



City of
LAUNCESTON

COUNCIL MINUTES

**COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY 30 APRIL 2020
1.00pm**

City of Launceston

COUNCIL MINUTES

Thursday 30 April 2020

The Ordinary Meeting of the City of Launceston Council was held by video conference:

Date: 30 April 2020

Time: 1.00pm

Certificate of Qualified Advice

Background

To comply with section 65 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas):

1. A general manager must ensure that any advice, information or recommendation given to the council or a council committee is given by a person who has the qualifications or experience necessary to give such advice, information or recommendation.
2. A council or council committee is not to decide on any matter which requires the advice of a qualified person without considering such advice unless -
 - (a) the general manager certifies, in writing -
 - (i) that such advice was obtained; and
 - (ii) the general manager took the advice into account in providing general advice to the council or council committee; and
 - (b) a copy of that advice or, if the advice was given orally, a written transcript or summary of that advice is provided to the council or council committee with the general manager's certificate.

Certification

I certify that:

- (i) the advice of a qualified person has been sought where required;
- (ii) this advice was taken into account in providing general advice to the council or council committee; and
- (iii) a copy of the advice, or a written transcript or summary of advice provided orally, is included with the minutes item.



Michael Stretton
Chief Executive Officer

AUDIO of COUNCIL MEETINGS

An audio recording of this Council Meeting, except for any part held in Closed Session, was made in accordance with our Council Meetings - Audio Recording Policy - 14-Plx-008.

This Council Meeting was streamed live and can be accessed from www.launceston.tas.gov.au/Council/Meetings/Listen for a minimum of six months after the date of the meeting.

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE AT THE COUNCIL MEETING

Public attendance at this meeting was not permitted. We asked members of the public to stay home to slow the spread of COVID-19 and provided the following information for people wishing to speak to an item in the agenda.

Do you wish to speak to an item in the Agenda of the Council Meeting?

- You are invited to speak to an item on the Agenda by emailing a statement of no more than 300 words. Your statement will be read aloud at the meeting.

Do you have a question to ask during Public Question Time?

- You are invited to email up to three questions. If accepted, your questions will be read aloud at the meeting, and answered or taken on notice. If your questions are not accepted, reasons will be given.

Questions or statements emailed to contactus@launceston.tas.gov.au by 11am, Thursday 30 April 2020 were read out by Council officers at the appropriate item in the agenda.

LEGISLATIVE TERMINOLOGY - GENERAL MANAGER

At the City of Launceston, the positions of General Manager Community and Place, General Manager Organisational Services, General Manager Infrastructure and Assets and General Manager Creative Arts and Cultural Services do not assume the functions and powers of the term *general manager* in a legislative sense: any legislative functions and powers to be delegated to these roles will be made by Council or the Chief Executive Officer. At the City of Launceston, the title Chief Executive Officer is a term of reference for the General Manager as appointed by Council pursuant to section 61 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas). For the avoidance of doubt, *Chief Executive Officer* means *General Manager* for the purposes of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas) and all other legislation administered by or concerning Council.

City of Launceston

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Present: **Councillor** **A M van Zetten (Mayor)**
 D C Gibson (Deputy Mayor)
 J Finlay
 D H McKenzie
 R I Soward
 J G Cox
 K P Stojansek
 A E Dawkins
 N D Daking
 P S Spencer
 A G Harris
 T G Walker

In Attendance: **Mr M Stretton (Chief Executive Officer)**
 Mrs L Hurst (Community and Place Network)
 Ms L Foster (Organisational Services Network)
 Mr S Eberhardt (Infrastructure and Assets Network)
 Mr S Tennant (Team Leader Communications)
 Mrs K Hartland (Team Leader Governance)
 Mrs L Purchase (Manager Governance)

Apologies: **Nil**

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1 OPENING OF MEETING - ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

The Mayor, Councillor A M van Zetten, opened the Meeting at 1.01pm and noted that all Councillors were present.

2 MAYORAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

No Mayoral Acknowledgements were identified as part of these Minutes.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Local Government Act 1993 - section 48

(A councillor must declare any interest that the councillor has in a matter before any discussion on that matter commences.)

During Item 11 - Councillor's Reports, Councillor K P Stojansek declared an interest in Item - 15.1 - Notice of Motion - Councillor T G Walker - Community Care and Recovery Digital Innovation Grants.

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 35(1)(b)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the City of Launceston Council held on 16 April 2020, as circulated, are amended on page 1 as follows -

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor D C Gibson, opened the Meeting at 1.05pm.

The Mayor, Councillor A M van Zetten, took the chair after Deputy Mayor, Councillor D C Gibson, confirmed that all Councillors were present.

- and confirmed as a true and correct record.

DECISION: 30 April 2020

MOTION

Moved Councillor D C Gibson, seconded Councillor D H McKenzie.

That the Motion, as per the Recommendation to Council, be adopted.

CARRIED 12:0

FOR VOTE: Mayor Councillor A M van Zetten, Deputy Mayor Councillor D C Gibson, Councillor J Finlay, Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor R I Soward, Councillor J G Cox, Councillor K P Stojansek, Councillor A E Dawkins, Councillor N D Daking, Councillor P S Spencer, Councillor A G Harris and Councillor T G Walker

5 DEPUTATIONS

No Deputations have been identified as part of these Minutes.

6 PETITIONS

Local Government Act 1993 - sections 57 and 58

No Petitions have been identified as part of these Minutes.

