



Southern Grampians
SHIRE COUNCIL

Council Meeting Minutes

Council Meeting
27 October 2021

Held in MJ Hynes Auditorium,
5 Market Place, Hamilton
at 5:30pm.

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The Meeting opened at 5.30pm

1. Present

Councillors

Cr Bruach Colliton, Mayor
Cr David Robertson, Deputy Mayor
Cr Mary-Ann Brown
Cr Albert Calvano
Cr Helen Henry
Cr Greg McAdam
Cr Katrina Rainsford

Officers

Mr Tony Doyle, Interim Chief Executive Officer
Ms Evelyn Arnold, Director Community and Corporate Services
Ms Marg Scanlon, Director Infrastructure
Mr Andrew Goodsell, Director Planning and Development

2. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

Please note: All Council meetings will be audio recorded, and may be livestreamed to Council's social media platform, with the exception of matters identified as confidential items in the Agenda.

By participating in open Council meetings, individuals consent to the use and disclosure of the information they share at the meeting (including any personal and/or sensitive information).

Other than an official Council recording, no video or audio recording of proceedings of Council Meetings will be allowed without the permission of Council.

"Our meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the Gunditjmarra, Tjap Wurrung and Bunganditj people.

I would like to pay my respects to their Elders, past and present, and the Elders from other communities who may be here today."

3. Prayer

Cr Robertson led the meeting in a prayer.

4. Apologies

None

5. Declaration of Interest

None.

6. Management Reports

6.1 Long Term Financial Plan

Directorate: Evelyn Arnold, Director Community and Corporate Services
Author: Belinda Johnson, Manager Finance
Attachments: 1. Long Term Financial Plan 2021-2031

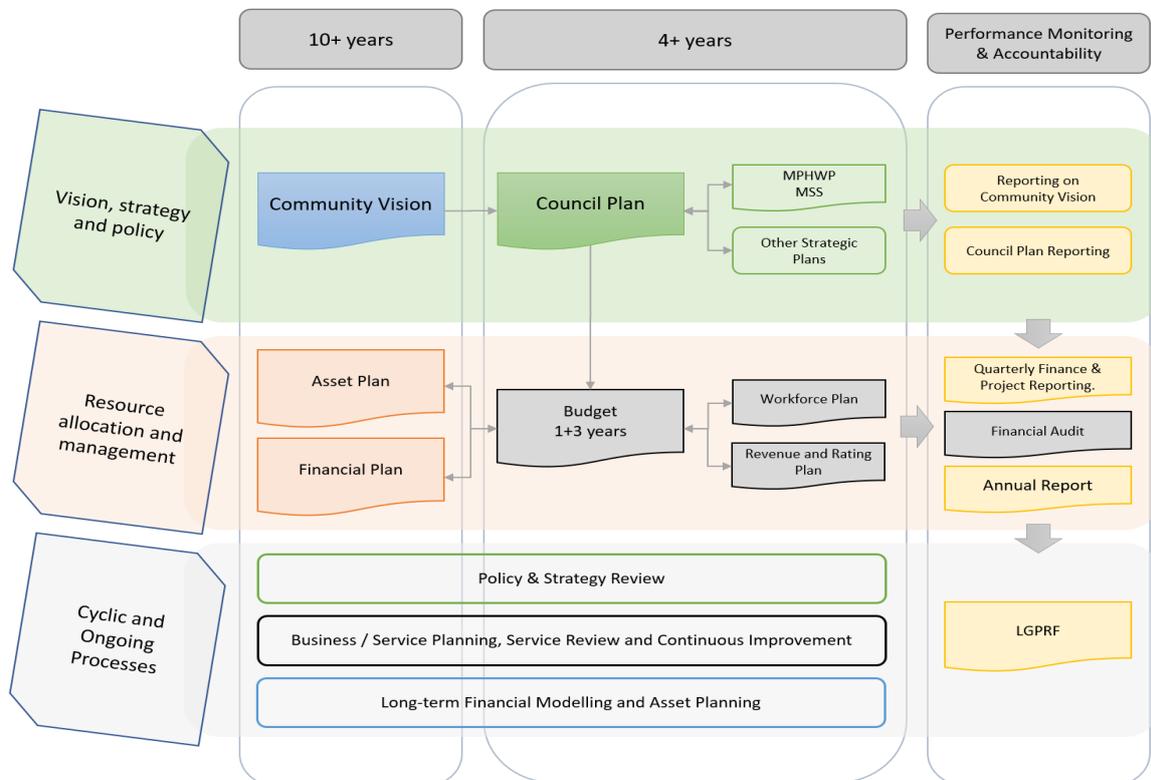
Executive Summary

Council has prepared this first Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) to ensure compliance with the Local Government Act 2020 and supporting Regulations.

The Long Term Financial Plan is a key document to support Council’s long term visions and aspirations for its community, outlined in the Southern Grampians 2041 Community Vision Framework. This is underpinned by 4 Year Council Plans, Health and Wellbeing Plans, Budgets, Workforce Plans and other key supporting strategies and documents.

Discussion

The timeframes for this new framework has meant that the sequence and linkage of all these documents has not always been as clear and concise as desired. Some documents have still been in draft format, when other linked documents have been required to be adopted or multiple documents are being prepared concurrently rather than in sequence.



Source: Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

The result is that full linkage of the documents has not been possible and some documents (such as the LTFP) will be required to be re-written following adoption of other documents in the framework.

For example, the 2021/22 Budget was adopted prior to the preparation of the 2021/22 LTFP (this document), resulting in some inconsistencies and less than desirable outcomes over the longer term.

