

TITLE: Notice of Motion - Councillor A M van Zetten, Community Care and Recovery Package

FILE NO: SF5547

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Michael Stretton

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider a Notice of Motion submitted by the Mayor, Councillor A M van Zetten, as a late Council meeting item regarding a Community Care and Recovery Package in respect to the declared COVID-19 pandemic.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council by absolute majority agrees that:
 - pursuant to Regulation 8(6) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015* (Tas), to deal with this matter, being one that was not included on the published Agenda; and
 - notes the advice from the Chief Executive Officer in respect of the reason it was not possible to include this matter on the agenda and that the matter is urgent, that advice having been provided to Councillors by email on 18 March 2020 and in the report attached to this matter.
2. That Council, by simple majority, requests the Chief Executive Officer to work with Council staff, General Managers from the Northern Tasmanian Councils and CEO of the Northern Tasmania Development Corporation, to prepare a Community Care and Recovery Package, which should include the consideration of the following elements:
 - (a) Provision of rates relief for businesses impacted by closure as a result of the pandemic;
 - (b) Development of a Rates Hardship Policy;
 - (c) Provision of fees and charges relief for businesses, community groups, sporting clubs and the like, to assist in managing their response to and recovery to the pandemic;
 - (d) Early payment of creditors by Councils and negotiable terms of payment for debtors;
 - (e) The development of a framework and provision of a one-off special grant round to support business innovation which would include a focus on the development of digital capability (i.e. on-line services) as well as to facilitate opportunities for developing circular economy initiatives;
 - (f) Support for sporting and cultural groups to develop alternate approaches to their activities;
 - (g) Supporting the more vulnerable members of our community;
 - (h) Develop a framework to strengthen the resilience of our community;
 - (i) Negotiated rent relief for the use of Council facilities; and
 - (j) Support for cancelled events to retain grant funding and re-plan events.
3. That the Chief Executive Officer provides a report to the following Council Meeting outlining the package.

4. Notes, for the avoidance of doubt, Chief Executive Officer means the General Manager as appointed by Council pursuant to section 61 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas).
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REPORT:

Late Council Meeting Agenda Item

Pursuant to Regulation 8(6) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 (Tas), a council by absolute majority at an ordinary council meeting, may decide to deal with a matter that is not on the agenda if –

- (a) the general manager has reported the reason it was not possible to include the matter on the agenda; and*
- (b) the general manager has reported that the matter is urgent; and*
- (c) in a case where the matter requires the advice of a qualified person, the general manager has certified under section 65 of the Act that the advice has been obtained and taken into account in providing general advice to the council.*

In respect to this Regulation, Councillors are advised as follows:

- it was not possible to include the matter on the Agenda because the Mayor, Councillors and Council staff were focused on determining the Council's response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the escalation in government and community response occurred after the release of the Agenda.
- in order for the Council to be able to contribute to the rapid and confident recovery of individuals, communities and services, it is urgent that Council's direction be provided on this matter. Such action will enable work to quickly progress with a Community Care and Recovery package which will facilitate the timely provision of Council support and assistance.
- I certify under section 65 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas) that advice has been obtained and taken into account in providing general advice to Council.

Notice of Motion submitted by the Mayor, Councillor A M van Zetten as a late Council Meeting Agenda Item regarding a Community Care and Recovery Package

Along with the other levels of Government, the City of Launceston is actively working to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within our community.

The Council has developed a City of Launceston Pandemic Incident Action Plan, which has the following Council objectives:

- Support our people going home safe and well;
- Maintain the essential services that Council provides to the community;
- Communicate with the community about Council core business; and
- Support other government agencies to manage the impact of a pandemic.

The Council's response to a pandemic is being guided by advice from the Tasmanian Department of Health and other emergency service providers.

The plan identifies the responsibilities of those in the organisation with a key role in managing Council's response to a pandemic, as well as those with responsibilities for providing essential services and support services.