7 COMMUNITY REPORTS

(Community Reports allow an opportunity for Community Groups to provide Council with a three minute verbal presentation detailing activities of the group. This report is not intended to be used as the time to speak on Minutes Items; that opportunity exists when that Minutes Item is about to be considered. Speakers are not to request funding or ask questions of Council. Printed documentation may be left for Councillors.)

No Community Reports have been registered with Council as part of these Minutes.

8 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 31

8.1 Public Questions on Notice

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 31(1)

8.1.1 Public Questions on Notice - Aaron De La Torre, Australian Services Union - Employment Matters During COVID-19

FILE NO: SF6381

AUTHOR: Leanne Purchase (Manager Governance)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Michael Stretton (Chief Executive Officer)

QUESTIONS and RESPONSES:

The following question/questions, submitted to Council on 21 April 2020 by Aaron De La Torre, Australian Services Union, have been answered by Louise Foster (General Manager, Organisational Services Network).

Question:

1. I refer to a letter which was sent by Premier Peter Gutwein and Local Government Minister Mark Shelton to all Tasmanian Council Mayors and General Managers, dated 16 April 2020. In this letter the Premier states:

“It is our expectation that councils should endeavour to retain as many employees as possible during this challenging period and that to do this councils will need to adopt different budget and financial positioning strategies than have traditionally been required. Where appropriate, councils should also redirect staff to support their COVID-19 response measures and community relief and recovery initiatives”.

Can the General Manager provide assurances to City Of Launceston's employees that no employees will have their employment terminated as a result of COVID-19 and that Council will prioritise the maintenance of employment of each of their employees in any budgetary decisions moving forward?

Response:

The COVID-19 situation is challenging from an employment and budget perspective. The City of Launceston Council is committed to not standing down our permanent employees. Due to the closure of some Council facilities a number of casual employees are currently not being provided hours of work.

Question:

2. Clause 7.1 of Council's enterprise agreement, the City of Launceston Enterprise Agreement 2016, and the Fair Work Act 2009 both provide requirements for consultation in relation to major workplace changes including the need to relocate employees, the alternation of hours of work or regular rosters, or in the extreme the potential termination of employment, amongst others.

The Australian Services Union and our members seek to enter into collaborative consultation in relation to any potential changes in the workplace as a result of COVID-19.

Can the General Manager assure employees of City Of Launceston that the management team will enter into consultation before any major changes are implemented in the workplace?

Response:

The standard consultation obligations under the Launceston Aquatic and City of Launceston Enterprise Agreements continue to apply while responding to COVID-19. COVID-19 is unprecedented in its impact on businesses and our experience at this early stage is that employees are understanding that significant decisions impacting on employee entitlements have needed to be made at short notice - employees have been supported with the introduction of an additional leave category, pandemic leave.

Declarations under the Public Health Act 1997 require people to stay at home unless they have to leave their primary residence for the purpose of "attending work... if unable to be performed at the person's primary residence". The City of Launceston continues to work with employees to ensure that these declarations are observed. However, working at home is not possible for all employees. The City of Launceston has temporarily relocated some employees to alternate Council venues to maximise physical distancing and to ensure we continue to have a safe place of work.

We are committed to:

- Regularly communicating with our employees to keep them advised of the changes required to be made to manage the impacts of Covid-19.*
- If we need to implement any change, we aim to provide advance notice if possible of the change and give an opportunity to consult on the effect of the changes.*

Question:

3. Given that Local Government is not eligible for the federal government's JobKeeper program, the changes which were made to the Fair Work Act 2009 in relation to COVID-19 stand downs and alternation of an employee's regular hours do not apply to City Of Launceston.

Section 524 of the Act (Employer may stand down employees in certain circumstances) requires that an employee only be stood down where they "cannot usefully be employed", that is to say that there is no useful work for employees to undertake.

Can the General Manager provide a guarantee that all possible alternate duties will be explored before considering standing employees down, including things that are usually outside of Council's core business but which assist the community with getting through, and recovering from, COVID-19? The Union can provide further details and suggestions around this matter.

Response:

The City of Launceston is committed to keeping our employees engaged in meaningful work and is investigating options that include alternate duties within our organisation. Opportunities to support external organisations in community support and recovery are also being explored.

8.1.2 Public Questions on Notice - Mr Ray Norman - QVMAG Update - Council Meeting - 16 April 2020**FILE NO:** SF6381**AUTHOR:** Lee Viney (Administration Officer)**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:** Michael Stretton (Chief Executive Officer)

QUESTIONS and RESPONSES:

The following questions, submitted to Council on 16 April 2020 by Mr Ray Norman, have been answered by Ms Tracy Puklowski (General Manager Creative Arts and Cultural Services).

Questions:

1. In the interests of ratepayers facing financial distress as a consequence of the COVID-19 Crisis will Council please provide an update on:
 - How many QAVMAG employees have been stood down;
 - How many QVMAG employees have been redeployed and to what tasks; and
 - What program adjustments are being made at the QVMAG relative to appropriate community engagement, specifically Internet facilitated engagements; and

These things given the significant public money as well as the substantial community resources committed to and the QVMAG operation currently and over time.

Response:

Due to the closure of QVMAG, hours of work are no longer available for seven casual employees. Those staff have been advised to pursue eligibility for Federal Government benefits.

