their worker parking, and to meet their Project obligations to minimise parking impacts on residential streets and businesses. This is a state project and Council expect the state to manage their project impacts.
- Council’s local laws team are also undertaking inspections of the area and issuing fines if cars are parked illegally – for example in situations where cars are parked too close to driveways, fire hydrants and intersections. Patrols have been occurring daily as resources allow.

Other options are also being considered by Council to address the Spark worker parking and these discussions with Spark are continuing.

Council officers have prepared numerous options to be considered by Council at a Council meeting as soon as possible. Some of these include implementing parking restrictions. If parking restrictions are considered the solution, implementation will be fast-tracked as much as possible.



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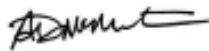


Council continues to encourage the community to raise any NELP related concerns directly with the Project and their contractors (Spark in this instance) so that they are accountable to the impact they are causing. The Project is obliged to collect data which demonstrates the impact they are having on the community, and demonstrating to the State government how they have responded to the concerns raised by the community.

Of course, Council will continue to advocate on residents' behalf to address matters such as these.

A number of questions regarding North East Link parking were raised at the 25 February Council Meeting and it may be beneficial for you to watch the recording of the Council Meeting available at: <https://www.manningham.vic.gov.au/events/council-meeting-25-february-2025>.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew McMaster
Director City Planning & Liveability

7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

7.1 L Lisiecki, Doncaster

Q1 Mayor and elected Councillors actions to support residents in the following:

- Advocate on our behalf about the concerns raised in relation to the Doncaster Park and Ride proposed upgrade (what advocacy has been put in place since I met with the mayor onsite?)

Mr Andrew McMaster, Directory City Planning and Liveability thanked the resident for her question and responded that since the on-site meeting, Council has continued to advocate for quality outcomes for the redevelopment of the Doncaster Park & Ride site.

This advocacy has taken multiple forms, including calling on the Federal Government to urge the State Government to deliver a Transit-Oriented Development, which council has been advocating for since 2022 Council officers have participated in a number of meetings to discuss key design issues, particularly regarding the configuration of the pick-up and drop-off area and its impact on Hender Street and the surrounding local road network. Additionally, Council officers and directors have met with project directors on-site to address similar concerns.

Council maintains a strong stance on what the redevelopment of Doncaster Park & Ride should entail, ensuring that the best outcomes are achieved not only for adjacent properties but for the broader community. This vision is reflected in Council's Urban Design and Landscape Plan (UDLP) submission, which was submitted late last year. Council has also continued its advocacy regarding the construction period to ensure the project minimise impact to residents throughout construction.

This includes raising concerns to the project in relation to noise, dust, traffic congestion and other matters on behalf of our community and seeking the project undertake traffic impact assessments in local roads as a result of the closure of DPR.

Q2

- Provide a uniform, collective approach for residents to raise concerns as individual residents are powerless and have not been heard?

Mr Andrew McMaster, Directory City Planning and Liveability responded that firstly, it was essential to reinforce that any issues related to the North East Link and Eastern Freeway Upgrade projects must be reported directly to the project team in the first instance. The North East Link Project (NELP) teams are responsible for monitoring complaints, recording them, and providing resolutions.

Without accurate data on the issues residents are facing, the project cannot be held accountable for the actions it takes to address complaints. Directing concerns to the project team is crucial, as in some cases, they may be able to provide immediate relief, such as addressing noise and lighting issues at night.

If a response is not provided, or if the response is unsatisfactory, the Project and their contractors have an escalation process which can be requested. Council is also able to step in to advocate to the Project and the State on behalf of residents. Residents can escalate their concerns through Council's usual contact channels.

- Q3
- Provide public knowledge on the council website to inform residents about the actions council are undertaking to support them?

Mr Andrew McMaster, Directory City Planning and Liveability responded that residents can find various news stories showcasing Council's advocacy on the North East Link by searching North East Link Project on the Council website. This includes recent examples such as our latest Federal advocacy piece, which was endorsed by Council on 25 February 2025.

Council has found that some of the best outcomes for resident's stem from maintaining a strong working relationship with the project team. Officers from Manningham Council communicate with the Project officers on a daily basis. While much of this direct advocacy is sensitive and not always suitable for public promotion, these efforts often result in reducing impacts to individual residents.

However, major advocacy initiatives and key updates will continue to be shared on the website. Based on feedback we have received from the community; we will be consulting our communications team about creating a dedicated page to compile these news stories for easier access.

7.2 C Pilli, Doncaster East

- Q1 Will Manningham Council convene public information forums in all Wards of the municipality as a matter of urgency having mailed in writing to all households the reasons why canopy tree protection is necessary and must be maintained, including clear details of the date, time, venue and agenda of each public meeting?

Ms Rachelle Quattrocchi, Director City Services thanked the resident for her question and responded that Council is currently developing our Nature Plan and have had a consultation period associated with the initial phase. The Nature Plan addresses the importance of tree canopy protection and our urban forest.

Further consultation will occur on this new plan with the community being advised via Your Say Manningham and various other communication channels.

Manningham is currently a signatory to the Melbourne Urban Forest Strategy.

Manningham recognises that the Urban Forest and individual trees are critical natural assets, critical to community health and wellbeing, ecosystem services and the overall liveability.

We have a strategy to protect our urban canopy that provides community value and care for our urban canopy and supports the health and wellbeing of our community.

The retention and protection of Council managed trees is given high priority, we have a tree amenity policy - Amenity Value is a mechanism for the recognition of public trees as assets (based on the size and maturity of the trees, tree form, health condition, scarcity, rarity, ecology and wildlife value, function, and unique characteristics of the individual tree.) within Manningham and provides monetary value for these assets.

This is a transparent and reliable method to attribute economic to publicly owned trees. That considers the loss of tree-related benefits should a tree be removed from a public space, to make way for a private development.

- Q2 Will Manningham Council review the regulatory environment concerning canopy trees (including the State government's building and planning codes that impact canopy tree cover, adequacy of setbacks, boundaries etc and prosecution of offenders) and jointly lobby, perhaps with other Council's for the preservation of adequate canopy cover?

Mr Andrew McMaster, Directory City Planning and Liveability thanked the resident for her question and responded that Manningham Council currently uses planning controls in parts of the municipality to retain and enhance tree canopy cover, such as the Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO), Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO), and Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO), by regulating tree removal and development impacts on existing vegetation.

The planning framework has recently changed with the release of the new Clause 55 and Clause 57 standards which control townhouse, low-rise and apartment development. These changes are a significant departure to the standards for multi-unit development which have been in place for many years and significantly change the way low rise developments are assessed accordingly.

Officers are still getting on top of the changes, noting that there is some uncertainty about how they are intended to operate especially in relation to the retention and/or removal of canopy trees on a development site and what protection is afforded to trees on neighbouring properties.

Nevertheless, officers will continue to enforce the provisions of the Manningham Planning Scheme and any planning permits issued.

Council is aware the sector is also seeking to understand the changes. These are being regularly discussed in sector forums and industry groups. Council will take every opportunity to advocate for appropriate controls both individually and with other councils where this becomes available.

7.3 D Reynolds, Manningham Resident

- Q1 Can Council contact the relevant homeowner or owner of equipment situated on Chivers Road, Templestowe in relation to a water leak that floods across the roadways, irrespective of the weather conditions. Can the cause of the unknown water be investigated?

Ms Rachelle Quattrocchi, Director City Services thanked the resident for their question and responded that Council appreciated them bringing the awareness of this situation to Council and that Council would investigate the incident and follow up with the property owner in due course.

7.4 A Marnes, Manningham Resident

- Q1 Can you tell me in what ways this Council will advocate for a community that is suffering as a result of bearing witness to a genocide and whether it will use its influence to sanction Israel?

Mr Andrew Day, Chief Executive Officer thanked the resident for their question and responded that Council can provide assurance that Council is attuned with what is happening internationally and also the challenges currently faced within our locality community regarding this issue. Mr Day advised that Council would take the question on notice and provide a response in writing.

8 ADMISSION OF URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of Urgent Business.

9 PLANNING PERMIT APPLICATIONS

There were no Planning Permit Applications that required a decision of Council this month.

10 CITY PLANNING

10.1 North East Link Project: Worker parking impacts to local community

File Number:	IN25/169
Responsible Director:	Director City Planning
Attachments:	1 Timeline of Spark carpark closure ↓
	2 Proposed area for parking changes ↓

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report collectively seeks:

- 1) To outline the impacts to residents and businesses as a result of workforce for the North East Link Project (NELP) and its appointed contractor for the NELP Central Package (Spark) parking their vehicles on local streets within local Bulleen streets following the closure of on-site Project parking.*
- 2) To express Council's expectation for the State Government, the NELP and its contractors to manage and provide worker parking in line with the Project's Environmental Performance Requirements (EPR's), including through the provision of parking within their construction compounds or by the establishment of satellite parking sites.*
- 3) To request the NELP and/or Spark formally provide to Council and the community detailed information on the sites explored for satellite parking and the reasons these sites have not been pursued for the provision of satellite parking.*
- 4) Councillor endorsement to undertake community consultation on the range of options which seek to manage impacts to the local community by NELP/Spark workforce parking in local streets.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Spark consortium is responsible for the delivery of the Central (Tunnels) package of the North East Link Project (NELP). Construction works have progressed for the Manningham Interchange south bound ramp and a laydown area for a TBM (Tunnel Boring Machine). This has resulted in the Project closing their compound as a car parking site which was previously available for the project workforce.

Council has received a significant number of resident and business complaints outlining concerns about worker parking in local streets in the first 2 months of 2024 following the compound car park closure. Three petitions requesting parking restrictions have been lodged with Council, and several questions were posed to Council on how Council proposes to respond to the worker parking impacts in local streets.

Manningham residents consistently report that due to a significant uplift in workers parking in local streets, often on both sides of the residential streets for significant distances and in some instances, too close to residential driveways, they are experiencing difficulty entering and exiting their properties safely, and have concerns about the passage of emergency vehicles attending local emergencies.

Several options and approaches have been explored by officers to mitigate these impacts to the community. The options considered by officers range from simple instruments within Council's control (e.g. a communications campaign for residents and project awareness) to more significant external options (e.g. a temporary offset or satellite car park for Project workers).

It is the position of Council that satellite parking, where workers park in a dedicated project car park and are bussed to the NELP/Spark compound is Council's preferred solution to this significant issue. NELP/Spark have indicated they have exhausted all options for this solution and will not be instituting any satellite parking for its workforce. Council requests the full details of all investigatory work undertaken to provide satellite parking as a solution, including the reasons all sites investigated were deemed unsuitable for the provision of satellite parking.

In acknowledgement of the significant impacts Project workers parking in residential streets is having on the Bulleen and Manningham community, Council has investigated a range of options including the implementation of parking restrictions in the area. Council is concerned that implementation of parking restrictions alone will not solve the problem as NELP/Spark workers will continue to have no alternative to local streets to park. It is anticipated the introduction of restrictions will push the problem to other areas causing further problems for different segments of the community. Parking restrictions will also impact on residents, who will be subject to enforcement measures taken by Council just the same as Project workers. While Council has identified some options on which it wishes to engage the community, Council acknowledges each of these solutions will have a range of known and unintended consequences.

In the absence of a firm commitment by NELP/Spark to provide satellite parking, or detailed information on why satellite parking is unsuitable, Council endorsement is sought to undertake community consultation to explore with the community the options for managing the issue of worker parking in local streets.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: CR GEOFF GOUGH
SECONDED: CR ANNA CHEN

That Council:

- A. Notes the impact caused by the closure of the NELP/Spark worker parking at the Manningham interchange construction compound, which has resulted in workers parking their vehicles in local streets and is creating a real and ongoing adverse community impact;**
- B. Express:**
- its dissatisfaction to NELP/Spark regarding the lack of dedicated NELP/Spark worker parking associated with the Manningham interchange construction compound, and the adverse impact this is having on local streets; and**
 - Council's expectation for NELP/Spark to provide worker parking in line with the NELP Environmental Performance Requirements (EPR's) and their subsequent Worksite Traffic Management Plans.**

- Council's expectation for NELP/Spark to reimburse Council for all costs associated with any introduction of parking restrictions, including consultation, signage and ongoing monitoring, enforcement and administration.
- C. Formally request NELP/Spark to share with Council and the community detailed information on the assessments undertaken for potential satellite parking sites to accommodate its workforce and limit the impact on local streets, including detail on why these sites have been deemed unsuitable for satellite worker parking sites.
- D. Authorise the CEO to write to the NELP and its contractor Spark to action paragraphs (B) and (C);
- E. Immediately begin the process to implement parking restrictions on the following streets identified in the petitions presented to the February and March 2025 Council meetings, being:
- Rocklea Road
 - Ilma Court
 - Robb Close
 - St Andrews Cres
 - Spear Court
 - Golden Way
- F. Acknowledging the absence of a commitment by NELP/Spark to provide satellite parking sites for its workforce, endorse Council officers recommendation to immediately seek community input on a range of options to address NELP/Spark worker parking in residential streets.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. BACKGROUND

Spark worker parking

- 2.1 Prior to January 2025, Council experienced intermittent contact from residents regarding NELP/Spark worker vehicles parking on local roads. These concerns were typically limited to a handful of vehicles spread across multiple streets, with the majority of workers parking within the NELP/Spark construction compound.
- 2.2 To address these concerns, NELP/Spark introduced 'No Project Parking signs' on local streets around Bulleen – an initiative that was supported by Council officers at the time. These signs are not enforceable by way of a parking infringement or other mechanism, but rather were used to remind and encourage NELP/Spark workers to avoid parking in residential streets. The project also report that they have communicated with their workforce to remind them of the expectations that workers do not park in residential streets.
- 2.3 As NELP's construction continues to progress rapidly, NELP/Spark has required more space within their compound to carry out site preparations. On 6 January 2025, NELP closed 142 car parking spaces and a further 55 spaces in early

February due to the need to prepare the laydown area for a Tunnel Boring Machine, which is expected to arrive in late 2025, and the building of the south bound tunnel on-ramp. A final closure of 91 spaces occurred in late February to allow for construction of the Motorway Control Centre, resulting in no worker parking being available within the NELP Compound. A visual representation of these areas and their closure is included in Attachment 1.