The Council's responsibilities under the Emergency Management Act and the Municipal Emergency Management Plan in a pandemic are:

- Support distribution warnings and other relevant advice to the community, ensuring consistency with messaging from Tasmanian Health and Tasmania Police;
- Assist as requested by the State/Regional/Emergency Operations Controller as required;
- Provide regular information/situation reports to the State/Regional Controller if requested;
- Provide liaison officers to the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) when requested; and
- Maintain essential services to the community, as detailed in business continuity plans, which is currently in development.

Another important role for the three levels of government is to contribute to the rapid and confident recovery of individuals, communities and services. I believe that there is a role for Local Government in achieving this. To this effect, I am proposing that the Council agrees to a Community Care and Recovery Package, which would aim to assist our community to both manage and recover from the impacts of the pandemic. The Council's Chief Executive Officer has held discussions with the other Northern Tasmania Council General Managers and there seems to be interest in approaching a recovery package on a regional basis.

OFFICER COMMENTS

(Michael Stretton - Chief Executive Officer)

The Notice of Motion proposed by the Mayor, Councillor A M van Zetten, provides a sensible framework for considering a community care and recovery program to assist our wider community. I am confident that staff will be able to consider the matter and report back to the Council with a recommended package at the next Council Meeting. It is envisaged that this report will consider the matters raised by the Mayor, together with any other initiatives identified, which are consistent with the motion's intent. I can confirm that there is interest in adopting a regional approach to the Mayor's initiative amongst Northern Councils and work will be progressed over the next week to determine if a regional approach is able to be effectively facilitated.

ECONOMIC IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

SOCIAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014-2024

Strategic Priority 3: We are a progressive leader that is accountable to our governance obligations and responsive to our community.

10-Year Goal: To ensure decisions are made in a transparent and accountable way, that effectively meet our statutory obligations, support quality services and underpin the long-term sustainability of our organisation.

Focus Areas:

1. To provide for the health, safety and welfare of the community.

BUDGET & FINANCIAL ASPECTS:

It is clear that if this motion is approved the Council is foreshadowing a budget commitment which will need to be more fully considered when the details of the Community Care and Recovery package are determined at a Council Meeting.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The officer has no conflict of interest in this item.

I certify that I have reviewed and approved this advice and recommendation.



Michael Stretton - Chief Executive Officer

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Notice of Motion - Councillor A M van Zetten

CITY OF LAUNCESTON

MEMORANDUM

FILE NO: SF7108 / 5547

MS:AvZ:eg
DATE: 18 March 2020

TO: Michael Stretton Chief Executive Officer

c.c. Committee Clerks

FROM: Albert van Zetten Councillor

SUBJECT: Notice of Motion - Community Care and Recovery Package

In accordance with Clause 16 (5) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015* please accept this Notice of Motion for placement as a late item on the agenda of the Meeting of Council to be held on 19 March 2020.

Motion

That the Council

1. Request the Chief Executive Officer to work with Council staff, General Managers from the Northern Tasmania Councils and CEO of the Northern Tasmania Development Corporation, to prepare a Community Care and Recovery Package, which should include the consideration of the following elements:
 - a. Provision of rates relief for businesses impacted by closure as a result of the pandemic;
 - b. Development of a Rates Hardship Policy;
 - c. Provision of fees and charges relief for businesses, community groups, sporting clubs and the like, to assist in managing their response to and recovery to the pandemic;
 - d. Early payment of creditors by Councils and negotiable terms of payment for debtors;
 - e. The development of a framework and provision of a one-off special grant round to support business innovation which would include a focus on the development of digital capability (i.e. on-line services) as well as to facilitate opportunities for developing circular economy initiatives;
 - f. Support for sporting and cultural groups to develop alternate approaches to their activities;
 - g. Supporting the more vulnerable members of our community;
 - h. Develop a framework to strengthen the resilience of our community;
 - i. Negotiated rent relief for the use of Council facilities; and
 - j. Support for cancelled events to retain grant funding and re-plan events.
2. That the Chief Executive Officer provides a report to the following Council meeting outlining the package.

CITY OF LAUNCESTON

MEMORANDUM

Background

Along with the other levels of Government, the City of Launceston is actively working to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within our community.

The Council has developed a City of Launceston Pandemic Incident Action Plan, which has the following Council objectives:

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Attachments

N/A

Councillor Albert van Zetten