Thirty one QVMAG employees continue to work on a wide range of tasks including, but not limited to: the development of digital educational resources; digitising and researching collections to support the development of onsite and online content; QVMAG publications; journal articles; exhibition scheduling; processing specimens; creating data standards, and more. Two further staff are engaged on a part-time basis to oversee building security.

While QVMAG is closed to our visitors, staff are developing new resources and content for delivery online via social media and the QVMAG website. This includes activity sheets for students and parents, video programs to replace our usual 'Discovery Play' programs on site, and a series of social media engagement campaigns to profile QVMAG's collections, content and work.

8.1.3 Public Questions on Notice - Mr Ray Norman - QVMAG Reports on Agenda - Council Meeting - 16 April 2020**FILE NO:** SF6381**AUTHOR:** Lee Viney (Administration Officer)**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:** Michael Stretton (Chief Executive Officer)

QUESTIONS and RESPONSES:

The following question/questions, submitted to Council on 16 April 2020 by Mr Ray Norman, have been answered by Ms Tracy Puklowski (General Manager Creative Arts and Cultural Services).

Questions:

2. Given the substantial amount of funding from 'the public purse', community donations and commitments plus the infrastructure committed and capital works relative to the operation of the city's 'Cultural Network' and that 'Council' is the default 'governance body' cum 'trustees' the QVMAG, Princess Theatre etc. why is that on a typical Council Agenda:
 - There is no reporting of QVMAG acquisitions or deaccessions/disposals of collection material;
 - There is no reporting of loans arrangement for QVMAG collection material and the costs and/or income derived;
 - There is no reporting of updated staffing arrangements relative strategic purposes;
 - There is no reporting of updated program development with income and/or cost projections;
 - There is no reporting of research outcomes and the costs attributed to such undertakings;
 - There is no reporting of strategic forward planning relative programming across Council's 'cultural network';
 - There is no reporting relative to income generation across Council's 'cultural network' and performance measures being achieved or otherwise;
 - There is no reporting relative to capital works and/or infrastructure provision and the associated funding?

Response:

QVMAG's current formal reporting requirement is through the Annual Report. Council also receives quarterly activity reports.

8.1.4 Public Questions on Notice - Mr Ray Norman - COVID-19 and Council Staff - Council Meeting - 16 April 2020**FILE NO:** SF6381**AUTHOR:** Lee Viney (Administration Officer)**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:** Michael Stretton (Chief Executive Officer)

QUESTIONS and RESPONSES:

The following questions, submitted to Council on 16 April 2020 by Mr Ray Norman, have been answered by Mr Michael Stretton (Chief Executive Officer).

Question:

3. In the context of the COVID-19 Crisis:

- What percentage of Council staff have been stood down on full pay and or required to take up their leave entitlements; and/or
- What percentage of Council staff have been redeployed to other duties; and/or
- What percentage of Council staff have been stood down without pay; and
- How is the current staffing strategy being funded and/or subsidised by State or Federal COVID-19 'relief funding'?

Response:

Council staff are continuing to deliver most services and therefore, no staff have been stood-down with or without pay. Even though some customer facing operations have been closed due to Tasmanian Government restrictions the majority of Council's services have not been impacted and will continue to be delivered unless further restrictions are applied.

At this stage it has not been necessary to re-deploy many staff from their substantive workplaces as there is sufficient meaningful work in their respective areas to complete. In due course as this work is completed, staff will be re-deployed into other areas of Council to complete identified meaningful work.

All casual staff have advised to pursue eligibility for Federal Government benefits.

The Council is funding its employee costs within its existing budget. Of course the budget is being constantly reviewed to reflect the changing operating conditions. The Council may take-up the offer of an interest free loan from the State Government to assist in funding the Community Care and Recovery Package.

8.1.5 Public Questions on Notice - Ms Danielle Watkins - Council Strategies for the Development of Waverley - 16 April 2020**FILE NO:** SF6381**AUTHOR:** Lee Viney (Administration Officer)**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:** Michael Stretton (Chief Executive Officer)

QUESTIONS and RESPONSES:

The following question/questions, submitted to Council on 16 April 2020 by Ms Danielle Watkins have been answered by Ms Tracey Mallet (Manager Liveable Communities).

Questions:

1. What facilities are council investigating to build at Waverley in response to helping the community access services in their own suburb during covid-19 lockdowns?
2. Would council consider providing a temporary shed or facility to be placed on council land in Waverley so that residents can access services such as emergency food, counselling etc?
3. What programs does the council have in place to support communities without facilities such as Waverley to access digital learning devices to support access to federal government university funded courses?

Response:

1. *The City of Launceston is working with multiple agencies and community services providers to ensure there is adequate support for all residents within the municipality during the current pandemic. In particular, any assistance that can be provided to vulnerable communities is being considered in conjunction with the appropriate agency.*
 2. *The State Government has indicated that essential services, including health and distribution and sale of food, is still permitted to continue and that community members who are not required to quarantine are able to travel to obtain those services. The installation of temporary infrastructure to support the delivery of essential services during a statewide emergency event would only be undertaken as part of a coordinated response, for which the Tasmanian Government is the lead authority.*
 3. *Local government is making every effort to support communities to manage during and beyond the current pandemic event. The City of Launceston has identified a number of specific measures to support its residents and ratepayers, announcing an \$8.5 million package recently. Beyond those measures already announced, individual households are encouraged to access other forms of support offered by the other tiers of*
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government, particularly the Australian Government. Details on the Council's Community Care and Recovery Package, and links to other information and advice is available for viewing online at: <https://www.launceston.tas.gov.au/Emergency-Management/Meeting-the-challenge-of-COVID-19>. Information about access to financial help during the Coronavirus pandemic is also available on the <https://www.australia.gov.au/> website.