Due to this, the next development cycle will see this document re-written as the 2022/23 LTFP with the 2022/23 Budget developed at the same time. This will allow full alignment in Years 1-4, sustainable financial indicators to be reviewed and incorporate the recently adopted Vision 2041, Council Plan and Public Health and Wellbeing Plan with their Strategies, Initiatives and Indicators.

This new framework and development cycle will see the setting of financial ratios and indicators play a key role to provide a LTFP which is financially responsible and sustainable into the longer term and guide the financial level of incorporation of the strategies and activities from other plans.

Financial and Resource Implications

This key document has been prepared after reviewing the other documents within the framework. The document assists Council to make informative decisions about its financial future and the consumption of resources over the longer term compared to budget decisions for the shorter term.

Legislation, Council Plan and Policy Impacts

Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 specifically states that “(1) Council must develop, adopt, and keep in force a Financial Plan in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices” and “(2) the scope of a Financial Plan is a period of at least the next 10 financial years”. The section of the Act continues to outline the contents of the plan which are included in Section 2.1.1 of the LTFP.

The LTFP is closely linked and refers to the Council Plan, 2041 Community Vision and Health & Wellbeing Plans, as well as the current Adopted Budget and Workforce Plan.

Risk Management

The document provides a framework and a number of prudential financial indicators to assist with the assessment of financial risk exposure into the future.

Environmental and Sustainability Considerations

Whilst the LTFP does not have specific sections on environmental and sustainability matters, the implication of utilising those plans as guiding principles is implied.

As key strategies are reviewed and/or developed by Council, these will be linked in a reciprocal arrangement by balancing the objectives of the strategy with the cost/benefits on the financial framework.

Community Consultation and Communication

All the documents in the Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework have been the subject of engagement with the community at varying levels.

This LTFP, which links all of these planning documents has also been the subject of specific and deliberate engagement over the past weeks. The feedback from the engagement process has been reviewed by Council prior to the meeting.

Disclosure of Interests

All Council Officers involved in the development and advice provided in this Report affirm that no general or material interests need to be declared in relation to any matters in this Report.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Long Term Financial Plan 2021-2031.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr Robertson
SECONDED: Cr McAdam

That Council adopt the Long Term Financial Plan 2021-2031.

CARRIED

6.2 2020/2021 Annual Report

Directorate: Evelyn Arnold, Director Community and Corporate Services
Author: Karly Saunders, Governance Coordinator
Attachments: 2. 2020/2021 Annual Report

Executive Summary

In accordance with Section 134 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council is required to consider the Annual Report 2020/2021, for the year ended 30 June 2021.

Discussion

Council is required to prepare an Annual Report in respect of each financial year containing a report on its operations, audited financial statements, performance statement and any other matters required by the regulations.

The savings and transitional provisions in section 329 (7)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020* mean that the *Local Government Act 1989* continues to apply to the preparation of Council's 2020-2021 Annual Report.

The Annual Report must be submitted to the Minister for Local Government within three months of the end of the financial year, or within any extended period approved by the Minister. On 14 September 2021, the Hon. Mary-Anne Thomas MP, Acting Minister for Local Government announced an extension for the submission of the 2020-21 Annual Report to the Minister. This extension was in recognition of the additional pressures placed on resources across all Victorian Councils due to the Coronavirus pandemic and extreme weather events. The revised date that Annual Reports must be submitted to the Minister is Tuesday 30 November 2021.

The Annual Report details the performance and achievements of Council and is intended as a point of reference for Council staff, residents and businesses of the Shire, community organisations and government departments.

The Annual Report reports on the five key strategic objectives outlined in the Council Plan 2017-2021 being:

- Support our Community
- Grow our Regional Economy and Business
- Maintain and Renew our Infrastructure
- Promote our Natural Environment
- Provide Strong Governance and Leadership.

The Annual Report provides a comprehensive overview of activities of Council for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, including social, economic and environmental achievements in respect of a range of projects, services and assets managed. The Annual Report of Council is an important record of the activities of Council, including its financial performance over the year for which the Auditor-General has provided unqualified audit opinions on the Financial Statements and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2021. The Report includes General Purpose Financial Statements, Standard Statements and the Performance Statement.

The provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989* require that Council consider the Annual Report at a meeting open to the public within 4 months of the end of the financial year, being 31 October 2021.

In accordance with Section 134 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council must consider the Annual Report at a meeting of the Council, after the Council has sent the Annual Report to the Minister and public notice must be provided that the meeting is being held to discuss the Annual Report and the meeting is open to the public.

Legislation, Council Plan and Policy Impacts

In accordance with the Council Plan 2021 – 2025 in the Good Governance section, Council is obliged to meet statutory requirements in regards to reporting to the Minister for Local Government on its activities.

Council has a statutory responsibility under the *Local Government Act 1989* to prepare an Annual Report in respect of each financial year containing a report on its operations, audited financial statements, performance statement and any other matter required by the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014.

Disclosure of Interests

All Council Officers involved in the development and advice provided in this Report affirm that no general or material interests need to be declared in relation to any matters in this Report.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council considers the Annual Report 2020-2021 for the year ended 30 June 2021, in accordance with Section 134 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr Brown
SECONDED: Cr Calvano

That Council considers the Annual Report 2020-2021 for the year ended 30 June 2021, in accordance with Section 134 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

CARRIED

7. Confidential Matters

There were no Confidential Matters listed on tonight's agenda.

8. Close of Meeting

This concludes the business of the meeting.

Meeting closed at 5:41pm.

Confirmed by resolution 10 November 2021.

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Chairperson