- 2.4 The onsite parking closure has resulted in NELP workers parking their vehicles in nearby residential streets. Predominantly, the workers are parking in streets surrounding the Manningham interchange, including St Andrews Cres, Golden Way, Rocklea Rd, Avon St, Austin St, and Ilma Court. Furthermore, workers are also parking in Bolin Bolin Billabong parking and on the western verge of Bulleen Road just south of Bolin Bolin Billabong.
- 2.5 Council officers received minimal communication from the Project in relation to the upcoming Spark compound closures and had no indication of the timing and extent of the upcoming closure. Officers were caught by surprise when the Project re-commenced work on 6 January with stage 1 closures in effect (142 spaced lost at this time).
- 2.6 The lack of early notification from NELP/Spark has resulted in Council needing to be reactive to the issue rather than taking a proactive planned approach in partnership with the community by pre-emptive consultation. This is problematic in circumstances where it would typically take 4-6 months to implement changes to parking restrictions.
- 2.7 Since the closure, Council has experienced a significant uplift in complaints from local residents and businesses within the Bulleen area. Businesses have reported that customers were having difficulty navigating streets and finding parking, something which they have reported to Council is directly affecting their revenue.
- 2.8 Even though the NELP/Spark compound has now been completely closed to workers parking, Council is concerned that once site preparations work concludes and construction activity ramps up, there may be larger numbers of workers on the site resulting in further worker vehicles parking on local streets if the issue is not addressed.
- 2.9 Since the closure of onsite parking, Council officers have continued to raise this matter with the NELP/Spark. There have also been numerous meetings between NELP/Spark and Council officers on the impacts of worker parking to the community. Council officers have outlined the expectation for NELP to manage their worker parking obligations, preferably by the creation of satellite parking sites. NELP/Spark have indicated this was not feasible and that their preference is to partner with Council for a review of parking restrictions applicable in streets local to the compound for the NELP Central Package Compound.
- 2.10 Council request further detail from NELP/Spark on the locations that have been investigated for satellite parking and the reasons why they have not been pursued for satellite parking.

Project Requirements.

- 2.11 The NELP must be delivered in accordance with the Environmental Management Framework (EMF), which contains Environmental Performance Requirements

(EPRs). The EMF and EPR's, which have been approved by the Minister for Planning, define the minimum environmental outcomes that must be achieved during design, construction and operation of the Project, acting in a manner similar to planning permit conditions for the project.

2.12 EPR's cover all aspects of the project. The EPR's that are most relevant to the ongoing issue of worker parking on local streets include:

2.12.1 **EPR T2 (Transport Management Plans (TMP))** states:

- *“Prior to the commencement of relevant works, develop and implement TMP's to minimise disruption to affected local land uses, traffic, car parking, public transport... during all stages of construction.”*
- *“Provision of alternative parking where practicable to replace public, private and commuter parking lost as a result of project construction activities,” and*
- *“Requirements to minimise impacts on local streets, community and commercial facilities by providing parking for construction workers at construction compounds where practicable”.*

2.12.2 **EPR SC3 (Social and Community impacts)** The Plan must include:

- *“Approach and processes to ensure that the workforce has appropriate community awareness and sensitivity including to prevent the workforce from parking in local roads and in public parking in the vicinity of local shopping areas except when frequenting those areas for private purposes”.*

2.12.3 **EPR B6 (Minimise access and amenity impacts on businesses)**

- *“Any reduction in the level of access, amenity or function of any business or commercial facility must be minimised to the extent and duration necessary to carry out the relevant construction related works. Affected business and commercial facilities must be provided with adequate notification of potential impacts and temporary access arrangements. Emergency access must be maintained at all times. Access must be maintained for customers, delivery and waste removal unless there has been a prior arrangement with affected businesses. As well as minimising impacts above, temporary occupation of sites for construction must: not reduce parking available to shoppers and traders in shopping areas”.*

2.13 Also within the EMF is the requirement for the contractors to prepare a Construction Compound Plan (CCP) addressing the EPR's. The CCP's are subsequently approved by the Minister. The contractor's CCP for the Manningham Interchange works indicates that the compound should provide *“sufficient off-street parking...within site boundary and adjacent to the compound for associated workforce and visitors” for the works.*

2.14 The Project is also responsible for Worksite Traffic Management Plans (WTMPs) for specific works that NELP undertakes in the area. Council officers regularly receive these for review. There is an expectation that within these WTMPs that there is reference to the works adhering to the EPR's with appropriate workforce parking being provided.

- 2.15 The NELP contractors are audited on a six-monthly basis by an Independent Environmental Auditor. The auditor reviews the works against the EPR's and multiple management plans for the works.
- 2.16 As part of Council officers' remit, officers will review each IEA report. Manningham Council officers note in Sparks latest IEA report the auditor noted that a contractor received a breach for workers parking in local streets in a neighbouring Council.
- 2.17 Council officers are concerned that within Manningham, NELP/Spark are similarly not meeting the obligations of the EPR's in relation to worker parking and are considering further this line of enquiry.

Benchmarking

- 2.18 Officers have benchmarked with neighbouring Council's, and one Council have confirmed they have had a similar experience with worker parking in local streets due to the incremental closures of NELP/Spark worker parking within their compounds. One neighbouring Council introduced parking restrictions into the local road network in a staged approach and are currently up to Stage 5 of their restrictions.
- 2.19 Though the restrictions were initially only in effect during the day (8am-5pm), now that another compound is operating 24 hours a day, the neighbouring Council has had to revisit the restrictions in several of their streets to now be in effect 24/7.
- 2.20 This Council mentioned that parking and enforcement remains an ongoing issue, and they have taken major steps (implementing resident permit zones) for a large portion of the affected area.
- 2.21 This Council also mentioned that they have experienced instances of inappropriate behaviour towards parking officers and as such, to carry out the enforcement after implementing any restrictions, they have recommended 2 parking officers attend for safety reasons.

Resident and business concerns

- 2.22 Council has experienced a significant increase in resident contact since the initial closure of the Spark worker parking. Noting that some residents understand the situation has been caused by the project, most are still frustrated and want to see action. Initially residents were complaining about the vehicles generally and/or alerting Council to the issue, but as the problem has persisted, in the last 3 weeks, many residents request that Council now introduce parking restrictions and/or permit zones as soon as possible.
- 2.23 Council's current process when residents or businesses contact Council to raise their concerns about the parking, is for officers to assess if the concern is related to illegal parking (i.e. obstructing driveways or fire hydrants), for which we will then arrange for enforcement via Council's Local Laws team. Officers direct other project related resident parking complaints to NELP's Call Centre as NELP are obligated to monitor and record complaint and resolution data for the Project, the results of which are audited by the IEA. This requires NELP to follow up with the resident and address their concerns. In some instances, residents request parking restrictions to address the issue, and that then triggers NELP's call centre

to refer the resident back to Council. This is causing confusion and frustration to the community and is time-consuming for officers to manage the influx of complaints.

- 2.24 The main concern from residents is that they are having trouble entering or exiting their driveways and navigating the streets. Secondly, when residents have guests or carers attend their home, there is no on-street parking available near to their property. Though such traffic and parking conditions may be a more regular occurrence elsewhere in the municipality, this is a significant change to this local area.
- 2.25 As most of the local streets have narrow widths, where cars are parked on both sides of the street, a vehicle's trafficable path is severely inhibited and navigating through may be difficult, especially in peak times. Another issue that has escalated in recent weeks are the safety concerns, including reduction in sight lines, due to multiple cars parking very close to intersections. This also raises concerns that there may not be adequate space for emergency vehicles to access the street in the instance of an emergency.
- 2.26 Council has also been required to change Council's waste collection to occur prior to 7am to ensure trucks can navigate the streets before workers arrive. Given that the NELP/Spark workforce has the potential to increase during coming months, it is not clear if pre-7am waste collection will be adequate in future.
- 2.27 All the complaints received by Council are from the Bulleen area, largely east of Bulleen Road and south of Manningham Road section. Complaints have also come from Ilma Court and the Bolin Bolin Billabong parking – as walkers struggle to park their car due to NELP/Spark workers fully occupying that car park (which is owned and operated by Parks Victoria).

3. DISCUSSION / ISSUE

- 3.1 The issue of worker parking on local streets has been ongoing since the project commenced, even when the construction compound parking was available - with a small number of worker car parking within local streets at any one time. The recent closure of the Spark compound parking has led to a significant issue in the Bulleen area.
- 3.2 Council officers have explored multiple options for parking restrictions, and this has confirmed that each option will cause unintended consequences. It is unlikely that any one solution will be suitable to all stakeholders. Should restrictions be introduced in residential streets, Council would need to be consistent with applying enforcement, something which will almost certainly result in local residents and their guests being fined if they are not meeting the parking restrictions.
- 3.3 There is also a risk that by introducing restrictions, Council is effectively taking ownership of what is a State/NELP/Spark created problem. If restrictions are implemented, Council expect that all resident car parking complaints regarding car parking will be directed to Council from NELP/Spark creating a real concern that Council would be inheriting a problem not of its making.
- 3.4 There is also concern that any potential restrictions may place further impacts on businesses in the area, limiting the time customers are able to spend at the businesses.

- 3.5 Spark has advised that their current approach to manage worker parking is to tell workers where they can and can't park and advising workers to avoid particular street if they are receiving multiple complaints from an area. It is evident that Spark workers are already ignoring the project installed "No Project Parking" signs initially placed within the streets to address the earlier parking issues and Council do not believe this is an effective control method.
- 3.6 Due to the adverse impact restrictions are likely to place on residents and businesses, Council is strongly advocating for the State to investigate all satellite parking options for staff and protect already impacted businesses and resident amenity.
- 3.7 Council is currently unsatisfied with the information provided in relation to sourcing appropriate parking within their site and requests the detail of what further locations have been investigated and why they were deemed unsuitable for the creation of a satellite parking site. In the absence of such detail, it is considered the best solution for the problem of worker parking dominating local streets is dedicated satellite parking sites for the Project workers. The provision of such information will provide Council and the community greater certainty on the level of compliance of NELP/Spark with the project EPRs.

Consultation Process

- 3.8 As stated, Council's expectation is that the State resolve their worker parking issue in line with their obligations. However, if Council was to introduce parking restrictions, a consultation process will need to take place, in accordance with Council's Parking Management Policy.
- 3.9 Based on the learnings from neighbouring Councils and the experience of our Local Laws team, any changes to parking restriction are recommended to take place on an area-based approach, as shown in Attachment 2. This is to avoid multi-stage restrictions where vehicles are displaced street by street. The proposed area for parking restrictions is based on parking restrictions extending to approximately 1 kilometre from the Spark worksite.
- 3.10 Due to the large area proposed for restrictions, the consultation process is expected to take 2-3 weeks. This consultation would seek community feedback on a range of options to inform next steps.
- 3.11 The options on which community views will be sought are summarised below:
- **Option 1:** The State implement parking for Spark workers within the Project construction compounds or at satellite sites.
 - **Option 2:** 2P Resident Permit Area on one side of the local street and regular 2P Parking Restrictions on the other side of street 24/7.
 - **Option 3:** 2P Resident Permit Area on one side of the local street 24/7 and no restriction on the other side of the street.
 - **Option 4:** 2P Resident Permit for all of the affected area 24/7 (both sides of the street).
- 3.12 The consultation materials will outline the pros and cons, risks and potential consequences for each option.

- 3.13 Regardless of the option(s) implemented by Council, a robust and sensitive communications approach will be required to ensure information is provided to the community in an appropriate manner. NELP/Spark will have their own communications approach, and officers will work closely with existing NELP/Spark contacts to ensure consistent, timely and appropriate messaging.

Implementation

- 3.14 As Spark operations are currently 24 hours a day including works on Saturdays, (with the potential for Sunday shifts), it is recommended that should any parking restriction changes be introduced, that restrictions are effective 24/7 to reduce parking congestion experienced by residents during the night.
- 3.15 Due to the large, proposed area, a single restriction may not be appropriate for the whole area. The night shift workforce is also expected to be smaller than the day shift, and therefore restrictions to the east of the proposed area may only need to be necessary from 8am-5pm. Further delineation of timings will be determined during the consultation stage of any implementation.
- 3.16 It would be expected that implementation of the relevant signage for the area proposed would take approximately 6-8 weeks. The intention would be to start at the western end of the area (closest to the Project compound) and work eastwards as quickly as possible.
- 3.17 It would be the intention that any parking restrictions are implemented for a fixed period, until the end of the project. Any change to restrictions could therefore be ended when/if NELP/Spark provides an alternative parking approach to mitigate impacts. This may also assist those residents who do not support restrictions being implemented at all.
- 3.18 It should be noted that, in officer's experience, restrictions may be difficult to remove once the community has experienced them, and further consultation with the community may show there is support for restriction to remain permanently. Typically, there would be a further stage of consultation to gain support from residents when the time comes for the restrictions to be removed.
- 3.19 The large area proposed may introduce its own challenges as residents towards the east of the suggested area aren't currently experiencing issues and may not see the need for restrictions within their streets – this will require appropriate communications to these residents explaining that a larger area is designed to prevent moving the NELP Spark worker parking issue further east into their areas.

4. COUNCIL PLAN / STRATEGY

- 4.1 Parking in Manningham Council is managed using the guiding principles outlined in our *Parking Management Policy 2018*, which seeks to ensure a transparent, consistent, equitable and balanced approach to the management of on-street public parking facilities.

5. IMPACTS AND IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Community - The current disruption to local residents and businesses due to worker parking is significant. A significant number of complaints have already

been received, and without intervention, this is expected to continue and escalate.

- 5.2 Parking Pressure - Local streets will continue to face high parking demand, which could make it difficult for residents to access their homes or park safely. Failure to resolve these issues could lead to frustration and a possible decline in public support for the Project and/or Council, and due to potential safety issues, could result in an accident.
- 5.3 Emergency Services access – It is unclear if the congestion in residential streets have or will impact on access for emergency services vehicles. Officers have contacted key representatives to understand this potential issue.
- 5.4 State responsibility - the project should be directly involved in providing parking solutions in line with their Project obligations and the EPRs. Council expects that NELP and its contractors take responsibility for the impacts of their workers on the local community and meet their EPR obligations.

Finance / Resource Implications

- 5.5 The trial of any parking restrictions will incur significant costs for consultation, signage and ongoing monitoring/enforcement and administration.
- 5.6 Estimates have been prepared to identify the costs of implementing and enforcing the restrictions in the identified area
- 5.7 It is Council's intention to seek full recovery of the costs of the changes in parking restrictions to NELP/Spark, and early conversations regarding this with NELP/Spark have been productive, with NELP/Spark indicating they wish to partner with Council on the issue of costs. These early, productive discussions are ongoing.
- 5.8 It should be noted that although Council would receive income from fines charged through enforcement, that the cost of running the program and administering the review process, is unlikely to result in any profit to Council.

6. IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 Communication and Engagement

Is engagement required? Yes

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Stakeholder Groups | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local residents 2. Local Businesses 3. The State, NELP, Spark management and workers 4. Councillors |
|--------------------|---|

Where does it sit on the IAP2 spectrum?	Consult
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Approach	Communication material including letters and Your Say Manningham.
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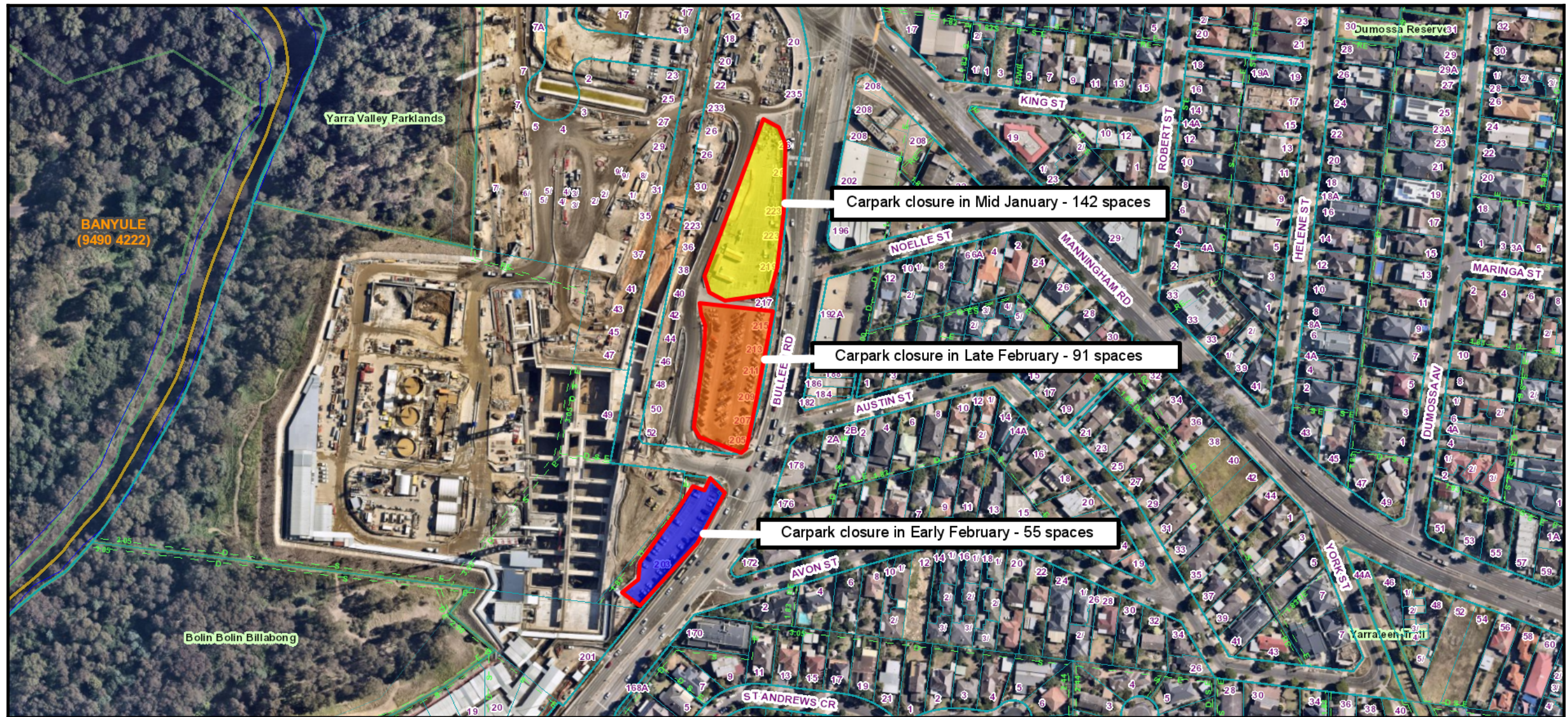
7. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest in this matter.

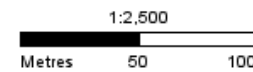


Maps of Manningham

Timeline of carpark closure by Spark



Whilst all care has been taken in the preparation of this cadastral base map, Manningham and State of Victoria accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of any information shown. Users should rely on their own enquiries in order to validate information shown on this map. This information is for Demonstration only.



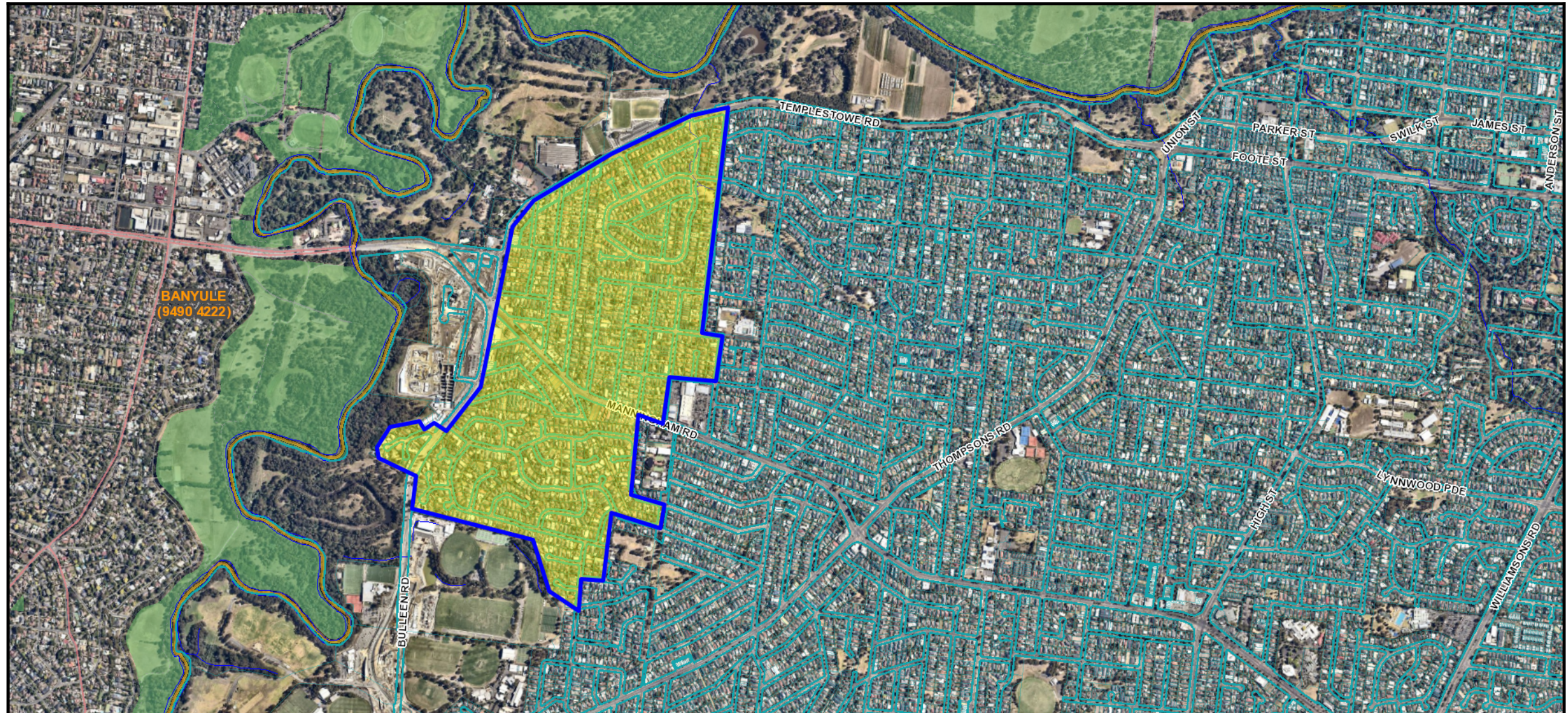
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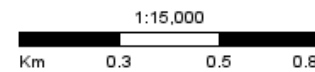


Maps of Manningham

Proposed area for parking changes



Whilst all care has been taken in the preparation of this cadastral base map, Manningham and State of Victoria accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of any information shown. Users should rely on their own enquiries in order to validate information shown on this map. This information is for Demonstration only.



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Produced by **Manningham GIS**

11 CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

There were no Connected Communities reports this month.

12 CITY SERVICES

There were no City Services reports this month.

13 EXPERIENCE AND CAPABILITY

13.1 Community Vision and Community Panel's Recommendations - formal response

File Number: IN25/157

Responsible Director: Director Experience and Capability

Attachments: 1 Manningham Council response to the Community Panel [↓](#)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

As part of our Commitment to the Community Panel, this report provides the officer's response to the 14 recommendations and one minority report that the panel presented to the Deputy Mayor on 1 February 2025 and seeks endorsement of the Community Vision as developed by the Community Panel.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Manningham Community Panel was formed in 2024 to inform the development of the Community Vision, the Council Plan, the Long-Term Financial Plan and the Asset Plan.

The panel comprised 37 community representatives who provided valuable insights and informed recommendations to guide Council's major strategic documents.

Over seven sessions from September 2024 to February 2025, panel members reviewed a wide range of data and community feedback to develop recommendations that will strongly influence Council's decisions.

The panel considered community needs, financial constraints, and service priorities through extensive discussions and learning sessions.

The panel's final report included a Community Vision, 14 recommendations and one minority report.

Council officers from across the organisation have carefully considered and responded to each of the 14 recommendations and the minority report. All recommendations have been supported and will be partially or fully implemented in the current Council term.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: CR DEIRDRE DIAMANTE
SECONDED: CR ANDREW CONLON

That Council:

- A. Endorse the Community Vision, as prepared by the Community Panel, of:**

"Manningham is a harmonious, inclusive and safe community that is committed to sustainable growth, wellbeing, and innovation. We celebrate our diversity and natural environment whilst fostering a connected community that enriches the lives of all."

- B. Endorse the attached *Manningham Council response to the Community Panel recommendations*.
- C. Note that the Mayor will meet with Community Panel members to share Council’s response with them.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 In early 2024, officers started planning a community panel in response to Section 55 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. This section states that Councils must adopt a community engagement policy that includes deliberative engagement to inform the development of the Community Vision, the Council Plan, the Long-Term Financial Plan and the Asset Plan.

2.2 At the February 2024 Council Meeting, the then Council endorsed the following motion:

'Endorse the implementation of an extended deliberative panel for the 2024/25 financial year to deliberate on topics to be determined by Council at a future date, as well as deliberate on the key strategic documents leading up to the next Council Plan.'

2.3 At the 25 June 2024 meeting, Council then endorsed the following remit, commitment and promise to the Community Panel to enable the recruitment process to commence:

Remit	<p>Council has a budget of \$147m, but we can't do everything and need to make hard choices. We need to know what services you value most to help us create a new Council Plan, Asset Plan and Financial Plan to guide Council activity for the next four years to align with the Community Vision. It will inform what the community pays and gets in return.</p> <p>What range and level of services are you prepared to pay for?</p>
Commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Community Panel’s self-written recommendation report is made public immediately upon completion. • Council will publish a public response document describing actions responding to each recommendation, including any decisions not to act on recommendations. This will be published within 45 days of the final meeting. • The Mayor will meet with the Community Panel to discuss this response document within 30 days of publication. • Council will implement the Community Panel’s recommendations to the maximum extent possible
Promise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to what you say • Provide clear information that builds your knowledge of Council services.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to understand your concerns and priorities. • Report back on what we have heard. • Base the Council Plan, Asset Plan, and Financial Plan on your recommendations to the maximum extent possible. • Identify where your recommendations have influenced the Council's strategic documents and service decisions. • Identify where we can't incorporate a recommendation and clearly explain why. • Provide transparent, annual progress updates during implementation
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- 2.4 An independent research organisation then undertook the recruitment via a two-step randomised selection process. The first step was to send 8,000 invitations to random addresses across the municipality. The second step was to create a stratified sample from the first step of respondents to match key demographic criteria from our municipality.
- 2.5 The panel started with 40 people and finished with 37 still involved.
- 2.6 The panel commenced with an online meet and greet session on 11 September 2024 and then met for six full days between September 2024 and February 2025 to analyse and deliberate on the remit.
- 2.7 To get to the final list of recommendations, the panel developed their own group working agreements, learnt about critical thinking, social styles and brain biases, spent around 1,680 hours together (not counting the extra hours reading the information provided), heard from over 50 speakers and presenters from Council and Community, and wrote and rewrote the recommendations.
- 2.8 On the panel's final day, 1 February, each recommendation was voted on by the panel and, as clearly stated at the beginning of the process, each recommendation needed an 80% yes vote before being included in the final report.
- 2.9 At the end of the final day, the panel presented their final report to the Deputy Mayor with several other Councillors in attendance.

3. DISCUSSION / ISSUE

- 3.1 The panel's final report includes a Community Vision, 14 recommendations and one minority report. The Minority report means that although the recommendation did get a yes vote from 80% of the present panel members, three-panel members felt compelled to put a variation forward. The one minority report came from three young people on the panel.
- 3.2 The Community Vision prepared by the panel is:

Manningham is a harmonious, inclusive and safe community that is committed to sustainable growth, wellbeing, and innovation. We celebrate our diversity and natural environment whilst fostering a connected community that enriches the lives of all.

- 3.3 As per our commitment to the community when we recruited for the panel, officers carefully considered and responded to each of the 14 recommendations and the one minority report.
- 3.4 All 14 Recommendations have been supported and will be partially or fully implemented in the current Council term.
- 3.5 Our full response is included in the attachment *Manningham Council response to the Community Panel recommendations*, with the table below providing an overview of the recommendations and our level of support.

Recommendation headline		Council response
1	Prioritising resources for seniors	Support
2	Investing in community safety	Support
3	Retaining existing and creating new and open spaces	Support
4	Increase Manningham connectivity through Bus Service	Support
5	Address cost shifting	Support
6	Youth Community Engagement	Support
7	Health and wellbeing support	Support
8	Council Assets, Multi-Use Facilities	Support
9	Promoting awareness of services available through customer service using existing and new platforms.	Support
10	Improving Manningham’s active transport network (constructive footpaths and bicycle lanes)	Support
11	Funding community festivals and activities	Support
12	Upgrades for Local shops and business	Support
13	Explore and unlock new revenue streams to add to the remit budget, from available resources (not just assets)	Support
14	Equitable support for families and individuals in urgent need	Support

4. COUNCIL PLAN / STRATEGY

- 4.1 Well governed Council - A Council that values our customers and community in all that we do.

5. IMPACTS AND IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Finance / Resource Implications

Nil

6. IMPLEMENTATION

- 6.1 Communication and Engagement

Is engagement required?	Not at this stage of the initiative – significant community engagement has been undertaken
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	<p>prior to and through the Community Panel.</p> <p>Following the endorsement of the Community Vision and Council’s response to the recommendations the panel, community and organisation will be informed.</p>
Stakeholder Groups	Nil
Where does it sit on the IAP2 spectrum?	Inform
Approach	<p>The Mayor will meet with the Panel to share Council’s the response.</p> <p>The response report will be made publicly available through our Your Say Manningham Page.</p> <p>The Community Vision will be communicated through our Strategic Documents, including the Council Plan.</p>

6.2 Timelines

The Mayor will be meeting with the Community Panel following the endorsement of our response.

The Community Vision and Panel recommendations will inform the development of our Strategic Documents, including the Council Plan, Long Term Financial Plan, and Asset Plan. We are working to have these documents considered at the June Council Meeting.

7. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest in this matter.



Manningham Council response to the **Community Panel recommendations**

March 2025





Acknowledgement of Country

Manningham Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as the Traditional Owners of the land and waterways that is now known as Manningham.

Council pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging, and values the ongoing contribution to enrich and appreciate the cultural heritage of Manningham.

Council acknowledges and respects Australia's First Peoples as Traditional Owners of lands and waterways across Country and encourages reconciliation between all.

Our diverse community

Council also values the contribution made to Manningham over the years by people of diverse backgrounds and cultures.