8.1.6 Public Questions on Notice - Mr Nathan Watkins - Development of the Waverley Community - Council Meeting - 16 April 2020**FILE NO:** SF6381**AUTHOR:** Lee Viney (Administration Officer)**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:** Michael Stretton (Chief Executive Officer)

QUESTIONS and RESPONSES:

The following questions, submitted to Council on 16 April 2020 by Mr Nathan Watkins, have been answered by Ms Tracey Mallett (Manager Liveable Communities).

Questions:

1. What current plans and/or strategies does the Launceston City Council have for the development/betterment of the Waverley community.
2. Will the Launceston City Council commit to investigating the need for a community hub/hall/centre for the residents of Waverley?
3. Will the Launceston City Council fund the supply and installation of a Waverley sign similar to the Ravenswood sign near the shopping complex?

Response:

1. *Waverley as a community, is listed on the future plan as a community development Learning Site project.*

The City of Launceston has worked in partnership with Bank of I.D.E.A.S., an international community and economic development consultancy, using their asset-based community driven efforts (ABCDE) approach to develop Learning Sites across the municipality for the past three years.

The ABCDE process involves working with residents within the community in discovering, mapping, connecting and celebrating the diverse range of community assets, and harnessing the connected assets for action that strengthens proactive and inclusive communities.

The ABCDE Learning Sites help the community focus on what's strong, not what's wrong within a community. It provides a framework that has allowed the City of Launceston to successfully deliver Learning Sites in Rocherlea, Ravenswood and Mowbray to date.

2. *The Council will commit to identifying a timeline for commencing a Learning Site project in Waverley subject to the availability of resources. The Liveable Communities team is also able to work with existing community groups and service providers in the Waverley*
-

community to support where possible any project proposals or activities that arise outside of the Learning Site program.

3. *It was through the Learning Site project that Ravenswood identified and funded the project to establish the community sign, and infrastructure has been considered in other Learning Sites.*

The City of Launceston welcomes the opportunity to work with the Waverley community on this project either as a Learning Site initiative when the time comes, or as a result of a specific project proposal if there is sufficient community interest in progressing this idea sooner.

8.2 Public Questions Without Notice

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 31(2)(b)

8.2.1 Ron Baines, Kings Meadows - Loss of Recycling Material, Transfer of Land to Council, Shortfall in Rates Payments

The following questions, submitted to Council on 29 April 2020, were read aloud by a Council Officer at the Council Meeting on 30 April 2020. Responses were read aloud by the Mayor, Councillor A M van Zetten.

Question:

1. Has Council made any decision regarding huge loss of recycling material at the main tip face usually called the truck face?

Response:

Salvaging directly from the landfill face is no longer permitted due to the health and safety risks and operational delays.

The Council has made many recent advances in recovering recyclable material and achieving increased landfill diversion.

The Council is proactive in providing recycling opportunities prior to landfill such as e-waste, cardboard, paint, scrap steel, whitegoods, tyres, polystyrene, mattresses, batteries, fluoro tubes, recovery of resalable items and building materials via Uptipity resale shop, organic material via FOGO and recovering resale and recycling material from the walking floor which operates at the Launceston Waste Centre.

The Council's annual hard waste collection achieves a 65% recovery of all items collected. The City of Launceston is also a member of the Northern Tasmanian Waste Management Group which has a charter to provide education, funding, awareness and advocacy to achieve more sustainable waste management for Northern Tasmania.

Construction and demolition recovery is the next best opportunity for landfill diversion after organics and a number of projects are in place to build a business case towards this for the region; the main one being an audit from three building sites to understand what proportion of waste from a typical building site is recoverable.

Question:

2. With regard to the new auto museum, has UTAS purchased the freehold to enable the transfer to City of Launceston, and registered the sale with the Titles Office?

Response:

This matter has been previously answered by the Council. The site on which the National Automobile Museum of Tasmania (NAMT) is located is part of the land transfer agreement between the Council and the University of Tasmania. The transfer agreement is now in its final stages of completion and therefore, the NAMT site will be transferred into Council ownership in the near future.

Question:

3. Due to COVID-19, the Council will have a shortfall in rates payments. Will Council need to borrow in order to cover this loss of income?

Response:

It is likely that the Council will access some of the interest free loan funding which has been made available by the Tasmanian Government as part of the COVID-19 pandemic response. The Tasmanian Government has made \$150M of interest free funding available to the Tasmanian Local Government sector to assist Councils and their communities to recover from the pandemic.

8.2.2 Ray Norman, Trevallyn - Citizen's Assembly, Audit of Grant Initiative, Council's Response to Climate Emergency

The following questions, submitted to Council on 29 April 2020, were read aloud by a Council Officer at the Council Meeting on 30 April 2020. Responses were read aloud by the Mayor, Councillor A M van Zetten.

Question:

1. Given that it is the role of 'governance' – Council's elected representatives – to determine policy and strategic direction with 'management's role' being to implement governance's determinations, it is now very clear that what once pertained relative to policy development and appropriate strategic imperatives are no longer relevant in the way they were assumed to be a few months ago. In acknowledgement of changed and changing circumstances:

- Will Council proactively acknowledge these changed and changing circumstances in developing policies and initiating strategic directions looking forward;***
- Consistent with that will Council initiate 'Citizen's Assemblies' as a means of garnering 'expert advice' – directly and indirectly – thus enabling broad spectrum community engagement in policy development and strategic determinations; and***
- Consistent with that, empanel a 'Citizen's Assembly' facilitated by say the new DEMOCRACY Foundation, or a like arm's length organisation, to complete the 'Cultural Strategy Process' in order to develop a truly 21st Century outcome that best fits 'the municipality's' multi-dimensional and multi-faceted cultural realities, needs and aspirations?***

Response:

At this stage it is not intended to consider the introduction of citizen assemblies as part of the Council's community engagement approach. Over the last 12 months the Council has implemented the Tomorrow Together program, which represents a new way for Councils to engage with their community. Through this program Council has changed the way it engages with the Launceston community. Rather than asking for feedback on each individual project we have been asking our community up front what is important to them and asking them to work with us on the solutions. Some conversations however need to be bigger and bolder. For those complex, big-picture or strategic conversations we need to have, there now is Tomorrow Together.

Question:

2. Given that there is serious concern within the community in regard to Council's apparent lack of transparency relative to its recent grant initiative and the apparent discretionary accountability on display, will Council commission a 'forensic audit' to be undertaken at arm's length from the Council's management with the auditor being appointed and briefed by either the Minister of Local Government or his nominee.

Response:

This matter will be considered by the Council later in the agenda of this meeting. However, should the Council agree to conduct an independent audit in respect to the grant process, it will not involve the Minister for Local Government.

Question:

3. Given that Council has declared a 'Climate Emergency' and the municipality is facing dire economic circumstances, will Council proactively:

- Seek to encourage the establishment of local resource recovery enterprises; and***
- Consistent with that adopt a 'no food waste disposal protocol' within the municipality; and***
- Consistent with that change the signage at the 'Waste Management Centre' to read 'Resource Recovery Facility'.***

Response:

The Council will soon be conducting a round of circular economy grants as part of the Community Care and Recovery package which will encourage the establishment of local resource recovery enterprises. At this stage there is no plan to adopt a 'no food waste disposal protocol' for the Municipal Area nor is there any plan to change the name of the Launceston Waste Centre and Transfer Station. It should be noted that in addition to the transfer station, this facility includes a recycling centre, a second-hand shop called Uptipity, a green waste disposal area as well as an organics processing centre. The Council is also a member of the Northern Tasmanian Waste Management Group which conducts the Rethink Waste program, and encourages our community to rethink what we do with our waste to improve our collective efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Council adopted a Sustainability Strategy in 2019 to support our declared Climate Emergency. The Strategy documents Council's priorities for now and our future.

8.2.3 Robin Smith, Launceston - Use of Air Blowers, Rough Sleepers

The following questions, submitted to Council on 30 April 2020, were read aloud by a Council Officer at the Council Meeting on 30 April 2020. Responses were read aloud by the Mayor, Councillor A M van Zetten.

Question:

1. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic the City of Launceston council continues daily 'leaf-blowing' of public streets and footpaths in the Launceston CBD. 'Street-sweeping' by the use of multiple back-pack petrol powered air blowers is highly unfortunate for those who walk through the city while the airborne particles remain suspended for hours.

I note that the council operators themselves do not wear any protective breathing apparatus or hearing protection, there is reporting that viruses can be rendered airborne and breathed in by the public.

Given the length of time particles can be seen suspended in the air following the passing of the council team, to protect the elderly and immunocompromised, would council consider suspending this practice during, at the very least, the pandemic?

Response:

Removing of leaf litter and debris with blowers is undertaken daily in the CBD between 6am to 7.30am by blowing the litter into the kerb which is then removed with the street sweeper.

Employees undertaking this activity operate within our standard operating procedures which have been designed to mitigate health and safety risks. The PPE worn by staff is appropriate for this task.

We do not believe and have found no evidence to support that COVID-19 will be spread through this activity.

This activity is undertaken to:

- Maintain the amenity of our CBD
 - Minimise leaf litter and debris entering the stormwater system. This time of year leaf litter in the drainage system can lead to blockage of pits and pipes which results in flooding
 - To remove slip risks.
-

Question:

2. There are a number of rough-sleepers living on the streets of Launceston who appear not to be sufficiently accommodated during the pandemic. There are people sleeping under the bridge, in a city carpark, in a car in the Gorge carpark and even a person who is completing a period of 14 day pandemic isolation while living in a tent in the Gorge Reserve (council property). Can they be helped further by council please?

3. There is also the matter of a South Korean tourist who has been living rough in the city centre in excess of 10 months now. His return air ticket has expired and apparently does not possess the financial means to return to his native country. He is now facing his second winter living in the open. He is too unassuming to ask for help, not eligible for most and appears to be trapped in somewhat of a state of limbo. In a previous council meeting [5 or 6 months ago perhaps] I raised this matter and coincidentally indicated the adjacent council grounds behind the very meeting building where he still lives. Can he be helped by council please?

Response:

Yes, we can certainly inform the relevant partner agencies to see if they are able to provide support to the people Mr Smith has identified.