Our commitment to gender equality

We are committed to ensuring that everyone in our community is treated with dignity, respect and fairness. We consider the gender, equality and diversity of all people in our community as we develop our plans, strategies and services. We will uphold our requirements in the Victorian Government's *Gender Equality Act 2020* and will continue to seek ways to improve all that we do to make Manningham a safe, respectful and inclusive community.

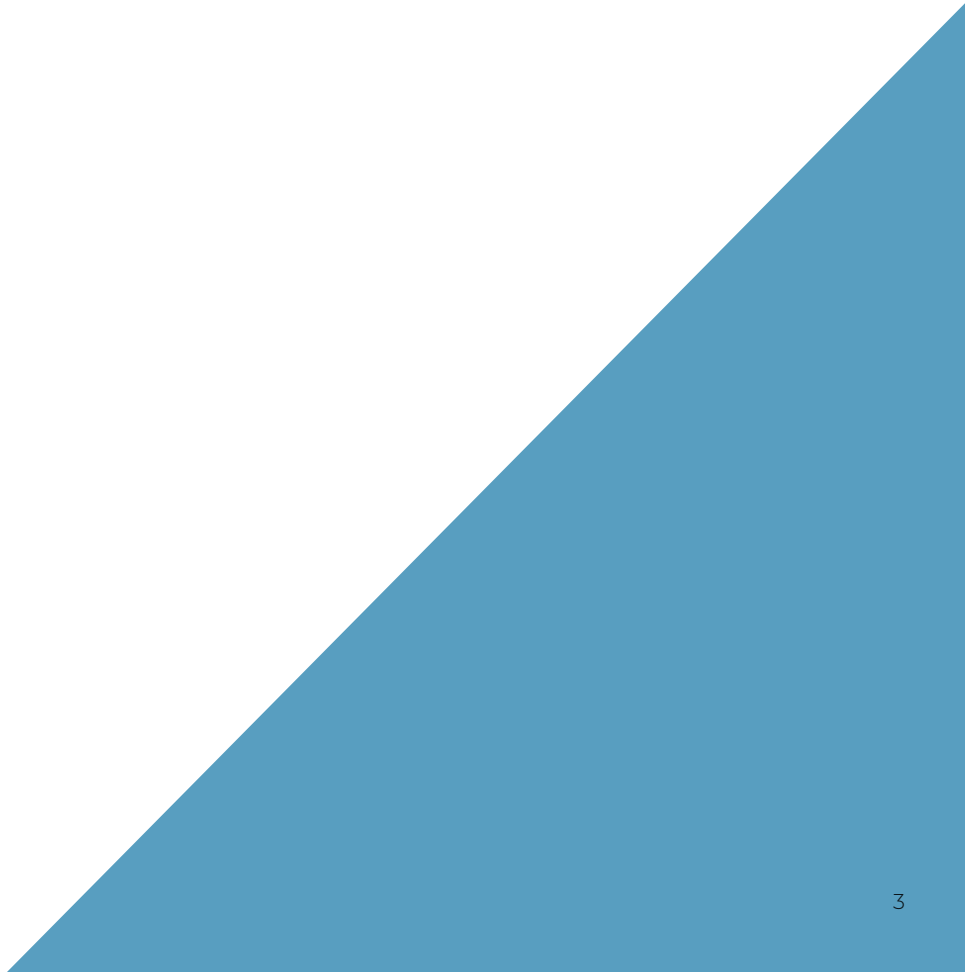
Our commitment to people with disability

We are committed to working with our community to enhance the health and well-being of people with disabilities. Activities targeting people with disabilities are integrated and reflected across our Council Plan, our Health and Wellbeing Strategy and associated action places to address the Victorian Government's *Disability Act 2006 s 38(1)*.



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Message from our Mayor

Following a wonderfully collaborative experience with the Manningham Community Panel, I am pleased to present the Panel's recommendations, along with Council's responses to each.

This document highlights the important work of the Panel in identifying their key priorities and aspirations that will shape Manningham's future.

Engaging a diverse group of people from various age groups, cultural backgrounds and geographic locations across Manningham has provided valuable insights.

The input of Panel members will ensure our strategic plans are grounded in the experiences and perspectives of our community in Manningham. This dynamic approach is helping us build a roadmap for a future that is inclusive, resilient, sustainable and vibrant for all.

The Panel's mission was to help identify Manningham's key priorities, challenges and opportunities – guiding us as we develop the Community Vision 2040, the four-year Council Plan and the 10-year Asset and Financial Plans.

Over the course of their deliberations, Panel members contributed around 1,680 collective hours to the process and heard from more than 50 speakers, including Council staff and community members.

The recommendations that follow cover a broad range of important themes, from community safety and transport, to open spaces and more. Council has carefully considered each recommendation and prepared a detailed response, outlining how we plan to approach and implement them.

We are focused on using the Panel's insights to inform our future work and ensure we move forward in a way that best serves our community.

Thank you to each of our Panel members for their dedication, time and contributions throughout this process. Your collective efforts, open dialogue and willingness to collaborate have been essential in shaping the recommendations we now have. Your engagement in these discussions will strengthen the foundation of our plans and our connection with our community.

I also want to thank the staff, contractors and community speakers who supported this process – your involvement has been essential in helping us build a shared vision for the future.

As Mayor, I am dedicated to ensuring these recommendations shape the ongoing development of our community. I look forward to continuing our collaboration with residents, working together to create a Manningham where everyone can thrive.

Kind regards,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diamante'.

Cr Deirdre Diamante
Mayor

Introduction

In September 2024, we took a crucial step towards building a future for Manningham, guided by the voices and values of our community

The Manningham Community Panel was formed and tasked with delving into complex challenges to help determine key priorities to shape the direction of our community.

Over seven externally facilitated sessions, 37 Panel members reviewed a wide range of data and community feedback. They engaged in robust deliberations, working collaboratively to develop well-considered recommendations that reflect community values.

The Manningham Community Panel handed over its recommendations to Council at its final meeting on 1 February 2025. The Panel's final report contains 14 recommendations and one minority report.

Council officers from across the organisation have carefully considered and responded to the recommendations, which have all been supported or supported in principle and will strongly influence Council's decisions.

This dynamic process will play a crucial role in helping guide our strategic planning, including our four-year Council Plan, 10-year Asset and Financial Plans and our Community Vision 2040.



Our approach to deliberative engagement

A deliberative engagement process puts the community at the centre of the decision-making. We sought and received expert advice from external consultants to inform our approach and facilitate the deliberations.

We worked with independent non-profit research group, [newDemocracy Foundation](#) and [MosaicLab's](#) team of experienced facilitators and engagement practitioners, specialising in high-influence and deliberative engagement.

They provided independent advice on a structured method to deliver the Manningham Community Panel deliberative process.

The '[Deliberative Plan and Process Design](#)' document explained how to meet the requirements of the *Victorian Local Government Act (2020)* and provide informed community insights to Manningham Councillors.

Our process followed seven key principles to ensure fairness, informed decision making and meaningful outcomes:

1. **Clear remit** – A well-defined scope of what the Panel was required to do.
2. **Representative panel** – Reflecting Manningham's community via stratified random selection.
3. **In-depth information** – historical information, data and costs were provided to the Panel.
4. **Time for deliberation** – Meetings held over several months, which included 1,680 collective participant hours of deliberation.
5. **Genuine influence** – Council committed to consider and incorporate the Panel's recommendations in its future plans to the fullest extent possible.
6. **Consensus-driven** – At least 80% agreement was required among Panel members for each recommendation.
7. **Independent decision-making** – The Panel shaped its own responses.

This deliberative engagement process is in line with the principles and practices set out in Council's [Community Engagement Policy](#).

"The process was great! You get to meet people within the community, different age groups, different backgrounds. [It] was really open and straightforward."

– Selina, Community Panel member

"I was actually happy with this process because it's involving us – the community and the public – with their decision making and their process of providing these services which we are [benefiting] from."

– Hanan, Community Panel member

Our promise to the Community Panel

As part of the deliberative plan and process design, Council committed to implementing the recommendations of the Community Panel to the maximum extent possible and publicly and substantively responding to the recommendations in full, with reasoning.

Our promise to the Community Panel...

- Listen to what you say.
- Provide clear information that builds your knowledge of Council services.
- Work to understand your concerns and priorities.
- Report back on what we have heard.
- Base the Council Plan, Asset Plan and Financial Plan on your recommendations to the maximum extent possible.
- Identify where your recommendations have influenced the Council's strategic documents and service decisions.
- Identify where we can't incorporate a recommendation and clearly explain why.
- Provide transparent, annual progress updates during implementation.



Our Community Panel

How were the Panel members selected?

In early August 2024, 8,000 randomly selected households across Manningham received an invitation to express their interest in participating in this engagement.

From those who applied, independent non-profit research group, newDemocracy, coordinated a stratified random draw of 37 people – ensuring a diverse and representative group of community members.

The random selection process meant that everyone in the community had an equal chance of registering their interest and being selected to be a Community Panel member (within the demographic they represent).

This diversity was valuable as the Panel considered the challenges and opportunities facing Manningham and in developing their recommendations to Council.

Why was this process undertaken?

We established the Community Panel so Council's decisions would reflect the priorities, concerns and aspirations of our diverse community – ensuring their voices are heard and valued.

This process will help ensure that our major strategic documents are directly informed by our community. This includes our Council Plan, Community Vision, 10 Year Financial Plan and Asset Plan, which are pivotal in our efforts to plan for the future of Manningham.

By engaging our community in a deliberative process, we have strengthened our collaboration and connections, offering a more inclusive and informed foundation for future planning.

What was the Panel asked to do?

Council endorsed the following remit (the question to be answered) for the Manningham Community Panel at its [25 June 2024 meeting](#).

Council has a budget of \$147m, but we can't do everything and need to make hard choices. We need to know what services you value most to help us create a new Council Plan, Asset Plan and Financial Plan to guide Council activity for the next four years to align with the Community Vision. It will inform what the community pays and gets in return.

What range and level of services are you prepared to pay for?

We asked the Panel to prepare a self-written recommendation report, with a rationale and supporting evidence in response to the remit.

The Panel was also asked to review the Community Vision set in 2021 to ensure it was relevant to the current community needs.



Community Vision 2040

Manningham is a harmonious, inclusive and safe community that is committed to sustainable growth, wellbeing, and innovation. We celebrate our diversity and natural environment whilst fostering a connected community that enriches the lives of all.

— Manningham Community Panel (2025)

How did the Panel arrive at its recommendations?

To assist with their deliberations, Panel members were provided with a detailed [Background Information Document](#), which described the issues and challenges facing Council.

They then attended seven facilitated learning and deliberation sessions, held between September 2024 to February 2025.

During these sessions, Panel members reviewed a wide range of data and community feedback. They heard from several speakers, including Council staff and community members, which provided various perspectives on each topic of discussion.

The Panel also had the opportunity to ask for additional information as they considered different topics and issues in their deliberations.

A minimum of 80 per cent consensus was required for a recommendation to be included in the final report.

“Listening was the best thing. That’s what most people will tell you, that we had to listen to everyone’s view even if it wasn’t what I was exactly thinking.”

– Evelyn, Community Panel member

“I wasn’t aware of this level of democracy ... that allows the residents to express their needs. That was very impressive. I’m very surprised and I’m very happy to have come through this experience.”

– Hassan, Community Panel member

Community input and participation

Local residents, businesses and community organisations have contributed to the panel's work and the development of our Council Plan, long-term Financial Plan and Asset Plan in several ways.

Feedback received from community consultations assisted the Panel in understanding the broader community's priorities and aspirations for Manningham.

In addition to the Panel's recommendations, our strategic documents will be informed by:

- **Plan Manningham 2025+ community survey**
In this survey we asked our community members share their top three priority areas for Council to focus its resources on over the next four years. We received more than 1,260 survey responses between May and July 2024.
- **Targeted conversations**
Community members were invited to join our series of targeted conversations held in mid-2024. These were small group discussions where we brought people with similar backgrounds or interests together to discuss detailed information around topics relevant to their needs and priorities.
- **Individual submissions from community members**
We invited community members to share ideas on how to improve Council services and shape our community's future as individual submission to the Community Panel. Submissions received were considered by the Panel as they deliberated and prepared their recommendations for our major strategic plans.

Observing the Panel

As part of our commitment to an open and transparent process, community members were invited to attend each of the Community Panel sessions to observe the proceedings.

Interested residents and community members were able to register and attend for 90 minute segments, to observe the Panel, their process and deliberations.



Summary of responses from Manningham Council

The Community Panel made 14 recommendations and one Minority Report in its final report, provided to Council on 1 February 2025.

Council supports all 14 recommendations, along with the minority report. The table below summarises Council's response to each of the Panel's recommendations with the actions dependent on the detail and implementation timeline.

The level of support is defined as:

Support – Endorsed by Council and ready for part or full implementation within current council term.

Not support – Will not be implemented.

A more detailed response for each recommendation is included in the following section, including actions and additional information.

How to read our responses to the recommendations

Numbering

The recommendations are not in priority order and the numbers are just to provide an easy reference point.

Blue boxes

The text in the blue boxes remains true to the Panel's recommendations, and no words have been changed. Our response addresses the Panel recommendation and does not reflect all work undertaken by Council concerning the broad subject of the recommendation.

Actions

These actions are our commitment to what we will do about the recommendation and will be reflected in regular updates to the community.

Comments

Further information is included here to clarify, or provide general information or background information about the actions above.

Recommendation headline		Council response
1	Prioritising resources for seniors	Support
2	Investing in community safety	Support
3	Retaining existing and creating new and open spaces	Support
4	Increase Manningham connectivity through Bus Service	Support
5	Address cost shifting	Support
6	Youth Community Engagement	Support
7	Health and wellbeing support	Support
8	Council Assets, Multi-Use Facilities	Support
9	Promoting awareness of services available through customer service using existing and new platforms.	Support
10	Improving Manningham's active transport network (constructive footpaths and bicycle lanes)	Support
11	Funding community festivals and activities	Support
12	Upgrades for Local shops and business	Support
13	Explore and unlock new revenue streams to add to the remit budget, from available resources (not just assets)	Support
14	Equitable support for families and individuals in urgent need	Support





**Recommendations
and responses**

Recommendation 1**Prioritising resources for seniors**

Increase resources in areas like living assistance, transportation, and social interactions in order to reduce loneliness and improve wellbeing.

COUNCIL RESPONSE: SUPPORT

Except for living assistance, which is managed by My Aged Care.

Action

We will:

- Develop and implement an Age-friendly City Framework and Action Plan for Manningham to provide a range of opportunities to support wellbeing and reduce loneliness, including transport and social participation.
- Help residents access a range of services and programs, including:
 - Manningham Community Transport
 - supporting opportunities for seniors to participate in community life, including senior clubs, grants and dementia-friendly initiatives.

Comments

We are developing a new Age-friendly City Framework, a holistic approach to healthy ageing looks at that considers all elements of living well in senior years. This framework cuts across many Council services and focuses on:

- community and health care
- housing (which will also relate to the new Residential Strategy)
- social participation
- outdoor spaces and buildings
- social inclusion
- civic participation and employment
- communication.

We do not directly provide living assistance. These services are delivered by Commonwealth Government-appointed contractors accessed through the [My Aged Care web platform](#). Specially trained Council staff help residents navigate My Aged Care.

Note: This recommendation closely aligns with Recommendations 7 and 14.

How progressed do you expect this recommendation to be in four years' (2028)?

Fully implemented.

Recommendation 2**Investing in community safety**

Council should be proactive in identifying where risks to safety are higher. Additionally they should only approve plans that comply with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.

COUNCIL RESPONSE: SUPPORT**Action**

We will:

- Apply Crime Prevention Through Environment Design (CPTED) principles to enhance safety in parks, open spaces, and activity centres. Creating inviting, well-lit, and active public spaces will reduce the likelihood of crime and foster safer communities
- Meet regularly with Victoria Police on safety and emergency management
- Hold forums to inform the community about safety initiatives led by Victoria Police, Council, and other agencies
- Update our Road Safety Strategy in 2025
- Seek Transport Accident Commission (TAC) funding to improve pedestrian and vehicle safety
- Have a plan to develop a public lighting review program by July 2026
- Update our processes to ensure CPTED principles are considered in our project planning phases by December 2026.

Comments

We heard from the Community Panel that community safety is important.

While Victoria Police lead actions for community safety, we work closely with them and others to develop a joint approach. As community safety is a very broad term, our response focuses on addressing this in many ways, including:

- participating in local Safety Committee with all partners, including Victoria Police, Neighbourhood Watch, Education Department and Westfield
- conducting lighting, road and footpath audits
- running public education campaigns
- listening to our advisory committees about what they are hearing in our community
- working closely with Victoria Police in quick responses to race-based vandalism
- working with young people and coordinating a clinical or welfare response to at risk youth
- regular conversations between senior police command and council officers to look at emerging data and issues that we can jointly address.

We heard from the Community Panel that they want us to do more hence, we will look to increase this focus in our next Council Plan.

How progressed do you expect this recommendation to be in four years' (2028)?

Implemented.

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Recommendation 3**Retaining existing and creating new and open spaces**

We need to ensure there is sufficient green or open space available for our residents and pets, especially in areas of high density development to include the following:

- Provision of shelter, BBQ, Playground, off-leash areas, exercise, and toilets facilities.
- Open spaces should be considerate of the Domestic Animal Management Plan which will be implemented.

COUNCIL RESPONSE: SUPPORT**Action**

We will:

- Review the existing Public Open Space contribution levied on developers to fund new open space and upgrades to existing open space which currently requires:
 - an 8% contribution for high growth areas
 - a 5% contribution where less change is forecast.
- Refresh our 20-year [Parks Improvement Program](#) to make our parks better for the community. This involves:
 - assessing park size, location and accessibility
 - studying the local population
 - consulting with community members to understand their needs.
- Review our [Domestic Animal Management Plan](#)

These steps help determine which facilities, such as playgrounds, fitness equipment, shelters and toilets, are appropriate for each park. We will also ensure that facilities are evenly distributed across Manningham to provide equal access for all.

Comments

We will develop a new Open Space Strategy to replace the [Open Space Strategy 2014](#), to guide the management and development of our open space network.

The new Strategy will respond to the projected residential growth so that communities have an accessible, diverse, well-connected and high-quality green open space network. The Strategy will support the community to recreate, socialise and/or find respite from the urban environment.

The development of the Strategy will be complex and we anticipate delivering it over the term of this Council. We will consult with our community later this year.

In some situations, especially in growth areas where there are gaps in open space, we may need to buy residential land and convert it into open space. Developer contributions fund this program and can only be used to purchase and upgrade open space. We also apply for Victorian Government funding where available. The new Open Space Strategy will help guide investment and strengthen our case for grants.



The final Open Space Strategy will be completed, and we will prepare a Planning Scheme Amendment. We will implement upgrades to open spaces as part of the annual capital works program will continue as an ongoing program.

How progressed do you expect this recommendation to be in four years' (2028)?

Fully implemented.



Recommendation 4**Increase Manningham connectivity through Bus Service**

Advocate for improved bus services and routes to align with local community needs, particularly connecting key areas like activity centres, schools, universities and residential zones.

Improving the frequency of the Manningham Bus Loop (Route 282) and route connecting more activity centres such as Jackson Court. The route currently does not extend to Warrandyte, Park Orchards and Wonga Park which are also in the Manningham Municipality.

Expanding route to include suburbs/streets with a significant degrees of elevation (e.g. Dellfield Drive, Mayfair Avenue).

COUNCIL RESPONSE: SUPPORT**Action**

We will:

- Continue to advocate to the State Government for the improvements to Manningham's bus network promised by Victoria's Bus Plan
- Seek the new bus route mapping tested by the 'North-East Bus Network Reform Pilot' to be shared with Council for feedback, and then advocate for funding to implement all improved and new routes on the ground. This will include increased frequency, reliability and efficiency and better connectivity for our eastern suburbs including Warrandyte, Wonga Park and Park Orchards
- Progress the objectives and actions on the Manningham Transport Action Plan 2021 and Bus Network Review 2017 or its equivalent.

Comments

The Victorian Government manage the public bus network. We agree that there is a need to improve connectivity throughout the whole municipality.

As the only metropolitan municipality in Melbourne without a rail network, improving the bus network is a key transport priority, as outlined in our Transport Action Plan. This plan includes finding appropriate solutions to improve the bus network to address our community's needs and exploring potential options like on-demand bus services.

The Victorian Government often looks at the number of people who use a bus service to decide when or if to fund improvements. To increase the likelihood of securing funding, we plan to promote the benefits of bus use in Manningham this year to boost ridership and improve our chances of obtaining funding for improvements.

The bus network map for Manningham includes all bus routes including 280/282 (the Manningham Mover). One of the challenges with the Manningham Mover is the low patronage, which means it is not seen as a high priority for the State government. That said, we will continue to advocate for the best outcomes for our community.

How progressed do you expect this recommendation to be in four years' (2028)?

Partially implemented.

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Recommendation 5**Address cost shifting**

To alleviate the financial pressures and burdens that Manningham council faces from the state government's cost shifting. This could be achieved by Manningham council clearly advocating for fundings requirements and responsibility to be agreed on before Council assumes responsibility for a service. This should apply to new and existing services.

COUNCIL RESPONSE: SUPPORT**Action**

We will:

- Advocate for increased financial support from the Victorian Government. Advocacy will take the form of direct advocacy to the State Government through Council, Regional Council groups and through encouraging the Municipal Association of Victoria to lead advocacy campaigns.

Comments

Cost shifting is the practice whereby the Victorian Government delegates responsibilities, adds regulations, sets fees, or withdraws or reduces financial support once a program is established.

Cost shifting by the Victorian Government can also include:

- the transfer of assets without appropriate funding support
- the requirement to provide concessions and rebates without compensation payments
- increased regulatory and compliance requirements; and
- failure to provide for indexation of fees and charges for services prescribed under state legislation or regulation.

Cost shifting's impact on Manningham Council is anticipated to be nearly \$17 million per annum (and growing) from 2025/26.

Note: This recommendation strongly aligns with Recommendation 13.

How progressed do you expect this recommendation to be in four years' (2028)?

Partially implemented.

Recommendation 6**Youth community engagement**

We would like to see affordable programs for the youth. Provide discounts for under 18s at all Council facilities for better participation.

Design programs to support health and wellbeing of Manningham youth.

COUNCIL RESPONSE: SUPPORT

Support is given to both Recommendation and Minority Report.

Action

We will:

- Develop and deliver a bi-annual youth forum to enable the voice of young people to be heard and contribute to the development of the wellbeing of Manningham
- Deliver Manningham Youth Services and activate Manningham Youth Hub (MY Hub) in collaboration with associated youth service providers and schools. This will provide dynamic and diverse programs to support good mental health of young people and engage young people in a range of opportunities to participate
- Deliver the Manningham Youth Advisory Committee and other engagement forums tailored to young people, providing robust platforms for the voice of young people to contribute to Council direction and decisions that impact their lives
- Investigate increased opportunities to provide discount entry to Manningham facilities e.g. Aquarena noting comment in Minority Report.

Comments

Involving young people is a key priority for Council and the Minority Report from the Panel provides an alternative recommendation to amplify the voice of young people and include more young people in decision-making processes, while prioritising mental health supports for young people.

This recommendation aligns strongly with our new four-year Health and Wellbeing Action Plan.

Manningham Youth Services is a key Council service, delivered by a third party on behalf of Council. It provides a broad range of support services for young people and their families/ carers, including:

- in-house and outreach programs
- individual support
- drop-in services
- wellbeing support
- referrals to clinical support
- social programs
- life-skill programs

- mentoring and peer support
- close collaboration with local schools and local service providers.

We also partner with community safety and support services to maximise youth participation (and minimise anti-social behaviours) by providing a variety of recreation, sporting and cultural activities and volunteering opportunities.

Manningham Youth Advisory Committee (MYAC) has a membership of young people to help inform Council directions about matters that affect young people. They work closely with local schools and other service providers to provide wrap-around support for young people via initiatives through our VicHealth Partnership and Youth Providers Network.

We also host the annual Principals' Breakfast as a roundtable and practical workshop and are exploring opportunities on targeted issues, such as a youth forum.

Note: The Minority Report recommendation also aligns with Recommendations 7 and 14.

How progressed do you expect this recommendation to be in four years' (2028)?

Fully implemented.

Minority Report 1 - Youth Recommendation 7

What is this in relation to?

Final Draft no. 7 - Youth Community Engagement and Safety

Comments we would like noted:

As the young people of Manningham, we believe it is the individual's motive to improve themselves and engage. Manningham Council already has events and the support for this, so investing more into it will only create more loss. The money could be spent on other groups who need more support e.g. Seniors. If the council really wants to provide additional support for youth, consider merging this into Original Recommendation 8 to focus on mental health of youth.

As the younger participants of this panel, we believe Council should engage more youth into the deciding making processes. More youth voices should be heard when decisions are being made on topics that would interest or impact them.

Note: Council has responded to Minority Report 1 - Youth Recommendation 7 as part of the response to Recommendation 6 (page 20).

Recommendation 7**Health and wellbeing support**

Implement and sustain a long-term program focused on enhancing the overall mental health and well-being of Manningham residents, with a particular emphasis on mental health, youth, and ageing.

For mental health, prioritise awareness through education, campaigns, and publications to support prevention efforts. Rather than directly providing services, the Council will play a key role in guiding and connecting residents to the support they need.

COUNCIL RESPONSE: SUPPORT**Action**

We will:

- Raise awareness and promote opportunities for healthy lifestyles and good physical health, to support good mental health and wellbeing outcomes
- Work with community partner service providers to action health and wellbeing outcomes identified in the [Health and Wellbeing Plan](#).
- Advocate for mental health services to improve health and wellbeing.

Comments

We have a legislated obligation to develop a Health and Wellbeing Plan addressing 10 priorities, one of which is improving wellbeing. This plan acknowledges the interconnection between mental and physical health, recognising that:

- people with mental health issues are more vulnerable to chronic conditions like diabetes and heart disease
- poor physical health can exacerbate mental health challenges.

This recommendation supports Council's role in promoting healthy eating, good physical health and physical activity, and reducing tobacco harm – which can improve overall wellbeing and help prevent mental illness. We also recognise the relationship of mental health on other social issues such as unemployment, social isolation, gambling, drug/alcohol addiction, family violence, homelessness and food insecurity.

Addressing mental ill-health requires a combined effort that involves:

- Victorian and Commonwealth Government services at the clinical/medical end of the spectrum
- Council-led prevention activities such as healthy lifestyles and social connection activities.

Note: This recommendation strongly aligns with Recommendation 6 (and associated Minority Report) and Recommendation 14.

Note: This recommendation also aligns strongly with our new four-year Health and Wellbeing Action Plan.

How progressed do you expect this recommendation to be in four years' (2028)?

Fully implemented.

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Recommendation 8

Council assets, multi-use facilities

Transitioning single use facilities into multi-use facilities that can be shared for all different demographics (e.g. sporting groups, seniors, youth).

COUNCIL RESPONSE: SUPPORT

Action

We will:

- Implement the [Community Infrastructure Plan](#)'s short-term actions action relating to Warrandyte Community Facilities.
- Improve the health and wellbeing of residents as outlined in the Public Health and Wellbeing Act.

Comments

One of the guiding principles for our [Community Infrastructure Plan](#) is to "maximise the functionality and use of our existing community infrastructure". To support this principle, actions are planned to conduct a detailed review of existing community facilities in Warrandyte and Wonga Park. The review will consider the consolidation of existing facilities. The Warrandyte Community Facilities review is identified as a short-term priority (actions addressed by 2028) and the Wonga Park is a medium-term priority (actions addressed between 2029-2035).

We are required to prepare a Health and Wellbeing Plan addressing 10 key priorities, one of which is improving wellbeing.

By supporting shared multi-use facilities and encouraging participants across a range of demographics, we aim to improve physical, mental, emotional and social wellbeing in our community.

How progressed do you expect this recommendation to be in four years' (2028)?

Implemented.

Recommendation 9**Promoting awareness of services available through customer service using existing and new platforms**

This initiative aims to boost awareness of customer service and council services offerings by leveraging both traditional and new platforms, such as AI chatbots, social media (e.g. Instagram) and mobile apps. Through targeted campaigns and user-friendly communication strategies, we empower customers to access and utilise available services effectively, enhancing satisfaction and awareness.

COUNCIL RESPONSE: SUPPORT**Action**

We will:

- Provide our community with a range of channels to interact with us, aligning with our promise to celebrate choice, including telephone, email, in-person, live chat (including AI Chat Bot), webforms, Snap Send Solve and social media.
- Progress existing customer experience initiatives to improve and enhance current engagement channels and measure performance and customer sentiment through these channels.
- Investigate and report back on the use of new platforms promote awareness of customer service and council services to enhance how we engage and communicate with the community.

Comments

We are enhancing our existing program to generate insights into customer preferences, problems and complaints and enable us to identify and implement initiatives to improve customer experience. We will monitor our performance and measure success through customer feedback measures across a broad range of services, using them to further inform improvement opportunities, and sharing results with our community. This aligns with our Customer Promise to celebrate choice, serve consistently, respond proactively, and make it easy.

We will share our customer feedback performance measures, promote the available engagement channels, and raise further awareness of services offered across Manningham. We have also embarked on a multi-year Corporate Systems Program as part of our Technology and Data Strategy. This program will leverage modern technology to centralise and consolidate customer records and interactions, simplify customer processes and enhance communication and engagement campaign capabilities.

How progressed do you expect this recommendation to be in four years' (2028)?

Fully implemented.

Recommendation 10**Improving Manningham's active transport network
(constructive footpaths and bicycle lanes)**

Build new footpaths (first priority) and bike lanes (second priority) to facilitate easier commuting to facilities or other modes of transportation and encourage an active lifestyle.

COUNCIL RESPONSE: SUPPORT**Action**

We will:

- Continue to build new footpaths and bicycle infrastructure in accordance with the [Capital Works Program](#).
- Prepare a revised Active Transport Strategy for Manningham in 2026. In part, the new strategy will:
 - identify, assess and prioritise new pedestrian and cycling links for construction
 - promote and encourage active transport as a lifestyle choice.
 - review of all walking and cycling strategic documents,

Comments

In the meantime, pedestrian and cycling projects will continue to progress in accordance with the [Capital Works program](#). Once the new strategy is completed in early 2026, it will:

- inform the prioritisation of walking and cycling projects in the Capital Works Program
- ensure that the delivery of these projects meets community need.

How progressed do you expect this recommendation to be in four years' (2028)?**Partially implemented.**

While the Active Travel Strategy will be completed, the delivery of all prioritised footpaths and bicycle lanes will continue past 2028.

Recommendation 11**Funding community festivals and activities**

Funding for general community and multicultural specific events that maximise engagement, involvement and connection.

COUNCIL RESPONSE: SUPPORT**Action**

We will support ongoing community engagement through diverse cultural events that foster inclusion by:

- partnering with local organisations to deliver events through our Annual Grant Program
- utilising sponsorship arrangements for larger events that require more funding or support
- maintaining minimal direct involvement in event organisation, allowing community groups to lead festival and event management
- directly managing events when no suitable partner is available or when an event serves a significant public or Council purpose (e.g. Carols by Candlelight).

Comments

Manningham Council provides funding through various grant programs and via our Sponsorship Policy.

We support and enable a wide range of community-driven festivals and events, such as the Manningham Family Festival and the Warrandyte Festival, both of which have been running for over 20 years. As demand for more community-run events grows, careful budget consideration is needed. Partnering with external sponsors may also be necessary for financial sustainability.

We work in partnership with external organisations to deliver both festivals and events. Our preference is to fund organisations through [Manningham's Annual Grant Program](#) or Sponsorship arrangements for larger events that require additional funding. This approach is cost-effective and minimises risk, while also enabling community engagement.

Barriers such as resourcing and funding constraints could affect our ability to support an increasing number of events under the current funding structures. Review our Annual Grant Program, Sponsorship Policy and cultural programming to understand and maximise multicultural communities, engagement, involvement and connection.

While the recommendation is supported in principle, further discussions are needed on event prioritisation and the potential for increased funding or private sector involvement.

Note: This recommendation aligns with our ongoing efforts to support multicultural and community events.

How progressed do you expect this recommendation to be in four years' (2028)?

Partially implemented.

Recommendation 12**Upgrades for local shops and business**

Revitalising local business centres by upgrading key activity hubs like Tunstall Square, Jackson Court, Templestowe Village, Macedon Square, and Bulleen Plaza. This effort will balance modernisation with input from local businesses and residents to ensure upgrades reflect community priorities while maintaining fairness across different precincts for day activities and nightlife.

COUNCIL RESPONSE: SUPPORT**Action**

We will:

- Continue implementing upgrades to local business centres as part of the Vibrant Villages Action Plan 2023 and Annual Placemaking Program.
- Deliver a phased approach to upgrading activity centres, focusing on high-impact improvements such as parking, public amenities and streetscape enhancements, ensuring that business-related concerns are a key consideration in each phase. A transparent process will prioritise upgrades based on both local business and community needs
- Deliver infrastructure upgrades that are prioritised within the 10-year capital works program, with resources allocated across centres
- Continue to consult with local businesses and traders through Trader Associations and community feedback, ensuring that their specific needs (such as parking, customer access, and visibility) are addressed alongside broader community priorities.

Comments

The Vibrant Villages Action Plan 2023 provides a framework for upgrading activity hubs, including Tunstall Square, Jackson Court, Templestowe Village, Macedon Square and Bulleen Plaza. Upgrades are already underway, guided by considerations of both local business needs and community priorities, ensuring a balanced approach that benefits all stakeholders.

In addition to the action plan, the Annual Placemaking Program supports our activity hubs with artistic initiatives and community-driven activities to maintain vibrancy while catering to business and resident concerns.

While budget constraints may affect the speed of implementation, ongoing reviews of the Vibrant Villages Action Plan and the Annual Placemaking Program will guide the phased upgrades, ensuring they align with the evolving needs of the community, businesses, and visitors.

Initial Implementation in key areas:

- Start refurbishment work at priority centres identified through consultation, focusing on high-impact improvements
- Pilot community-requested features such as improved parking or public amenities to evaluate their success before broader implementation.

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This approach will drive tangible progress, with upgrades tailored to the evolving needs of the community, businesses and visitors. The phased delivery will ensure that improvements are balanced, inclusive and reflect community priorities.

Activity centres will also become potential hubs for new housing development that will enhance the vibrancy and liveability of the centres. Increasing housing opportunities within our activity centres will improve the community wellbeing and connectedness of the centres.

To ensure our programs are meeting community needs, we will support the establishment of new trader associations to foster collaboration and ensure that businesses are well represented in the decision-making process.

How progressed do you expect this recommendation to be in four years' (2028)?

Partially implemented.



Recommendation 13**Explore and unlock new revenue streams to add to the remit budget, from available resources (not just assets)**

Consider revenue generation, financially sustainable, and diversification of revenue streams.

Council to conduct Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities Threats analysis of current assets to assess their utilization and identify opportunities for optimization or enhancement. This will guide the decision-making process in replacing outdated assets with new ones, ensuring they are both functional and appealing to all.

COUNCIL RESPONSE: SUPPORT**Action**

We will:

- Consider the diversification of our revenue streams to reduce our reliance on rates income and to ensure that we continue to be financially sustainable over the long term
- Analyse the utilisation of our assets and consider future needs. This will include the identification of opportunities for optimal usage of our assets such as multi-use facilities and co-location of services.

Comments

Council will continue to deliver on our [Strategic Property Portfolio](#) and [Community Infrastructure Plan](#).

Our [Strategic Property Portfolio](#) contributes to Council's vision of being a financially sustainable organisation. The intention is to acquire and/or develop property that will:

- strategically enhance opportunities for development and community enhancement; and/or
- provide us with an additional funding source to enhance services and associated infrastructure for the benefit of the community.

Our [Community Infrastructure Plan](#) will direct Manningham's significant investment in new and upgraded infrastructure and guide decisions to decommission those assets that no longer meet the needs of the community.

This recommendation should be well-integrated into [Council's financial strategy](#), with new revenue streams identified and some already generating returns. A formal review at the four-year mark will evaluate our progress, refine strategies and explore further opportunities for sustainable growth.

How progressed do you expect this recommendation to be in four years' (2028)?

Implemented.

Recommendation 14**Equitable support for families and individuals in urgent need**

Ensure that support is efficient (making sure that rate payers money is not wasted) and available to families needing immediate assistance through working together with local services.

COUNCIL RESPONSE: SUPPORT**Action**

We will continue to work with local strategic partners to provide a range of services and programs that support wellbeing and community participation of residents experiencing various forms of disadvantage.

Comments

This recommendation aligns strongly with our four-year [Health and Wellbeing Action Plan](#).

Our Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Service is experiencing an increase in parents needing support, being affected by family violence, mental health and requiring access to emergency food relief and associated services. MCH delivers targeted programs to meet this need, including:

- the Circle of Security program to help parents build and strengthen a secure relationship with their child
- a parenting group specifically for dads.

Many people are facing the difficult choice between paying the rent or buying food.

Local food relief services are experiencing increasing demand and decreasing food supply.

To address this issue, we need to collaborate with local groups and neighbouring Councils to find innovative ways to support those in urgent need.

We have a legislated obligation to develop a Health and Wellbeing Plan, which must address 10 key priorities, including:

- the relationship between social issues like unemployment, social isolation, gambling, drug/alcohol addiction, family violence, homelessness and food insecurity.

We work with a range of local expert partners to address a range of social needs.

Our efforts include:

- funding agreements with local service providers in a coordinated approach to deliver food relief
- facilitating the [Manningham Food Relief Network](#) to meet community needs.



Family violence is prevalent across all life stages and is an underlying trigger to many social issues, including:

- community safety, community connection
- mental ill health
- homelessness, and food security
- accessing affordable services, from clinical support to essential services to daily needs such as swimming lessons for children.

Note: This recommendation relates closely with Recommendations 1, 6 and 7.


How progressed do you expect this recommendation to be in four years' (2028)?

Fully implemented.



Manningham Council

 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster

 9840 9333

 manningham@manningham.vic.gov.au

 manningham.vic.gov.au

 yoursaymanningham.com.au



Interpreter service **9840 9355** 普通话 廣東話 Ελληνικά Italiano العربية فارسي

13.2 Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) - National General Assembly Motion - June 2025

File Number: IN25/173
Responsible Director: Director Experience and Capability
Attachments: Nil

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement for a motion to be submitted for consideration at the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly (NGA).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council may submit an advocacy motion to the ALGA for consideration at their NGA scheduled for 24-27 June 2025. This report proposes one motion related to soft plastics waste management.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: CR ANNA CHEN
SECONDED: CR ISABELLA ELTAHA

That Council:

- A. endorse the ALGA National General Assembly Motion outlined below and submit the motion to ALGA ahead of the 24-27 June 2025 National General Assembly:**

Motion title: Advocacy for Soft Plastics Waste Management: A Call for Manufacturer Responsibility and Industry Collaboration

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to advocate for a national strategy addressing the growing issue of soft plastics waste, urging manufacturers of soft plastics to take greater responsibility for the end-of-life management of their products. Furthermore, the ALGA calls for increased industry collaboration, particularly with the Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC), to strengthen relationships with manufacturers and relevant industry bodies to develop long-term, viable processing solutions. There is a need for a disposal and processing solution that will not compromise the quality of other recyclable materials collected in residential kerbside services.

- B. Authorise the CEO in consultation with the Mayor to make minor changes to improve the wording of the motion outlined above and/or to update the motion relative to any changes to the issue that may occur, providing the intent remains consistent with Council's endorsed motion.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The National General Assembly of the ALGA serves as a key forum for local government representatives to propose and discuss matters of national importance.
- 2.2 The next meeting the of NGA will be held in Canberra from 24-27 June 2025. Councils have been invited to submit motions on this year's NGA theme 'National Priorities Need Local Solutions'.
- 2.3 In submitting motions, Council must consider:
- 2.3.1 Any new practical programs or policy changes that can strengthen the system of local government nationally to provide the services and infrastructure required to support and strengthen our communities; and/or
- 2.3.2 New program ideas that that would help the local government sector to deliver place-based solutions to national priorities.
- 2.4 It is recommended that Council submit one motion to the NGA in June regarding advocacy for soft plastics waste management.

3. DISCUSSION / ISSUE

- 3.1 Local governments are increasingly burdened with the responsibility of collecting and managing soft plastics, a significant and growing waste stream. While councils play a vital role in waste collection and recycling, the increasing demand and complexity of managing soft plastics have placed unsustainable pressure on local government resources.
- 3.2 Currently, there are insufficient long-term, viable processors capable of managing the scale of soft plastics waste generated. This gap in processing infrastructure significantly hinders the effectiveness of local councils in providing adequate recycling services, as soft plastics often end up in landfills or as environmental pollutants.
- 3.3 The proposal to place bagged soft plastics into the comingled kerbside recycle bin will significantly increase contamination and resource loss. The quality of paper will reduce with soft plastics being introduced into the kerbside waste stream. The best option to recycle soft plastics is to have a separate disposal solution, eliminating any potential contamination of other recyclable products.
- 3.4 Soft plastics are largely produced by manufacturers in the packaging, food, and retail industries. These manufacturers are the primary contributors to the proliferation of this waste, yet they have not been held accountable for managing it once the product reaches its end-of-life stage. It is unreasonable to place the full burden of collection and recycling on local governments when the root of the problem lies in the lack of producer responsibility.

- 3.5 The Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC) and other industry bodies have a critical role to play in addressing the soft plastics waste issue. However, it appears that active engagement and advocacy from these bodies to strengthen relationships with manufacturers and to invest in long-term recycling infrastructure have been insufficient. ALGA calls on the AFGC and its members to work more proactively to find alternative solutions for soft plastics other than the residential kerbside service, whilst supporting investments in scalable recycling technologies.
- 3.6 Council calls on the ALGA to advocate in the following areas:
- 3.6.1 Engage Manufacturers: call on governments at all levels to advocate for extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs to ensure that manufacturers of soft plastics are financially and operationally responsible for the collection, recycling, and disposal of the soft plastics they produce.
- 3.6.2 Support Industry Collaboration: urge the AFGC and relevant industry bodies to work together with local governments, waste management experts, and recycling infrastructure providers to identify viable solutions for processing and recycling soft plastics on a large scale.
- 3.6.3 Government and Industry Partnership: recommend the establishment of a national task force comprised of local government representatives, industry bodies, environmental experts, and manufacturers to develop and implement a strategic action plan aimed at addressing the soft plastics waste crisis.
- 3.6.4 Funding and Incentives for Infrastructure Development: call for the allocation of government funding and investment incentives to establish or expand recycling facilities capable of processing soft plastics at scale, ensuring that this infrastructure can support the future growth in the soft plastics waste stream.
- 3.7 The growing problem of soft plastics waste is a challenge that must be addressed through joint efforts between manufacturers, local governments, and industry bodies. Local governments should not be solely responsible for managing this waste, especially given the current lack of viable processing capacity. It is time for manufacturers to step up and take responsibility, in partnership with the industry and government, to ensure a sustainable solution to soft plastics.
- 3.8 This report seeks Council endorsement of the motion outlined in the recommendation for submission to the NGA.

4. COUNCIL PLAN / STRATEGY

- 4.1 The motion aligns with the Manningham Council Plan 2021-25:
- Goal 3.1 Protect and enhance our environment and biodiversity
 - Goal 3.2 Reduce our environmental impact and adapt to climate change
 - Goal 5.1 A financially sustainable council that manages resources effectively and efficiently

5. IMPACTS AND IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Finance / Resource Implications

The advocacy motion proposed will not directly incur any immediate or short to medium term financial or resource implications on Council operations.

There is potential for longer terms implications should the anticipated outcome of the motion for the waste industry not be achieved, that may result in additional financial and resource requirements for Council to provide future waste service and disposal that continues to include soft plastics as a waste stream in kerbside collection and disposal services.

6. IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 Communication and Engagement

Is engagement required?	No
Stakeholder Groups	N/A
Where does it sit on the IAP2 spectrum?	N/A
Approach	N/A

6.2 Timelines

Submissions for motions to be considered at the 2025 NGA close on Monday 31 March 2025.

7. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest in this matter.

13.3 Appointment of Authorised Officers - Planning and Environment Act 1987

File Number:	IN25/132
Responsible Director:	Director Experience and Capability
Attachments:	1 S11A Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation - James Wilkins - March 2025 ↓
	2 S11A Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation - Khan Gul - March 2025 ↓

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to appoint Council officers as an Authorised Officer under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (the Act).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with the Act, Council is required to authorise officers for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of the Act. It is proposed to appoint the Council officer detailed below as an Authorised Officer pursuant to Section 147(4) of the Act.

The Local Government Act 1989 also empowers Council to appoint a person, other than a Councillor, to be an authorised officer for the purposes of the administration and enforcement of any Act, regulations or local laws which relate to the functions and powers of the Council.

A person who is appointed to a position has the powers of that position under the legislation which they have been appointed. Authorisations are necessary to facilitate the efficient and effective function of councils as they enable authorised officers to carry out compliance or enforcement under legislation related to their functions and powers of the Council.

Authorised officers will continue to be appointed under s224 of the Local Government Act 1989, as there are no provisions for appointing authorised officers under the Local Government Act 2020.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: CR JIM GRIVAS
SECONDED: CR LAURA MAYNE

In the exercise of the powers conferred by section 224 of the *Local Government Act 1989* and the other legislation referred to in the attached instrument of appointment and authorisation, Council resolves that:

- A. the following Council Officers be appointed as an authorised officer:**
- James Wilkins
 - Khan Gul
- B. the instrument will come into force immediately upon execution and will remain in force until Council determines to vary or revoke the Instrument or the officer ceases their employment with Council; and**

C. the Instrument be signed and sealed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act) regulates enforcement of the Act and is reliant on authorised officers acting on behalf of the Responsible Authority which is Council.
- 2.2 The Act, unlike the *Local Government Act 1989*, does not permit appointments to be made by the Chief Executive Officer and therefore in order for the officer to legally undertake the duties of their position under the Act, it is necessary for Council to make appointments by formal resolution.
- 2.3 The Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation has been prepared based on template from Maddocks Lawyers and empowers the relevant officer to exercise those powers granted in the Instrument.
- 2.4 The appointment will come into force immediately upon its execution under the Seal of Council and will remain in force until varied or revoked by Council or the officer ceases employment with Council.
- 2.5 In addition to the appointment under the Act, Council pursuant to Section 224 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, may appoint any person other than a Councillor to be an authorised officer for the purposes of the administration and enforcement of most other Acts, Regulations or Local Laws which relate to the functions and powers of Council. This broader Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation has already been carried out, in respect to the designated officers, under the delegated authority of the Chief Executive Officer as the first part of a dual appointment process.
- 2.6 The appointment will be recorded in the Authorised Officers Register that is required to be kept by Council and is available for public inspection.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 Communication and Engagement

Stakeholder Groups	Nominated Council officers
Is engagement required?	No. Council is required to make these administrative appointments.
Where does it sit on the IAP2 spectrum?	N/A
Approach	N/A

4. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest in this matter.

**Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation
(Planning and Environment Act 1987)**

In this instrument "officer" means -

James Wilkins

By this instrument of appointment and authorisation Manningham City Council -

- 1. under section 147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* - authorises the officer to carry out the duties or functions and to exercise the powers of an authorised officer under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*; and
- 2. under section 313 of the *Local Government Act 2020* authorises the officer either generally or in a particular case to institute proceedings for offences against the Acts and regulations described in this instrument.

It is declared that this instrument comes into force immediately upon its execution and remains in force until varied or revoked.

This instrument is authorised by a resolution of the Manningham City Council on 25 March 2025.

The Common Seal of)
Manningham City Council)
was hereunto affixed)
in the presence of:)

Mayor

Chief Executive Officer

Date:

**Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation
(Planning and Environment Act 1987)**

In this instrument "officer" means -

Khan Gul

By this instrument of appointment and authorisation Manningham City Council -

- 1. under section 147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* - authorises the officer to carry out the duties or functions and to exercise the powers of an authorised officer under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*; and
- 2. under section 313 of the *Local Government Act 2020* authorises the officer either generally or in a particular case to institute proceedings for offences against the Acts and regulations described in this instrument.

It is declared that this instrument comes into force immediately upon its execution and remains in force until varied or revoked.

This instrument is authorised by a resolution of the Manningham City Council on 25 March 2025.

The Common Seal of)
Manningham City Council)
was hereunto affixed)
in the presence of:)

Mayor

Chief Executive Officer

Date:

13.4 Informal Meetings of Councillors

File Number:	IN25/101
Responsible Director:	Director Experience and Capability
Attachments:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Directorate Briefings - Connected Communities and Experience & Capability - 5 December 2025 ↓2 Consultation Meeting PLN24_0195 12 Elvie Street Doncaster East - 9 December 2024 ↓3 Flooding and Stormwater Management Community Reference Panel Committee Meeting - 16 December 2025 ↓4 Templestowe Route & Jumping Creek Road Councillor Pre-Briefing - 23 January 2025 ↓5 Combined Advisory Committee Workshop - 12 February 2025 ↓6 Consultation Meeting – 449 Doncaster Road, Doncaster- 17 February 2025 ↓7 Manningham Disability Advisory Committee - 24 February 2025 ↓8 CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee Meeting - 24 February 2025 ↓9 Councillor and CEO Only Time - 25 February 2025 ↓10 Strategic Briefing Session - 4 March 2025 ↓11 Councillor and CEO Only Time - 11 March 2025 ↓12 Strategic Briefing Session - 11 March 2025 ↓

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to promote transparency in Council's business by providing a record of informal meetings attended by Councillors.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Chapter 6, sub rule 1 of Manningham's Governance Rules requires a record of each meeting that constitutes an Informal Meeting of Councillors to be reported to Council and those records to be incorporated into the minutes of the Council Meeting.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: CR CARLI LANGE
SECONDED: CR PETER BAIN

That Council note the Informal Meetings of Councillors for the following meetings:

- **Directorate Briefing – Connected Communities and Experience and Capability – 5 December 2024**
- **Consultation Meeting PLN24/0195 12 Elvie Street Doncaster East – 9 December 2024**
- **Flooding and Stormwater Management Community Reference Panel**

Committee Meeting - 16 December 2025

- **Templestowe Route & Jumping Creek Road Councillor Pre-Briefing - 23 January 2025**
- **Combined Advisory Committee Workshop – 12 February 2025**
- **Consultation Meeting – 449 Doncaster Road, Doncaster- 17 February 2025**
- **Manningham Disability Advisory Committee - 24 February 2025**
- **CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee Meeting - 24 February 2025**
- **Councillor and CEO Only Time - 25 February 2025**
- **Strategic Briefing Session – 4 March 2025**
- **Councillor and CEO Only Time – 11 March 2025**
- **Strategic Briefing Session – 11 March 2025**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Section 60 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, requires a Council to develop, adopt and keep in force Governance Rules (the Rules).
- 2.2 Chapter 6, sub rule 1 of Manningham's Governance Rules requires the Chief Executive Officer to ensure a summary of matters discussed at an informal meeting is tabled at the next convenient Council meeting and recorded in the minutes of that meeting.
- 2.3 An Informal Meeting of Councillors is a meeting that:
- is a scheduled or planned meeting of all Councillors (irrespective of how many Councillors attend) with the Chief Executive Officer for the purpose of discussing the business of Council or briefing Councillors; or
 - is a scheduled or planned meeting of all Councillors (irrespective of how many Councillors attend) with the Executive Management Team for the purpose of discussing the business of Council or briefing Councillors; or
 - is a scheduled or planned advisory committee meeting attended by at least one Councillor and one member of Council staff; and
 - is not a Council meeting, Delegated Committee meeting or Community Asset Committee meeting.

3. DISCUSSION / ISSUE

Summaries of the following informal meetings are attached to this report:

- Directorate Briefing – Connected Communities and Experience and Capability – 5 December 2024
- Consultation Meeting PLN24/0195 12 Elvie Street Doncaster East – 9 December 2024
- Flooding and Stormwater Management Community Reference Panel Committee Meeting - 16 December 2025
- Templestowe Route & Jumping Creek Road Councillor Pre-Briefing - 23 January 2025
- Combined Advisory Committee Workshop – 12 February 2025
- Consultation Meeting – 449 Doncaster Road, Doncaster- 17 February 2025

- Manningham Disability Advisory Committee - 24 February 2025
- CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee Meeting - 24 February 2025
- Councillor and CEO Only Time - 25 February 2025
- Strategic Briefing Session – 4 March 2025
- Councillor and CEO Only Time – 11 March 2025
- Strategic Briefing Session – 11 March 2025

4. IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Communication and Engagement

Stakeholder Groups	Councillors, Officers and members of Manningham’s Advisory Committees
Is engagement required?	No. This information is provided in the interests of public transparency.
Where does it sit on the IAP2 spectrum?	N/A
Approach	N/A

5. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest in this matter.

Informal Meeting of Councillors

Chapter 6, Sub rule 1 of the Governance Rules 2020



MEETING DETAILS					
Meeting Name:	Directorate Briefings - Connected Communities and Experience & Capability				
Date:	Thursday, 5 December 2024				
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Time Opened:</td> <td>6:00pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Time Closed:</td> <td>8:00pm</td> </tr> </table>	Time Opened:	6:00pm	Time Closed:	8:00pm
Time Opened:	6:00pm				
Time Closed:	8:00pm				
Location:	Council Chambers, Civic Centre				
Councillors Present:	Cr Diamante (Mayor), Cr Conlon (Deputy Mayor), Cr Bain, Cr Chen, Cr Eltaha, Cr Gough, Cr Grivas, Cr Lange and Cr Mayne				
Officers Present:	Andrew Day (CEO), Kerryn Paterson, Lee Robson, Rachelle Quattrocchi, Andrew McMaster, Carrie Bruce, Jude Whelan, Lawrie McLaughlin, Mary Vlachos, Lauren Parker, Vanessa Bove and Emma Michie				
Apologies:	Nil				
Items discussed:	Briefing / Presentation to Councillors on Connected Communities and Experience & Capability Directorates				
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES					
Were there any conflict of interest disclosures by Councillors?	No				

Informal Meeting of Councillors

Chapter 6, Sub rule 1 of the Governance Rules 2020



MEETING DETAILS					
Meeting Name:	Consultation Meeting PLN24/0195 12 Elvie Street Doncaster East				
Date:	Monday, 9 December 2024				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Time Opened:</td> <td>6:00pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Time Closed:</td> <td>7:00pm</td> </tr> </table>	Time Opened:	6:00pm	Time Closed:	7:00pm
Time Opened:	6:00pm				
Time Closed:	7:00pm				
Location:	Heide Room, Civic Centre				
Councillors Present:	Cr Chen, Cr Grivas				
Officers Present:	Jonathan Caruso, Tammy Tam				
Apologies:	Cr Diamante (Mayor), Cr Eltaha, Cr Lange, Cr Gough, Cr Bain, Cr Mayne				
Items discussed:	Planning application PLN24/0195 12 Elvie Street Doncaster East				
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES					
Were there any conflict of interest disclosures by Councillors?	No				

Informal Meeting of Councillors

Chapter 6, Sub rule 1 of the Governance Rules 2020



MEETING DETAILS					
Meeting Name:	Flooding and Stormwater Management Community Reference Panel Committee Meeting				
Date:	Monday, 16 December 2024				
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #eee;">Time Opened:</td> <td>6:30pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #eee;">Time Closed:</td> <td>9:00pm</td> </tr> </table>	Time Opened:	6:30pm	Time Closed:	9:00pm
Time Opened:	6:30pm				
Time Closed:	9:00pm				
Location:	Civic Centre - Function Room 3				
Councillors Present:	Cr Gough and Cr Lange				
Officers Present:	Andrew McMaster, Julia Jenvey, Roger Woodlock				
Apologies:	Cr Conlon (Deputy Mayor), Lydia Winstanley				
Items discussed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct Rain methodology letter Project Update - Flood Mapping / IWM Strategy / Stormwater Management Policy Integrated Water Management Strategy - Discussion IWM benefits Flood mapping interface stitching and demarcation - Presentation followed by Q&A CRP wrap-up of first two years Amendment C109 Presentation - Vincent Testa and Paul Harris followed by Q&A 				
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES					
Were there any conflict of interest disclosures by Councillors?	No				

Informal Meeting of Councillors

Chapter 6, Sub rule 1 of the Governance Rules 2020



MEETING DETAILS 6.00 pm					
Meeting Name:	Templestowe Route & Jumping Creek Road Councillor Pre-Briefing				
Date:	Thursday, 23 January 2025				
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #eee;">Time Opened:</td> <td>6:00pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #eee;">Time Closed:</td> <td>7:00pm</td> </tr> </table>	Time Opened:	6:00pm	Time Closed:	7:00pm
Time Opened:	6:00pm				
Time Closed:	7:00pm				
Location:	Koonung Room, Civic Centre				
Councillors Present:	Cr Andrew Conlon (Deputy Mayor), Cr Anna Chen, Cr Geoff Gough, Cr Jim Grivas, Cr Carli Lange and Cr Laura Mayne				
Officers Present:	Krishen Soobrayen and Rachele Quattrocchi				
Apologies:	Cr Deirdre Diamante (Mayor), Cr Peter Bain, Cr Isabella Eltaha				
Items discussed:	Overview of the projects, timing and construction methodology. Noting the report for Major Civil Construction Contract (that includes both Templestowe Route and Jumping Creek Road) to be presented to Council at Special Briefing of Council 11 February 2025 and Council Meeting 25 February 2025.				
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES					
Were there any conflict-of-interest disclosures by Councillors?	No				

Informal Meeting of Councillors

Chapter 6, Sub rule 1 of the Governance Rules 2020



MEETING DETAILS	
Meeting Name:	Combined Advisory Committee Workshop
Date:	Wednesday, 12 February 2025
	Time Opened: 6:00pm
	Time Closed: 8:00pm
Location:	Civic Centre – Function Rooms 1 and 2
Councillors Present:	Cr Diamante (Mayor), Cr Chen, Cr Lange, Cr Gough, Cr Eltaha, Cr Grivas, Cr Bain, Cr Mayne
Officers Present:	Andrew Day, Andrew McMaster, Lee Robson, Kerryn Paterson, Michelle Zemancheff, Emma Michie, Julia Jenvey, Lawrie McLaughlin, Patrick Boyd, Pamela Dewhurst, Gabrielle Spence, Lydia Winstanley, Catherine Simcox, Georgina Snaddon, Annie Valentine, Felicity Raper, Tianah Truong
Apologies:	Cr Conlon (Deputy Mayor), Rachele Quattrocchi
Items discussed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation from Officers on the purpose of integrating health and wellbeing into the Council Plan; • Facilitated Discussion on the State health and wellbeing priorities to inform the Council plan
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES	
Were there any conflict of interest disclosures by Councillors?	No

Informal Meeting of Councillors

Chapter 6, Sub rule 1 of the Governance Rules 2020



MEETING DETAILS					
Meeting Name:	Consultation Meeting – 449 Doncaster Road, Doncaster				
Date:	Monday, 17 February 2025				
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #eee;">Time Opened:</td> <td>6:00pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #eee;">Time Closed:</td> <td>7:00pm</td> </tr> </table>	Time Opened:	6:00pm	Time Closed:	7:00pm
Time Opened:	6:00pm				
Time Closed:	7:00pm				
Location:	Civic Centre - Function Room 3				
Councillors Present:	Cr Deidre Diamante (Mayor), Cr Anna Chen				
Officers Present:	Daniel Yu, Dean Neofitou				
Apologies:	Cr Carli Lange				
Items discussed:	<p>Objector concerns in relation to planning application PLN23/0496. General topics that were discussed were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of affordable housing options • Environmental impacts as a result of urban heat island effect • Neighbourhood Character / Overdevelopment • Visual bulk • Traffic issues and lack of visitor parking • Loss of vegetation • Strain on existing infrastructure • Safety issues as a result of the proposed accessway on Doncaster Road • Amenity impacts as a result of the bin storage area along the eastern boundary • Potential damage to existing boundary fencing 				
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES					
Were there any conflict of interest disclosures by Councillors?	No				

Informal Meeting of Councillors

Chapter 6, Sub rule 1 of the Governance Rules 2020



MEETING DETAILS

Meeting Name:	Manningham Disability Advisory Committee		
Date:	Monday, 24 February 2025	Time Opened:	3:00pm
		Time Closed:	5:00pm
Location:	Council Chambers, Civic Centre		
Councillors Present:	Cr Bain		
Officers Present:	Catherine Simcox, Michelle Zemancheff		
Apologies:	Nil		
Items discussed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability Liaison Officer – Victoria Police • Provided feedback on the Aquarena Outdoor Redevelopment Masterplan • Promotion of Assistive Technology Expo – Onemda, Abilities Unleashed program • Council elections • Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct • Manningham Disability profile - Presentation on Manningham's disability demographics • Public Art - Discussion on ensuring our public arts program is accessible and inclusive • Other Business: Federal update – Carers Reform and Autism Reform 		

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES

Were there any conflict of interest disclosures by Councillors? No

Informal Meeting of Councillors

Chapter 6, Sub rule 1 of the Governance Rules 2020



MEETING DETAILS					
Meeting Name:	CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee Meeting				
Date:	Monday, 24 February 2025				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Time Opened:</td> <td>6:00pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Time Closed:</td> <td>8:00pm</td> </tr> </table>	Time Opened:	6:00pm	Time Closed:	8:00pm
Time Opened:	6:00pm				
Time Closed:	8:00pm				
Location:	Heide Room, Civic Centre				
Councillors Present:	Cr Deirdre Diamante (Mayor), Cr Andrew Conlon (Deputy Mayor), Cr Peter Bain, Cr Anna Chen, Cr Geoff Gough, Cr Jim Grivas, Cr Carli Lange and Cr Laura Mayne				
Officers Present:	Kerryn Paterson				
Apologies:	Cr Isabella Eltaha				
Items discussed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEO Employment Briefing • Independent Advisor Appointment • CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy • CEO 2025/26 Performance Process 				
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES					
Were there any conflict of interest disclosures by Councillors?	No				

Informal Meeting of Councillors

Chapter 6, Sub rule 1 of the Governance Rules 2020



MEETING DETAILS					
Meeting Name:	Councillor and CEO Only Time				
Date:	Tuesday, 25 February 2025				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Time Opened:</td> <td>5:45pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Time Closed:</td> <td>6:30pm</td> </tr> </table>	Time Opened:	5:45pm	Time Closed:	6:30pm
Time Opened:	5:45pm				
Time Closed:	6:30pm				
Location:	Councillor Lounge, Civic Centre				
Councillors Present:	Cr Deirdre Diamante (Mayor), Cr Andrew Conlon (Deputy Mayor), Cr Peter Bain, Cr Anna Chen, Cr Isabella Eltaha, Cr Geoff Gough, Cr Jim Grivas, Cr Carli Lange and Cr Laura Mayne				
Officers Present:	Andrew Day (CEO)				
Apologies:	Nil				
Items discussed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NELP update • Election protocols on candidate / sitting member announcements • Proposal to introduce planning controls around our waterways (Koonung Creek) • Council Agenda Review • Councillor Hub (intranet) • Responding to requests for information from Council • Meeting with Banyule Council 				
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES					
Were there any conflict of interest disclosures by Councillors?	No				

Informal Meeting of Councillors

Chapter 6, Sub rule 1 of the Governance Rules 2020



MEETING DETAILS					
Meeting Name:	Strategic Briefing Session				
Date:	Tuesday, 4 March 2025				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Time Opened:</td> <td>6:30pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Time Closed:</td> <td>8:20pm</td> </tr> </table>	Time Opened:	6:30pm	Time Closed:	8:20pm
Time Opened:	6:30pm				
Time Closed:	8:20pm				
Location:	Council Chambers, Civic Centre				
Councillors Present:	Cr Deirdre Diamante (Mayor), Cr Andrew Conlon (Deputy Mayor), Cr Peter Bain, Cr Anna Chen, Cr Isabella Eltaha, Cr Carli Lange and Cr Laura Mayne				
Officers Present:	<p>Executive Officers Present</p> <p>Andrew Day, Chief Executive Officer Andrew McMaster, Director City Planning & Liveability Kerryn Paterson, Director Experience and Capability Rachelle Quattrocchi, Director City Services Lee Robson, Director Connected Communities</p> <p>Other Officers in Attendance</p> <p>Kim Tran, Governance Officer Emma Michie, Manager Community Participation Robert Morton, Coordinator Community Projects and Planning Linda Kenworthy, Coordinator Waste and Resource Recovery Jess Rae, Acting Manager Sustainable Futures</p>				
Apologies:	Cr Geoff Gough and Cr Jim Grivas				
Items discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mullum Mullum Reserve Covered Bowling Green 2. Drafting Strategic Documents 3. Manningham Road Map for Waste and Resource Recovery (Confidential) 				
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES					
Were there any conflict of interest disclosures by Councillors?	No				

Informal Meeting of Councillors

Chapter 6, Sub rule 1 of the Governance Rules 2020



MEETING DETAILS					
Meeting Name:	Councillor and CEO Only Time				
Date:	Tuesday, 11 March 2025				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Time Opened:</td> <td>5:45pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Time Closed:</td> <td>6:30pm</td> </tr> </table>	Time Opened:	5:45pm	Time Closed:	6:30pm
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Time Closed:	6:30pm				
Location:	Councillor Lounge, Civic Centre				
Councillors Present:	Cr Deirdre Diamante (Mayor), Cr Andrew Conlon (Deputy Mayor), Cr Peter Bain, Cr Anna Chen, Cr Isabella Eltaha, Cr Jim Grivas, Cr Carli Lange and Cr Laura Mayne				
Officers Present:	Andrew Day (CEO), Rachelle Quattrocchi				
Apologies:	Cr Geoff Gough				
Items discussed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National LG Awards • L2P update • Templestowe Route 				
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES					
Were there any conflict of interest disclosures by Councillors?	No				

Informal Meeting of Councillors

Chapter 6, Sub rule 1 of the Governance Rules 2020



MEETING DETAILS					
Meeting Name:	Strategic Briefing Session				
Date:	Tuesday, 11 March 2025				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Time Opened:</td> <td>6:30pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Time Closed:</td> <td>9:02pm</td> </tr> </table>	Time Opened:	6:30pm	Time Closed:	9:02pm
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Time Closed:	9:02pm				
Location:	Council Chambers, Civic Centre				
Councillors Present:	Cr Deirdre Diamante (Mayor), Cr Andrew Conlon (Deputy Mayor), Cr Peter Bain, Cr Anna Chen, Cr Isabella Eltaha, Cr Jim Grivas, Cr Carli Lange and Cr Laura Mayne				
Officers Present:	<p>Executive Officers Present</p> <p>Andrew Day, Chief Executive Officer Andrew McMaster, Director City Planning & Liveability Kerryn Paterson, Director Experience and Capability Lee Robson, Director Connected Communities</p> <p>Other Officers in Attendance</p> <p>Rachna Gupta-Singh, Governance Lead Julia Jenvey, Manager Integrated Planning Andrew Mangan, Coordinator Integrated Transport (online) Andrea Szymanski, Manager Infrastructure and Sustainable Operations (online) Stewart Martin, Manager City safety Jude Whelan, Manager Engaged Communities Michelle Zemancheff, Manager Community Wellbeing and Partnerships Catherine Simcox, Coordinator Social Planning and Community Strengthening Edward Chisholm, First Nations Project Officer</p>				
Apologies:	Cr Geoff Gough				
Items discussed:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Spark worker parking impacts to local community 2. Manningham Response to the Community Panel's Recommendations 3. Manningham Reconciliation Action Plan - Progress Report 				
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES					
Were there any conflict of interest disclosures by Councillors?	No				

14 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

There were no Chief Executive Officer reports this month.

15 URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of Urgent Business this month.

16 COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND QUESTION TIME

16.1 Councillor Reports

Cr Anna Chen reported on her attendance at the 2025 Manningham Asian Cultural Festival hosted by the Asian Business Association of Whitehorse (ABAW) with the support of Council; and remarked that it was a resounding success, attracting over 10,000 visitors despite the extreme temperature. Cr Chen noted an event highlight, which was the fireworks finale and said that it was phenomenal, drawing a crowd of over 3000 attendees.

Cr Chen expressed gratitude to the ABAW volunteers and Council officers for their appreciated efforts in making this festival a reality. Cr Chen further expressed thanks to the Jackson Court Traders Association, Manningham community and visitors from all walks of life for coming together to celebrate the beauty of our municipality's cultural richness and community spirit.

Cr Andrew Conlon reported on the upcoming Warrandyte Festival 28-29 March 2025. Cr Conlon encouraged the Manningham community to support the local event which would encompass many family friendly activities such as live music, a billycart derby, kids' market, silent disco, battle of the bands, and scrumptious food stalls.

Cr Jim Grivas reported on the National Greek Day which took place on 25 March 2025 and congratulated the Greek community on celebrating 204 years of Greek National Day. Cr Grivas then acknowledged the organising committee for all of their outstanding efforts towards the parade event at the Shrine of Remembrance, which attracted around five thousand attendees.

Cr Carli Lange reiterated Councillor Conlon's enthusiasm and comments regarding the upcoming Warrandyte Festival. Cr Lange advised that the Rotary Club Art Festival kicks off the festival activities from 28 March 2025, which features both local and renowned artists contributions.

Cr Lange emphasised the community volunteers dedication and hard work in bringing the festival to fruition and expressed gratitude for their efforts. Cr Lange highlighted this year's theme, which is all about connecting with the environment and each other within the environment

Cr Lange gave recognition to the Warrandyte Pottery Expo, which experienced a cancellation to their annual event due to unforeseen weather circumstances. Cr Lange gave credit to the local businesses who were able to step in and in particular, the Warrandyte Pottery Studio, which successfully accomplished a new, revamped, mini exhibition.

Cr Isabella Eltaha addressed both residents and local traders concerns within the Templestowe Village community regarding the Templestowe Route Upgrade project.

Cr Eltaha mentioned the community panels being held to discuss the project and its potential impacts to residents and local traders, whilst acknowledging the road's need for repair.

Cr Eltaha reiterated her strong preference for road closures and other measures that significantly hinder access to the village be mitigated, as discussions with the contractor progresses. Cr Eltaha also noted the importance of supporting the community's traders who make living local possible throughout this time.

Finally, Cr Eltaha took a moment to acknowledge the severe pain and distress experienced by many members of her ward, as well as the broader Manningham community and beyond as a result of the violation of the prevailing ceasefire and resumption of escalated hostilities in Gaza.

Cr Eltaha expressed that this ongoing violence directly impacts a significant portion of the Manningham community, whether they are from those countries or simply as human beings bearing witness to these events.

Cr Eltaha reiterated, the urgent call of the United Nations and all human rights organisations in Australia and globally demanding an immediate ceasefire, a call to the upholding of international law, equal human rights and dignity for all; and an end to the illegal blockade of aid, so that organizations such as Olive Kids, that dedicates its work to providing support to Palestinian children are able to resume their work.

Cr Eltaha urged any members of the Manningham community who were experiencing distress, to reach out for support.

Cr Laura Mayne recently attended the annual Manningham Family Festival and the Walk for Youth Mental Health held at Finns Reserve.

Cr Mayne noted that this event is run by the Rotary Club in collaboration with the Scouts Association and was a wonderful day filled with stalls, rides, animal farms and entertainment. Cr Mayne said that despite the inclement weather, the volunteers remained in good spirits and kept the event going for as long as possible.

Cr Mayne thanked the event organisers for advocating for youth mental health. Cr Mayne highlighted the importance of this issue and noted that Council has worked diligently to advocate in this area and it was wonderful to have the support.

Lastly, Cr Mayne expressed gratitude for the tireless efforts of the event volunteers and said she would eagerly anticipate next year's event.

Mayor Cr Deirdre Diamante recently visited primary school students at Saint Gregory the Great Primary School in Doncaster, specifically Grade 3 and Grade 4, to talk about government, local government and the importance of democracy and to demonstrate democracy.

Mayor Diamante shared that after giving the students a task of which areas of Council they would prioritise for funding, their top combined results were waste services and recycling. The young students demonstrated a firm commitment to the future of Manningham which Mayor Diamante found extremely impressive.

Mayor Diamante noted that the local students also showed appreciation for the ageing members of our community, pet safety and enjoyment of local play spaces.

As a final statement Mayor Diamante requested of her fellow Councillors to keep some of these priorities in mind, as they progress into the final stages of developing the Council Plan.

16.2 Councillor Questions

Cr Anna Chen noted Council developed a Youth Employment Action Plan in 2019 and has since increased its focus on youth employment. Cr Chen advised that in 2023, Council also created an additional five (5) full-time positions for a graduate program and that the program proved to be very popular, attracting a vast number of applications.

Cr Chen requested officers provide a report to Council regarding the implementation of the Youth Employment Program in Council, to include the graduate program; Year 10 work experience; apprenticeships and future opportunities. Cr Chen further requested officers also consider including a webpage regarding these opportunities for our young people, such as the positions available and the application process.

***Ms Kerryn Paterson, Director Experience and Capability** thanked Cr Chen for her question and responded that Manningham Council has increased its focus on employment of young people over the last few years. Council has created five new graduate positions from over twelve months ago, and those employees are now in their second year of employment. In addition, Council employs legal intern positions, undergraduate engineers, and an award winning landscape apprentice.*

Over the last few years Council has hosted between 5 to 10 students, usually in Year 10, for work experience. Council has recently updated its policy position on work experience and student placements to enable increased participation from students aligned to other courses of study.

Council will consider changes to the website to further promote the employment opportunities for young people at Manningham Council.

Cr Andrew Conlon requested an update to the Warrandyte Festival program on the Manningham Council webpage to provide a more extensive listing of program activities.

17 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: CR CARLI LANGE
SECONDED: CR ISABELLA ELTAHA

That Council close the meeting to the public pursuant to sections 66(1) and 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020, to consider following items:

- **Strategic Property Portfolio Update.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Meeting was closed to the public at 8.18pm to consider the following report and reopened to the public at 8.23pm.

17.1 Strategic Property Portfolio Update

This report contains confidential information as defined in the *Local Government Act 2020*. The relevant ground applying is S3(1)a of the Act concerning Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.

The meeting concluded at 8.23pm.

Chairperson
CONFIRMED THIS 29 April 2025