We would all be aware now that the State Government has made some significant changes with the *City Mission* and the *Salvation Army* in particular to open up a Day Centre in our city in the coming weeks. The Day Centre will also have a place where people can sleep at night. Michael [Stretton] and I have been working with the State Government to try and improve the facilities for the homeless in our city, and we thank the State Government for this.

Under the provisions of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, Council acts as a Planning Authority in regard to items included in Item 9 - Planning Authority.

9 PLANNING AUTHORITY

No Development Applications have been identified as part of these Minutes.

10 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR

Due to the cancellation of functions and community events the Mayor, Councillor A M van Zetten, did not make any announcements relating to these activities.

11 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

(This item provides an opportunity for Councillors to briefly report on the activities that have been undertaken in their capacity as a representative of the Council. It is not necessary to list social functions that have been attended.)

11.2 Councillor J Finlay

- Councillor Finlay noted the resignation of Neil Grose from the Launceston Chamber of Commerce, and acknowledged his service to Launceston over the last three years. The Mayor, Councillor A M van Zetten, confirmed that Council had acknowledged Mr Grose's service in media, and would soon do so in writing, and at a function [when restrictions around gatherings are relaxed].

11.5 Councillor D H McKenzie

- Councillor McKenzie noted that Paul Hodgen ends his term as General Manager of Launceston Airport today. Mr Hodgen will be missed for his service to the City and to the boards of the Launceston Chamber of Commerce and the Tourism Industry Council of Tasmania.

11.3 Councillor A E Dawkins

- Councillor Dawkins noted that it was to have been a big year for the Junction Arts Festival, which was to have celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2020 but will now do so in 2021. An end-of-isolation event is currently being curated.

The Mayor, Councillor A M van Zetten, noted that the *BOFA* [Breath of Fresh Air Film Festival] will launch Friday night on-line and will provide free films over the next few weeks.

12 QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS**12.1 Questions on Notice**

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 30

No Councillor's Questions on Notice have been identified as part of these Minutes.

12.2 Questions Without Notice

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 29

(Questions Without Notice, and any answers to those questions, are not required to be recorded in the Minutes of the Meeting.)

13 COMMITTEE REPORTS

No Committee Reports have been identified as part of these Minutes.

COUNCIL MINUTES

Thursday 30 April 2020

14 COUNCIL WORKSHOPS

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 2(c)

14.1 Council Workshop Report

FILE NO: SF4401

AUTHOR: Leanne Purchase (Manager Governance)

GENERAL MANAGER: Louise Foster (Organisational Services Network)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider Council Workshops conducted since 26 March 2020.

RECOMMENDATION:

That, pursuant to Regulation 2(c) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*, Council notes the Council Workshops conducted since 26 March 2020 for the purposes described:

Workshop conducted on 9 April 2020

In addition to general business, Councillors discussed -

- *a plan for Council Workshops during the COVID-19 period*
- *updates on the organisation, the Paterson Street Central Car Park development proposal, and the Innovation Grants*
- *a State Government \$150M Interest-free loan fund*
- *projects impacted by deferrals: the Greater Launceston Transport Vision, the Cityprom review, the Greater Launceston Plan review, the Recreational Facilities Strategy, the Cultural Strategy, and the City Deal 3-Year Review*
- *the Gorge proposal*
- *virtual meeting platform(s)*

Workshop conducted on 23 April 2020

In addition to general business, Councillors discussed -

- *COVID-19 update*
 - *Innovation Grants process*
 - *Launceston Airport's Chief Executive Officer*
 - *Fragrance Development Application process*
 - *Northern Recreation Hub*
 - *CBD parking restrictions*
-

Ms L Foster (General Manager Organisational Services) was in attendance to answer questions of Council in respect of this Agenda Item.

DECISION: 30 April 2020

MOTION

Moved Councillor J Finlay, seconded Councillor D C Gibson.

That the Motion, as per the Recommendation to Council, be adopted.

CARRIED 12:0

FOR VOTE: Mayor Councillor A M van Zetten, Deputy Mayor Councillor D C Gibson, Councillor J Finlay, Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor R I Soward, Councillor J G Cox, Councillor K P Stojansek, Councillor A E Dawkins, Councillor N D Daking, Councillor P S Spencer, Councillor A G Harris and Councillor T G Walker

15 NOTICES OF MOTION

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 16(5)

15.1 Notice of Motion - Councillor T G Walker - Community Care and Recovery Digital Innovation Grants

FILE NO: SF5547

AUTHOR: Lee Viney (Administration Officer)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Michael Stretton

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider a Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Tim Walker regarding Community Care and Recovery Digital Innovation Grants.

RECOMMENDATION:

Launceston City Council seek a suitable organisation to conduct an independent audit into the administering of the Community Care and Recovery Digital Innovation Grants, but not be limited to:

- a) an assessment of the rigour applied by council to the criteria of genuine need and creative and innovative solutions, citing evidence that the criteria approved by the councillors were met;
- b) the administration of the entry and awarding process; and
- c) the due diligence applied to the costings of successful applicants projects, including clarification around the figures representing co-contribution.

Mr Michael Stretton (Chief Executive Officer) was in attendance to answer questions of Council in respect of this Agenda Item.

Councillor K P Stojansek withdrew from the debate due to a declaration of interest.

MOTION

Moved Councillor T G Walker, seconded Councillor D H McKenzie.

That the Motion, as per the Recommendation to Council, be adopted.

NO VOTE WAS TAKEN AS AN AMENDMENT WAS PUT

DECISION: 30 April 2020**MOTION**

Moved Councillor D C Gibson, seconded Councillor J Finlay.

That the Motion be amended as follows:

That the Council request the Chief Executive Officer to engage a suitably qualified organisation to conduct an independent audit of the Community Care and Recovery Grants program(s). This audit should include, but not necessarily be limited to:

- a) A review of the rationale and objectives of the programs;
- b) A review of the administration process for the receipt, assessment and awarding of the grants against the Council approved criteria; including:
 - an assessment of the rigour applied by Council to determine the genuine need of the organisations which received grants and
 - an assessment of the rigour applied by Council to determine creative and innovative solutions;
 - and the costings included by the of successful applicants, including clarification around the figures representing co-contribution; and
- c) An assessment of the actual on-the-ground impact that the grant funding has on businesses within Launceston, and
- d) A determination on whether the objectives of the Community Care and Recovery Grants program were achieved.

CARRIED 11:0

FOR VOTE: Mayor Councillor A M van Zetten, Deputy Mayor Councillor D C Gibson, Councillor J Finlay, Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor R I Soward, Councillor J G Cox, Councillor A E Dawkins, Councillor N D Daking, Councillor P S Spencer, Councillor A G Harris and Councillor T G Walker

DID NOT VOTE due to **DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** Councillor K P Stojansek

DECISION: 30 April 2020**MOTION**

Moved Councillor T G Walker, seconded Councillor D H McKenzie.

That the Council request the Chief Executive Officer to engage a suitably qualified organisation to conduct an independent audit of the Community Care and Recovery Grants program(s). This audit should include, but not necessarily be limited to:

- a) A review of the rationale and objectives of the programs;
 - b) A review of the administration process for the receipt, assessment and awarding of the grants against the Council approved criteria; including:
-

- an assessment of the rigour applied by Council to determine the genuine need of the organisations which received grants and
 - an assessment of the rigour applied by Council to determine creative and innovative solutions;
 - and the costings included by the of successful applicants, including clarification around the figures representing co-contribution; and
- c) An assessment of the actual on-the-ground impact that the grant funding has on businesses within Launceston, and
- d) A determination on whether the objectives of the Community Care and Recovery Grants program were achieved.

CARRIED 11:0

FOR VOTE: Mayor Councillor A M van Zetten, Deputy Mayor Councillor D C Gibson, Councillor J Finlay, Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor R I Soward, Councillor J G Cox, Councillor A E Dawkins, Councillor N D Daking, Councillor P S Spencer, Councillor A G Harris and Councillor T G Walker

DID NOT VOTE due to DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Councillor K P Stojansek

16 COMMUNITY AND PLACE NETWORK ITEMS

No Items have been identified as part of these Minutes.

17 CREATIVE ARTS AND CULTURAL SERVICES NETWORK ITEMS

No Items have been identified as part of these Minutes.

18 INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSETS NETWORK ITEMS**18.1 Proposed Street Name - Dolerite Drive, Kings Meadows**

FILE NO: DA0092/2018; SF0621

AUTHOR: Sonia Smith (Senior Engineering Officer - Development)

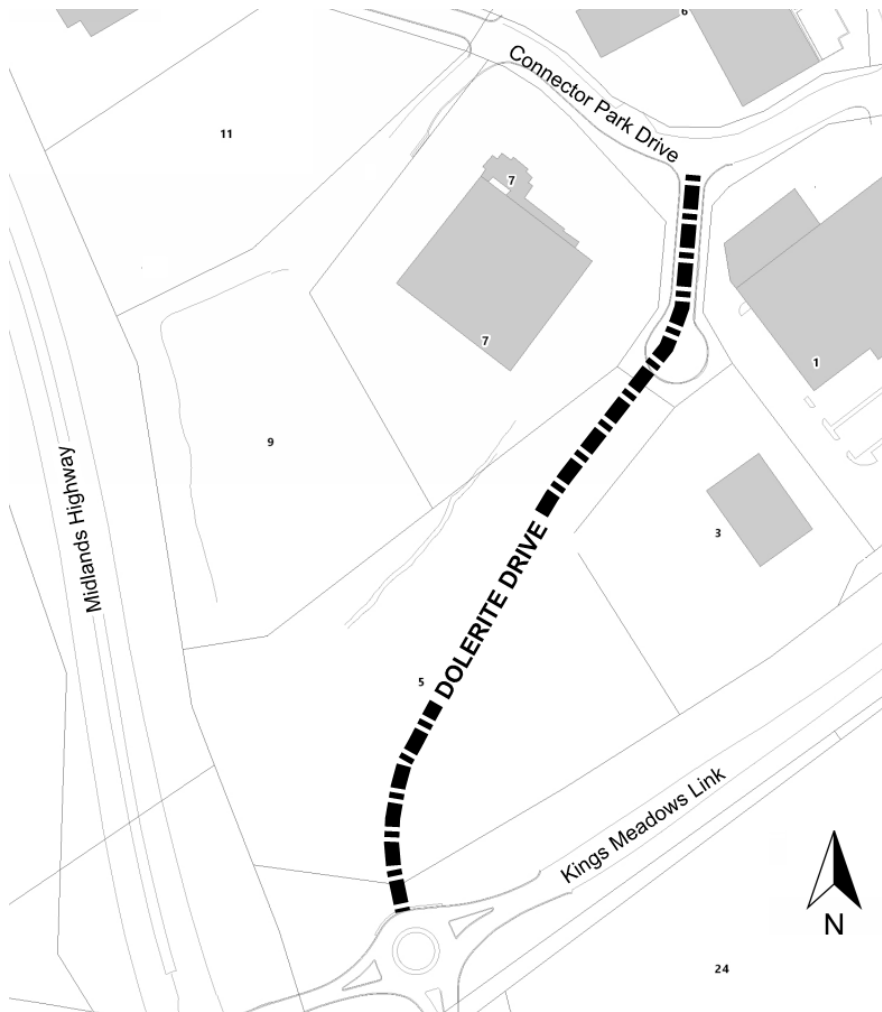
GENERAL MANAGER: Shane Eberhardt (General Manager Infrastructure and Assets Network)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider approval of a street name for the new industrial road between Kings Meadows Link and Connector Park Drive, Youngtown.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council, pursuant to the provisions of section 54 of the *Local Government (Highways) Act 1982* (Tas) and section 20E of the *Survey Co-ordination Act 1944* (Tas), approves the name Dolerite Drive, for the new road between Kings Meadows Link and Connector Park Drive, Youngtown.



Mr S Eberhardt (General Manager Infrastructure and Assets Network) was in attendance to answer questions of Council in respect of this Agenda Item.

DECISION: 30 April 2020

MOTION

Moved Councillor P S Spencer, seconded Councillor J G Cox.

That the Motion, as per the Recommendation to Council, be adopted.

CARRIED 12:0

FOR VOTE: Mayor Councillor A M van Zetten, Deputy Mayor Councillor D C Gibson, Councillor J Finlay, Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor R I Soward, Councillor J G Cox, Councillor K P Stojansek, Councillor A E Dawkins, Councillor N D Daking, Councillor P S Spencer, Councillor A G Harris and Councillor T G Walker

19 ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES NETWORK ITEMS**19.1 2019/2020 Budget - Chief Executive Officer's Report on Adjustments 1 February 2020 to 31 March 2020****FILE NO:** SF3611**AUTHOR:** Nathan Williams (Manager Finance)**GENERAL MANAGER:** Louise Foster (General Manager Organisational Services Network)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider adjustments made by the Chief Executive Officer to the 2019/2020 Budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council, pursuant to section 82(7) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas), receives the Chief Executive Officer's report on adjustments to the 2019/2020 Budget for the period 1 February 2020 to 31 March 2020.

Ms L Foster (General Manager Organisational Services Network) was in attendance to answer questions of Council in respect of this Agenda Item.

DECISION: 30 April 2020**MOTION**

Moved Councillor D H McKenzie, seconded Councillor J Finlay.

That the Motion, as per the Recommendation to Council, be adopted.

CARRIED 12:0

FOR VOTE: Mayor Councillor A M van Zetten, Deputy Mayor Councillor D C Gibson, Councillor J Finlay, Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor R I Soward, Councillor J G Cox, Councillor K P Stojansek, Councillor A E Dawkins, Councillor N D Daking, Councillor P S Spencer, Councillor A G Harris and Councillor T G Walker

19.2 2019/2020 Budget - Budget Amendments**FILE NO:** SF6641**AUTHOR:** Nathan Williams (Manager Finance)**GENERAL MANAGER:** Louise Foster (General Manager Organisational Services Network)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider changes to the Council's 2019/2020 Statutory Estimates.

A decision for Recommendation 1 requires an absolute majority of Council in accordance with section 82(4) of the Local Government Act 1993 (Tas).

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. pursuant to section 82(4) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas) and by an absolute majority, approves the following changes to the 2019/2020 Statutory Estimates:
 - a. Revenue
 - i. the net increase in revenue from external grants and contributions of \$85,000.
 - b. Expenses
 - i. the net increase in operations expenditure of \$72,237.
 - c. Capital Works Expenditure
 - i. the net increase in expenditure from external funds of \$85,000.
 - ii. the decrease in Council funded expenditure of \$72,237.
2. notes that amendments from Recommendation 1 result in:
 - a. the operating surplus being amended to \$6,277,140 (including capital grants of \$8,222,875) for 2019/2020.
 - b. the capital budget being increased to \$29,604,780 for 2019/2020.

Ms L Foster (General Manager Organisational Services Network) was in attendance to answer questions of Council in respect of this Agenda Item.

DECISION: 30 April 2020

MOTION

Moved Councillor D H McKenzie, seconded Councillor A G Harris.

That the Motion, as per the Recommendation to Council, be adopted.

CARRIED BY AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 12:0

FOR VOTE: Mayor Councillor A M van Zetten, Deputy Mayor Councillor D C Gibson, Councillor J Finlay, Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor R I Soward, Councillor J G Cox, Councillor K P Stojansek, Councillor A E Dawkins, Councillor N D Daking, Councillor P S Spencer, Councillor A G Harris and Councillor T G Walker

20 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER NETWORK ITEMS

No Items have been identified as part of these Minutes

21 CLOSED COUNCIL

No Closed Items have been identified as part of these Minutes

22 MEETING CLOSURE

The Mayor, Councillor A M van Zetten, closed the Meeting at 2.01pm.

UNCLASSIFIED MINUTES ITEMS: