

TO BE HELD: Wednesday, 21 December 2022

**LOCATION:** Kaniva Council Chambers

**COMMENCEMENT:** 2.00pm

PUBLIC ACCESS: Open to the public and Live Streaming from

Council's website www.westwimmera.vic.gov.au

REQUIRED TO ATTEND:			
Councillors	<b>Executive Leadership Group</b>		
Tim Meyer, Mayor	David Bezuidenhout		
Jodie Pretlove, Deputy Mayor	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)		
Trevor Domaschenz	James Bentley Director Corporate & Community Services		
Tom Houlihan	(DCCS)		
Bruce Meyer OAM	Daryl Sinclair Acting Director Infrastructure Development & Works (DIDW)		
Bruce Meyer OAM	Acting Director Infrastructure Development		

The West Wimmera Shire Council Governance Rules set out the meeting procedure rules for this Council Meeting.

Members of the public are reminded that they are required to remain silent during this meeting, except during Section 4.0 Questions from the Gallery.

#### Vision Statement:

Our Wimmera Shire communities are healthy, thriving, diverse, harmonious, prosperous and self-sustaining, with regional and global connectivity



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#### 1.0 WELCOME

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:**

The West Wimmera Shire Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, and pays respect to their elders, past, present and emerging.

#### 2.0 OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, we humbly ask your blessing upon this Council. Guide and prosper our decisions to the advancement of Your Glory and the true welfare of the people of West Wimmera Shire. Amen.

## 3.0 APOLOGIES, LEAVE OF ABSENCE, DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

#### 3.1 APOLOGIES

#### 3.2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

#### 3.3 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All Councillors have a <u>personal</u> responsibility to ensure they are aware of the provisions mandated in the Local Government Act 2020 with regard to Conflict of Interest disclosures.



### 4.0 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC (maximum of 30 minutes)

#### **4.1 WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

Governance Rules – Division 8 Section 53:

- 53.4 Questions submitted to Council can be submitted as follows:
- 53.4.1 In writing, stating the name and address of the person submitting the question and generally be in a form approved or permitted by Council; and
- 53.4.2 Placed in the receptacle designated for the purpose at the place of the meeting at least two hours prior to the Council meeting, or be lodged electronically at the prescribed email address at least two hours prior to the Council meeting.
- 53.5 No person may submit more than two questions at any one meeting.

The Question on Notice template is available from the Edenhope and Kaniva Council Offices, and from Council's website.

Written Questions on Notice submitted to Council no later than the deadline of 5:00pm on the Monday in the previous week to the relevant Council Meeting, will be included in the Agenda.

Written Questions submitted subsequent to that deadline can be lodged electronically to <u>KaddieCother@westwimmera.vic.gov.au</u>, no later than two hours prior to the Council Meeting.



### 4.1.1 Edenhope Community Centre – Geoff Langsworth

Can Council please set a date for the official opening of the Edenhope Community Centre in 2023 and can a commemorative plaque for the date be established?

Could the meeting room be named in honour of Mr Andrew Farran, a significant benefactor, with names of the other donors to also be displayed on an honour board in the foyer of the building?

#### 4.1.2 Kaniva Kindergarten – Kara Dodson

Can Council please arrange for a proper assessment and repairs of the ceiling issue at Kaniva Kindergarten to prevent future damage?

Would you please make every effort to ensure that this work is undertaken during the holiday break, prior to commencement of kindergarten in 2023.



### 4.2 VERBAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Time permitting, this section of the Agenda allows members of gallery to ask <u>verbal</u> <u>questions</u> of Councillors, following the removal of standing orders and when prompted by the Mayor (Governance Rules Division 8 S53.4.3)

Members of the Gallery providing verbal questions without notice at a Council Meeting must state their name, to be recorded in the minutes (Governance Rules Division 8 S53.4.4)

No person may submit more than two questions at any one meeting (Governance Rules Division 8 S53.5)



### 5.0 DELEGATES REPORTS (VERBAL OR WRITTEN)

### **5.1 COUNCILLOR TIM MEYER (MAYOR)**

23/11/2022	Planning Scheme Review Subsequent Meeting
01/12/2022	16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence
06/12/2022	Strategic Leadership Team Meeting
06/12/2022	International Volunteers Day
07/12/2022	Councillor Forum
09/12/2022	MAV Mayoral Welcome & Induction
11/12/2022	Bills Gully Hall & Recreation Reserve Committee Meeting
13/12/2022	Audit & Risk Committee Meeting
14/12/2022	Kaniva School Student Citizenship Award
14/12/2022	Edenhope School Student Citizenship Award
15/12/2022	Western Highway Action Group Committee
21/12/2022	Inspection of the Kaniva Depot.
21/12/2022	Agenda Review
21/12/2022	Council Meeting

### **5.2 COUNCILLOR JODIE PRETLOVE (DEPUTY MAYOR)**

22/11/2022	West Wimmera Tourism Advisory Committee Meeting
23/11/2022	Planning Scheme Review Subsequent Meeting
25/11/2022	Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Transport Group Meeting
01/12/2022	16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence
06/12/2022	Strategic Leadership Team Meeting
06/12/2022	International Volunteers Day
07/12/2022	Councillor Forum
13/12/2022	Audit & Risk Committee Meeting
14/12/2022	Goroke School Student Citizenship Award
21/12/2022	Inspection of the Kaniva Depot.
21/12/2022	Agenda Review
21/12/2022	Council Meeting



### 5.3 COUNCILLOR TREVOR DOMASCHENZ

23/11/2022	Planning Scheme Review Subsequent Meeting
29/11/2022	Wimmera Mallee Tourism
01/12/2022	16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence
06/12/2022	International Volunteers Day
07/12/2022	Councillor Forum
20/12/2022	Wimmera Mallee Tourism
21/12/2022	Inspection of the Kaniva Depot.
21/12/2022	Agenda Review
21/12/2022	Council Meeting

### 5.4 COUNCILLOR TOM HOULIHAN

Planning Scheme Review Subsequent Meeting
16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence
International Volunteers Day
Councillor Forum
Inspection of the Kaniva Depot.
Agenda Review
Council Meeting

### 5.5 COUNCILLOR BRUCE MEYER OAM

23/11/2022	Planning Scheme Review Subsequent Meeting
01/12/2022	16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence
06/12/2022	International Volunteers Day
07/12/2022	Councillor Forum
11/12/2022	Bills Gully Hall & Recreation Reserve Committee Meeting
16/12/2022	Wimmera Regional Library Corporation
21/12/2022	Inspection of the Kaniva Depot.
21/12/2022	Agenda Review
21/12/2022	Council Meeting

#### 6.0 CONDOLENCES

#### **6.1 TOM CURTIS**

Councillor of the Shire of Kaniva from 1992-1995, promoter of tourism, town development and beautification.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council note the passing of Tom Curtis and express condolences to his family and associates.

# 7.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING – 16<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2022

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022 be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

# 7.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL STATUTORY MEETING – HELD 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2022

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Minutes of the Annual Statutory Meeting held on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

#### 8.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES



#### 9.0 NOTICES OF MOTION

# 9.1 THE MAKING A DIFFERENCE @ HARROW & DISTRICT RECREATION RESERVE PROJECT – CR TREVOR DOMASCHENZ – NOM 2022/03

#### **Motion:**

That West Wimmera Shire Council should fully support an immediate objective and indepth inquiry into the "Making a Difference @ Harrow and Districts Recreation Reserve Project", and urgently seek expressions of interest from appropriately qualified independent consultants to undertake this inquiry.

Specifically, the inquiry's investigations and report should include a detailed assessment of the funding application and allocation processes, the project management, the relationship between the principal parties (West Wimmera Shire, councillors, the Harrow and District Recreation Reserve Committee, contractors, funding bodies, the community and the private investors) and any actual or perceived conflicts of interest within and between all parties.

#### **Explanation:**

"The Making a Difference @ Harrow and District Recreation Reserve Project" has become a major and ongoing disruption to the normal functioning of Council.

How the grant monies were applied for, received, spent and acquitted by West Wimmera Shire Council has been the subject of distracting Council and public debate in the four years since the grants were first available.

The issue needs to be thoroughly investigated by a totally independent person or body and all the issues and accusations answered in a report to Council and councillors.



#### 10.0 COUNCILLOR FORUM RECORDS

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Record for the Councillor Forum held Wednesday, 2 November 2022 be received and noted.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Record for the Councillor Forum held Wednesday, 7 December 2022 be received and noted.

#### 11.0 DEPUTATIONS AND PETITIONS



### 12.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

### 12.1 NO REPORTS



#### 13.0 CORPORATE & COMMUNITY SERVICES

# 13.1 EDENHOPE EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICE – BUILDING BLOCKS GRANTS

**FILE NUMBER:** 

REPORT AUTHOR: JAMES BENTLEY, DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

#### FOR DECISION

#### Introduction

Council has been awarded two grants under the Victorian Government's Building Blocks Improvement grant funding programme. The purpose of this report is to provide details of the grants for the information of Councillors and to seek authorisation for the Chief Executive Officer to implement project delivery.

#### **Declaration of Interests**

No officer declared an interest under the *Local Government Act 2020* in the preparation of this report.

#### Background

On 13 October 2022, Ms Ingrid Stitt MP Minister for Early Childhood, advised the Chief Executive Officer that Council had been awarded two grants under the Victorian Government's Building Blocks Improvement grant funding program. The grants are as follows:

- Building Blocks Improvement 2022-23 Early Learning Facilities Upgrade for the Edenhope Early Childhood Service amounting to \$342,199.77.
- Building Blocks Improvement 2022-23 Minor Infrastructure Grant for the Edenhope Early Childhood Service amounting to \$70,000.00.

Neither of these grants are contingent upon any co-contribution from Council. An additional amount of \$6,000 is to be provided by the Edenhope Parents' Group, resulting in a total activity income for the early learning facilities upgrade of \$348,199.77.

These grant applications were finalised and submitted to the Department by Council on 26 May 2022 and were logged into Council's grant register on 27 May 2022. There is no evidence to confirm that the subject matter of these grants was ever brought to the attention of Councillors. Please refer to the attachments for details of the proposed works.



Since the applications were made for these grants, Council has commenced using Grant Guru, a web-based platform which both identifies potential grants which may be of interest to Council, and facilitates the tracking of any applications Council has made for any of these grants.

Even though applying for these particular grants did not expose Council to any future financial liabilities, it is recognised that complete visibility of these matters to Councillors would have been best practice. The potential of substantial capital works being undertaken on a significant Council asset warrants matters such as this being brought to Councillors' attention before as soon as possible. Use of the new Grant Guru system for all grant applications going forward will greatly facilitate this objective.

#### Risk Management Implications

There is a risk that elected representatives may not have adequate information to discharge their responsibilities. Utilisation of the Grant Guru reporting functionality will mitigate this risk.

#### <u>Legislative Implications</u>

Nil

#### **Environmental Implications**

Nil

#### Financial and Budgetary Implications

Nil in this case, but greater visibility and transparency of grant applications will help to ensure incorporation of potential projects in the budget.

#### **Policy Implications**

This report is supported by the following West Wimmera Shire Council Policy:

**Grants Policy** 

#### **Council Plan Implications**

This report supports the following section/s of the West Wimmera Shire Council Plan 2021-2025:

- Goal 1 Liveable & Healthy Community
- Goal 4 Good Governance

#### **Communication Implications**

Nil



#### Gender Equality

A Gender Impact Assessment (as defined in the Gender Equality Act 2020) has been undertaken in relation to this matter in accordance with the Gender Equality Act (2020).

#### Conclusion

The award of the Building Blocks grants to Council is a significant achievement for the community and is worthy of recognition. However, it is important to foster complete transparency in the grant application process and ensure that elected representatives have full visibility of potential projects in order to discharge their responsibilities. The use of the Grant Guru portal will be instrumental in achieving this objective going forward.

#### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That Council note the award by the state government of two successful applications under the Building Blocks Improvement grant funding program being:

Building Blocks Improvement 2022-23 Early Learning Facilities Upgrade for the Edenhope Early Childhood Service amounting to \$342,199.77.

Building Blocks Improvement 2022-23 Minor Infrastructure Grant for the Edenhope Early Childhood Service amounting to \$70,000.00.

2. That Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to finalise scoping and planning of the work relating to these grants, and to implement project delivery as soon as reasonably practicable.

#### **Attachments:**

No.	Name	RecFind Ref
13.1.1	Edenhope Kindergarten - Details	
	Edenhope Kindergarten	
13.1.2	Edenhope Kindergarten -	
	Edenhope Kindergarten plans	
13.1.3	Edenhope Kindergarten -	
	Existing Conditions Edenhope	
	Kindergarten	
13.1.4	Edenhope Kindergarten - Layout	
	plan Edenhope Kindergarten	



#### 13.2 PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE POLICY

#### FILE NUMBER:

REPORT AUTHOR: JAMES BENTLEY DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

#### FOR DECISION

#### Introduction

West Wimmera Shire Council is committed to the aims and objectives of the Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012 (the PID Act), and will not tolerate improper conduct by its elected representatives or employees, including reprisals against those who come forward to disclose such conduct. Council recognises the value of transparency and accountability in its administrative and management practices, and supports the making of disclosures that reveal corrupt conduct, conduct involving a substantial mismanagement of public resources, conduct involving a substantial risk to public health and safety, or the environment. Council will take all reasonable steps to protect people who make such disclosures from any detrimental action in reprisal for making the disclosure. Disclosures can be made by employees or by members of the public.

The current policy was adopted on 18 June 2020 and is now due for review. The Public Interest Disclosure Procedure is an attachment (Appendix A) to the policy and outlines the process for making, managing and reporting a Public Interest Disclosure. The system enables such disclosures to be made to Council's Public Interest Disclosures Coordinator or to others as defined under Contacts. These policy and procedures were also presented to the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting for review on the 29 September 2022 who approved both documents, pending inclusion of the Overarching Principles of the Local Government Act 2020 into the Policy.

#### **Declaration of Interests**

No officer declared an interest under the *Local Government Act 2020* in the preparation of this report.

#### Background

The policy complements usual communication channels between supervisors and employees. Employees are encouraged to continue to raise appropriate matters at any time with their supervisors or managers as applicable. As an alternative, employees may make a disclosure of improper conduct or detrimental action under the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2012 (PID Act)* in accordance with this Policy.



Protected Disclosures (PD) became known as Public Interest Disclosures (PID) on 1 January 2020. Under the *PID Act*, people who report improper conduct and/or detrimental action are provided with legal protection. Once a report is investigated it becomes known as a Public Interest Complaint. These complaints were previously known as 'Whistleblower' complaints.

#### The PID Act aims to:

- Encourage and assist people to report improper conduct and detrimental action taken in reprisal as a consequence of making a public interest disclosure.
- Provide certain protections for people who make a disclosure or those who may suffer detrimental action as a consequence of making a public interest disclosure.
- Ensure that certain information about a public interest disclosure is kept confidential including the identity of the person making the disclosure and the content of that disclosure.

The Public Interest Procedures have been established to protect the confidentiality of any persons making a disclosure. All reasonable steps will be taken to protect such persons from any detrimental action in reprisal for making the disclosure. The procedures will also ensure that natural justice is afforded to the person who is the subject of the disclosure.

#### Risk Management Implications

The Public Interest Disclosure Policy and Procedures have been developed according to legislative requirements and will be reviewed as required pending any legislative change. Maintaining up to date policies is a key element of good governance.

#### Legislative and IBAC Guideline References

This draft policy contains updates to reflect the relevant legislation requirements from;

Victorian Local Government Act 2020

Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2011

Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012

Freedom of Information Act 1982

Privacy Data Protection Act 2014

Ombudsman Act 1973

IBAC - Guidelines for making and handling Public Interest Disclosures

IBAC – Guidelines for Public Interest Disclosure welfare management

#### **Environmental Implications**

Nil

#### Financial and Budgetary Implications

Nil

#### **Policy Implications**

This report is supported by the following West Wimmera Shire Council documents:

- Councillor Code of Conduct Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Fraud Corruption Control Policy

#### Council Plan Implications

This report supports the following section of the West Wimmera Shire Council Plan 2021-2025

- Goal 4 – Good Governance

#### **Communication Implications**

Following adoption of the reviewed policy it will be published on Council's website and all staff will be notified of the revised document.

#### Gender Equality

Not commented on.

#### Conclusion

The Public Interest Disclosure Policy and Procedures (see Appendix A) provide guidance to Councillors and Council staff on the system for reporting disclosures of improper conduct by West Wimmera Shire Council, Councillors or its employees or members.

#### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council adopt the draft Public Interest Disclosure Policy and Procedures.

#### **Attachments:**

No.	Name	RecFind Ref
13.2.1	Public Interest Disclosure Policy	
	DRAFT	
13.2.2	Public Interest Disclosure	
	Procedure DRAFT (Appendix A)	



#### 13.3 CUSTOMER SERVICE POLICY

**FILE NUMBER:** 

REPORT AUTHOR: JOHN HUTCHINS, MANAGER COMMUNITY

DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

FOR DECISION

#### **Introduction**

West Wimmera Shire Council (Council) believes that excellent customer service involves sharing knowledge and information in an appropriate and timely manner. This policy has been created as part of a continuing focus on customer service.

#### **Declaration of Interests**

No officer declared an interest under the *Local Government Act 2020* in the preparation of this report.

#### **Background**

The Policy was adopted by Council on the 20 Sept 2017 and was due for updating in September 2021

#### **Risk Management Implications**

As this is a pre-existing Policy no further risks have been identified in this update

#### **Legislative Implications**

Nil

#### **Environmental Implications**

N/A

#### **Financial and Budgetary Implications**

Updating the policy has residual funding implications only

#### **Policy Implications**

This report has had regard for following West Wimmera Shire Council Policy obligations:

Customer Service



### **Council Plan Implications**

This report supports the following section/s of the West Wimmera Shire Council Plan 2021-2025:

Goal 4 – Good Governance

#### **Communication Implications**

Council's communications staff will assist in promoting the event considered in this report through its web site and on social media.

#### **Gender Equality**

A Gender Impact Assessment (as defined in the Gender Equality Act 2020) has been undertaken in relation to this matter in accordance with the Gender Equality Act (2020).

#### **Conclusion**

This policy will be required for good governance around our commitment to Customer Service.

#### **Attachments**

Updated policy with track changes

#### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council adopt the attached draft Customer Service Policy (Attachment 1).

#### **Attachments:**

No.	Name	RecFind Ref
13.3.1	Updated Customer Service policy with track changes	



## 13.4 REQUEST FOR COUNCIL SPONSORSHIP – EDENHOPE RACE CLUB

#### FILE NUMBER:

REPORT AUTHOR: MICHELLE ELLIS, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM PROJECT OFFICER

#### FOR DECISION

#### Introduction

Council has received a request seeking funding support from the Edenhope Race Club.

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for funding, by way of race sponsorship, at the 2023 Edenhope Race Meeting.

#### **Declaration of Interests**

No officer declared an interest under the *Local Government Act 2020* in the preparation of this report.

#### Background

Council has received an offer to financial support and assist the Edenhope Race Club by becoming a race naming rights sponsor at the Edenhope Races 2023.

Council has traditionally supported the annual running of the Edenhope Cup conducted by the Edenhope Race Club. The Race Meeting is scheduled to be held on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

The event typically draws a crowd of approximately 1200 people. It also draws the attention of a much larger audience due to racing industry promotion in free to air and Sky channel television, racing industry web sites and the print media.

The proposed sponsorship arrangement is documented in **Attachment 1.** An important aspect of the sponsorship is the provision for Councillors and their guests to enjoy the hospitality of the Club and in doing so, mix with other dignitaries and guests including local community leaders. It represents an ideal opportunity to promote both the Council as an organisation and Council's continued support for events in the Shire.

The cost of the sponsorship arrangement is \$880.00 inc GST and has been provided for in the current year Council budget.



#### **Risk Management Implications**

There are no known or obvious risks for Council to mitigate or eliminate regarding this funding support request.

Edenhope Race Club is responsible for managing and mitigating any associated risks with undertaking their activities.

Council's reputation can only be enhanced by supporting these community event initiatives.

#### <u>Legislative Implications</u>

In providing funding support to these initiatives, Council is acting within its authority to do so under the Local Government Act 2020.

#### **Environmental Implications**

N/A

#### Financial and Budgetary Implications

Funds are available from within the 2022/23 budget allocations to support the recommendation.

#### **Policy Implications**

This report has had regard for following West Wimmera Shire Council Policy obligations:

- Community Support Fund Policy
- Council Grants Policy

Councillors who accept the hospitality offered by the Edenhope Race Club arising from the proposed sponsorship should consider whether they have obligations to report the hospitality in accordance with the requirements of the Councillor Gift Policy.

#### Council Plan Implications

This report supports the following section/s of the West Wimmera Shire Council Plan 2021-2025:

- Goal 1 Liveable & Healthy Community
- Goal 2 Diverse and Prosperous Economy



#### **Communication Implications**

Council's communications and tourism staff will assist in promoting the community event considered in this report through various social media networks, including but not limited to Council's website and official Facebook page.

#### Gender Equality

A Gender Impact Assessment (as defined in the Gender Equality Act 2020) has been undertaken in relation to this matter in accordance with the Gender Equality Act (2020).

#### Conclusion

Through these events, the community of West Wimmera will be considerably assisted in rekindling social connections and promoting a sense of both community and individual wellbeing, each of which have been adversely impacted due to the enduring effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

#### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council approves/does not approve the funding allocation, as presented by the Edenhope Race Club, to sponsor a race at the 2023 Edenhope Race Meeting for the amount of \$880.

#### **Attachments:**

No.	Name	RecFind Ref
13.4.1	Attachment 3 – Edenhope Race Club – Edenhope Cup Event	
	2022	



#### 14.0 INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT & WORKS

#### 14.1 EDENHOPE PLAYSPACE MASTER PLAN

#### **FILE NUMBER:**

REPORT AUTHOR: JAMES MAGEE, MANAGER INNOVATION & PROJECTS AND ASSETS

#### FOR DECISION

#### Introduction

West Wimmera Shire Council (Council) in March 2021 allocated funds towards an Edenhope Playspace Masterplan. A consultant was engaged to support the development of the Masterplan and the draft Edenhope Playspace Masterplan is now presented to Council.

This is a long-term strategic document that will support future funding applications and allocations of funds towards play spaces in Edenhope.

#### **Declaration of Interests**

No officer declared an interest under the *Local Government Act 2020* in the preparation of this report.

#### Background

In March 2021 Council resolved:

That Council reallocate the \$20,000 carried forward for the purchase and installation of additional playground equipment at Henley Park to the development of an Edenhope Play Spaces Masterplan.

Following a request for quotation process '3 by 20 Studios' was appointed as the successful consultant to prepare the Edenhope Play Spaces Masterplan May 2021.

The project scope included the five play spaces that are currently maintained by Council in Edenhope: Henley Park, Lions Park, Apex Park, Anne Street Park and the fitness equipment along the foreshore between the tennis club and Anne Street.

### The objectives of the project were

- To develop a set of principles regarding provision of play spaces that can be used to determine the optimum number, location and focus of the outdoor Council play spaces in the Edenhope township.
- To provide a structured program that will allow for a staged upgrade, renewal of existing infrastructure and installation of new infrastructure within the play spaces identified for retention and development in the masterplan.
- To remove any current outdoor Council play spaces should they be identified as being surplus to the requirements identified in the masterplan and identify what else may go into that space in place of the play equipment.
- The plan is to identify which aspects of the overall masterplan that can be undertaken immediately and provide a basis for funding applications to state and federal government for the implementation of discrete elements of the masterplan. Examples of items for immediate action may include installation of shade, minor landscaping, fencing and play equipment and the installation of street furniture.

#### THE PROCESS

The development of the masterplan has included:

- 1. Site Assessments
- 2. Review of Playground Audits
- 3. Community Engagement Stage 1
  - a. Foundation Grade & Grades 1-6 and Year 7-8 at Eden-hope P-12 College and Grades Prep-6 at St Malachys Primary School, then meet with families from Edenhope Kindergarten and lastly meet with adult community members.
  - b. Online survey (open for 2 months over December 21 /January 22- 93 survey responses received in a township of 946 or 9.8%. (ABS Census Data 2016)
- 4. Feedback on Consultation outcomes from Community Advisory Group
- 5. Preliminary Schematic Design Plans
- 6. Feedback on Preliminary Schematic Designs from Community Advisory Group & Council Engineering, Works teams & Community Development and Tourism Team
- 7. Draft Plans
- 8. Feedback on Preliminary Schematic Designs from Community Advisory Group & Council Engineering, Works teams & Community Development and Tourism Team
- 9. Community Engagement Stage 2
  - a. Online Survey open for 1 month June/July 2022
  - b. Drop-in Session for community members



- 10. Final feedback from the Councils Engineering, Works teams & Community Development and Tourism Team
- 11. Report & concept plans presented to Council Forum in September 2022. Council requested another round of consultation be undertaken.
- 12. Stage 3 consultation conducted in October 2022.
- 13. Presentation to Council

#### **CONSULTATION**

Based on the feedback from the initial consultation period the principles for the Edenhope Play spaces was developed which include:

- Reflect the diversity of the community
- Are safe places that are accessible and inclusive
- Are connected to each other
- Offer a variety of stimulating and engaging activities
- Recognise and celebrate the environment
- Provide a destination that is iconic
- Are designed for all families

The first community engagement process included meeting with the schools, a meeting with key community stakeholders, and an online survey which received 93 responses. The key findings from the first community consolation were, as below and this, along with the principles and site assessments is what guided the draft plans for the play spaces.

- Lions Park is most visited and valued park / play space in Edenhope. The age of
  equipment, lack of toilet facilities and obtrusive fencing around ephemeral creek /
  drainage channels are seen as problematic, but the community support better
  planning and design here
- There is a desire in the community for better and safer play opportunities at Lake Wallace given the toilet and picnic facilities at Henley Park.
- All play spaces are considered out of date, with not enough variety or interest to meet the community's current and future needs.
- **Toilets** (within easy walking distance) well considered **fencing** and **shade** are seen by the community as highly desired.
- Lake Wallace is highly prized by the community and many think more should be done to increase its value to both local residents, traders and visitors to Edenhope and to make the most of its natural / ecological features
- Tourism in extremely important to the commerce of the township particularly at Lake Wallace, this consists of visitors passing through and those who come to Edenhope for camping / caravanning holidays



- Students (who participated in school workshops) feel that the most important play
- activities to consider when improving Edenhope's play spaces are **Swings**, **Agility** / **Upper Body** Play, **Slides**, **Spinning** / **Rotation Play**, **Bouncing** (**Trampolines**),
- Imaginative Play and Cycling & Walking
- A larger proportion of students who participated in workshops lived outside of the Edenhope township on average (16 in 25), whereas survey respondents who lived in town tended to be more than half (63.44%). There appears to be a need to support both walking and driving to play spaces, with added reference to a desire for more opportunities to cycle as well
- There is support in the feedback for both water play and nature play, including natural and loose materials used in play spaces
- Of the responses for Question 8 'Do you, or any member of your family have additional needs we should be aware, several answers referred to mobility and recreation considerations for seniors
- Spaces that are age-appropriate are highly desirable, particularly for younger children.
- The largest number of respondents to the survey had children aged between 0-6 years
- If families were visiting play spaces outside of Edenhope they tended to be at: Harrow, Goroke, Kaniva, Naracoorte, Beachport, Millicent, Horsham and Lake Pertobe in Warrnambool
- There was support for recent upgrades by council of play spaces / parks at Goroke and Kaniva

There were 29 survey responses to the second consultation and 3 further submissions from Edenhope Tourism, Vision and Voice and the CMA. We also consulted directly with Ambulance Victoria and Edenhope Police. The key concerns in this round of consultation and what has been put in place in the revised plans is included in the table below.

Item	Feedback	Outcome in final design
	Would not like to see	would not expect to see toilet block moved until end of life. Have updated plans to show current toilet block in current location
Henley	current toilet block	and a proposed future location if there was
Park	removed.	a requirement to replace the current facility,



		however neither will have an impact on the other developments at the site.
		Have updated road plan to include turning
	Concerns around closure	circle on jetty side, formalised caravan
	of the loop road, caravan	parking has been included on lake street
Henley	access and elderly having	including clear footpaths linking the area to
Park	to reverse.	the foreshore.
TT 1		Identified that we would relocate dump
Henley	Concerns around	point to area in front of caravan park, along
Park	location of Dump Point	Lake Street, providing easy access.
		Expect that you would not remove the
		current fitness equipment until end of life, allowance has been made to put fitness
		equipment at Henley Park in a central
		location however can be an individual
		project and could be reassessed when other
		equipment is at end of life. Reason for
Henley	Don't want in central	looking at a consolidated location is due to
Park	location	the additional programming opportunities.
		Consulted with Ambulance Victoria in
	Concerns around	Edenhope and Melbourne who were happy
	emergency management	with plans and access. Have updated plans
Henley	and Ambulance access at	to have more open space and less planting
Park	Henley Park	of trees for emergency meeting space
		Wouldn't remove until end of life, looking
		to consolidate/rationalise equipment into 3
		parks to assist with councils cost for play
Anor	Voon Swing /Dlay	equipment audits, allow for playground
Apex Park	Keep Swing /Play	funding to be consolidated into 3 parks instead of 4 and to provide a unique space.
1 al K	equipment	Aim is to not have this as a focus of kids
Apex		behind a fence as this is designed as a civic
Park	Fence around Apex Park	open space.
Apex	1	•
Park	Fruit Orchard	This planting has been added in.
	Toilet option A	
	Preferred, need further	
Lions	consultation including	Updated toilet location, have consulted
Park	with police on location.	directly with Edenhope Police on location.
Lions	Fencings Around Play	Fencing has been included along Elizabeth
Park	equipment	Street



Lions Park	Pump Track	Considered but currently no space at Lions Park, would need to take out an element or consider alternative location.
Lions Park	Obstruction to Waterway	Have updated concept design, however detail design would need to be completed prior to any works on drain area. Also consulted with CMA
Lions	Keep Park in current	Relocated play equipment back to currently
Park	location	location

The Final Concept designs provide plans for four play spaces Anne Street, Apex Park, Lions Park and Henley Park. The designs aim to provide play spaces of Edenhope celebrate the diversity of the community and provide safe places that are accessible and inclusive, that are connected to each other, offer a stimulating and engaging variety of activities, recognise and celebrate the environment, provide a destination that is iconic and are designed for all families.

#### The outcome:

- 1. Apex Park The Village Square links to Art & History
- 2. Henley Park The Lake Park Play space for all ages
- 3. Lions Park The Adventure Park
- 4. Anne Street The Nature Park

The biggest proposed changes are to Henley Park, which through this process has highlighted its potential to be a destination play space. There are many constraints at Lions Park which is currently seen as the main play space in Edenhope. The concept designs highlight the opportunity to make Henley a designated play space for all ages that provides opportunities for the community coming together but also attracts and encourages visitors to the town.

#### Consultation subsequent to September 2022 Council Forum

Community consultation occurred from 8-23 October 2022.

There were seven responses to the survey and a submission received from Vision and Voice of Edenhope. Council received declarations of 10 persons who stated that the submission was true and correct.

Out the responses, there was a preference of 3 to 2 for the position of the play equipment at Henley Park to be closer to Lake Wallace however the Vision and Voice Edenhope submission had a preference that the play equipment be focused closer to Lake Street.

The comments for Lions Park were a mix that included the request for a full-size basketball court, that we need to identify the assessable areas, that the plans are lovely and that feedback has been taken on board, and that we should be mindful of what tree



species we use. There was a question about why the toilet block is a distance from small children play equipment.

The general Henley Park feedback was that it was a great plan, that there should be a shade over the play equipment, that the current space is already great, just needs more play equipment and that the play equipment in option 2 is too far away from the foreshore.

Further details for each question are listed below.

#### **Summary of Survey Questions and Responses**

#### Henley Park Plan option 1 or 2

There were 5 responses to this question, with 3 in support for the play equipment being closer to the foreshore, and 2 who preferred the play equipment closer to the existing shelter.

#### Comments for Henley Park

- Shade over play equipment
- Already a great space just needs more play equipment near toilets.
- Great plan. A park my friends and family visit daily. Love the planning.
- Do not like the play equipment position in option 2. Takes up space for Henley and is too far away from the foreshore

#### How will these plans impact the future of Lion's Park

This question had 6 responses with 50% of these saying that Lions Park will become a destination in town. Also highlighted was that it will be more accessible, and it will bring more tourists to Edenhope.

#### Comments for Lions Park

- Just be mindful of how many trees and the species of trees
- Could toilet block be more near play area where small children will play?
- Why such a mean basketball court? You will get wear all around. A full court is
  much more practical. The play opportunities accessible to people in wheelchairs
  and mobility devices need to be identified are there any? And a social space with
  shelter and tables close to the centre of equipment for people of all ages and
  abilities to belong
- Well done you've taken all the feedback and have presented something the community has asked for.



• Lovely space and position for locals and visitors. Love the plan

#### Priority of implementation

- Henley Park 5 responses to this question with Play equipment ranked at most important, social gathering in the median and then the climbing net as least important
- Apex Park 5 responses to this question with the social gathering areas and the pergola and paving ranked as most important, followed equally by the trees/garden beds and the sculptural art.
- Anne Park there were 5 responses to this question, rank most important to least important were play equipment, then nature play area, then the social gathering areas.
- Lions Park there were 6 responses to this question. The highest ranked for priority was the toilet block and parking, followed by the Play equipment. Least important was the Extended skate park.

#### Feedback from group submission

The community Group Voice and Vision of Edenhope submitted collated feedback via email and this feedback is an attachment to this report.

A summary of this feedback is:

They would like to see the plan specify disabled parking sports and accessible walkways for those in the community with mobility issues and prams and consider shade and tree configurations to ensure reasonable shade in play areas.

That Lions Park is the top priority due to high volume or current users and the option to attract more users.

#### Feedback for Lions Park

Highest priority an installation of a publicly accessible toilet facility.

There are 20 points of feedback around specific design features such as additional bench seats, pathway connections, the re-addition of a climbing cube, the safety of the skate park area, more undercover areas, the moving of the toilet block, adding shade sails and upgrading pathways.

This feedback has been broken into 4 quadrants and details attached to this report.



#### Feedback for Henley Park

Preference is option 2. Consider further planting as this may obstruct lake views and general visibility. The power supply may need to be moved if going with option 2.

There are 18 suggestions which include to remove long vehicle parking, add parking near sound shell, add in additional shade structures, add table settings, make the junior area a rectangle fence, add in disability accessible seating, add in a sandy beach area.

This feedback in detail is attached to this report.

#### Feedback for Anne St Park

The priority for Anne St Park should be upgrading the swings and cleaning off existing features. They do not support the removal of the exercise equipment.

Consider working with Landcare groups/Wimmera CMA to attract funding to implement the nature play space aspect at Anne Street (also nature aspects at Lions Park – for the frogs and north side habitat).

#### Feedback for Apex Park

They do not support the removal of the existing play equipment. And would like to see the retention of the apex sign and the jinker moved to the back of the park, and the addition of the bird sculpture. Would like the focus to remain on the history of the park as an old school site.

The Vision and Voice of Edenhope group also suggested 5 points of change that they would like made straight away, without the need to wait for grants or funding. These suggestions include:

- Prepare a sandy beach area at Henley Park now, ready for summer
- Lions Park remove unsafe pine tree
- Remove and trim shrubbery
- Reconsider rose planting and consider relocating roses to near hospital rather than at the park which could be high risk and low benefit.

The feedback in its entirety for Vision and Voice of Edenhope is an attachment to this report.

#### Proposed Next Steps

- 1. Council to endorse Masterplan
- 2. Commence with items already in budget (Depending on direction from Council, consideration needs to be made around maximising council funding with external funding support, to stretch funding further)
  - a. Completed detailed design on toilets (this would most likely include the design of the carpark at the same time but there is only budget to implement the toilet block at this stage) this project would also include the demolition of the toilet block between the tennis courts and bowling club.
  - b. Complete Design on linking Anzac Ave footbath to foreshore
- 3. Seek funding for other elements of design higher priority projects for consideration
  - a. Further detailed design of individual portions of play space should a funding opportunity be identified
  - b. Continue to use masterplan to inform future investment into place spaces in Edenhope.

#### **Risk Management Implications**

Not Commented On

#### <u>Legislative Implications</u>

Not Commented On

#### **Environmental Implications**

Lions Park is home to the Growling Grass Frog and consultation has included the Wimmera CMA and Edenhope Landcare groups to ensure that this important habitat has been recognised in the strategic plan.

#### Financial and Budgetary Implications

Council allocated \$20,000 towards this Master Plan.

Detailed design works would need to be completed on many elements of the play space before progressing, however smaller projects could be completed to implement individual elements of the projects depending on available funding, Council and community direction.

Before major works are completed consideration should be made to the ongoing cost of these spaces. Throughout the Master plan work, consideration has been made to minimising maintenance and ongoing costs where possible, consultation with the works/parks &



Gardens team and engineering team have also taken place to ensure that plans consider the operation of these spaces and not just visual design elements.

#### **Policy Implications**

This report is supported by the following West Wimmera Shire Council Policy:

Asset Management Policy
Asset Management Strategy
Community Engagement Policy
Play Space Management Policy
Procurement Policy
Recreation Policy
Tourism Policy
Township Amenity Policy

#### Council Plan Implications

This report supports the following section/s of the West Wimmera Shire Council Plan 2021-2025:

- Goal 1 Liveable & Healthy Community
- Goal 2 Diverse and Prosperous Economy
- Goal 3 Sustainable Environment

#### Communication Implications

This Master Plan has included extensive community consultation and further consultation will need to take place with key stakeholders before implementation.

#### **Gender Equality**

A Gender Impact Assessment (as defined in the Gender Equality Act 2020) has been undertaken in relation to this matter in accordance with the Gender Equality Act (2020).

#### Conclusion

Strategic documents such as the Edenhope Play Space Strategy/Master Plan are important to assist in guiding Council's future investment and to support funding applications. Council has already invested in new play spaces in Goroke and Kaniva, and the presented Masterplan will assist in progressing similar investment into Edenhope, providing improved open play spaces for all ages, residents and visitors.



#### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

- 1. That Council adopt the Edenhope Play Space Strategy/Master Plan and that it be updated to reflect Council recommendations.
- 2. That Council adopt a location (Option A or Option B) for a fully accessible toilet facility in Lions Park
  - option A (off Orme Street, adjacent the police station) OR option B (off Lake Street, west of Lake Wallace inlet channel)
- 3. That Council adopt an option for Henley Park development
  - option 1 (with playground equipment closer to Lake Wallace) OR option 2 (with playground equipment closer to Lake Street)
- 4. That Council Officers will annually prioritise and present the proposed projects for Scoping, Planning and or Delivery to Council for consideration and potential inclusion in the Annual Plan and Budget.
- 5. That the following points are to be considered when detailed plans are undertaken:
  - that specific care be undertaken in selection of plant species in detailed design to ensure site lines remain good for public safety purposes and that the space does not become cluttered or overgrown.
  - interpretive information with respect to native frog species be included for Lions Park.
  - that shade sails or more permanent shade structures be considered as a shade option as well as tree canopy.
  - that paths be accessible, to encourage seamless movement throughout the parks and an accessibility audit be considered upon detailed design to promote inclusive designs
  - that a secure area for children via fencing of playground equipment be considered at Henley Park.
  - that any planting within the waterway at Lions Park be done in a manner that will not obstruct flow.
  - that maintaining the lake view from the foreshore be taken into account with future developments at Henley Park.



- ensure appropriate locations for accessible car parking are included.
- provide a wide variety of play equipment to provide options for all ages and abilities.
- that an arborist be considered to assess current vegetation in parks as required.
- that a variety of seating options be considered at all venues.
- specific consultation on relocation of the Commonwealth Games fish to be undertaken prior to any decision on relocation.
- that other recommendations within the body of this report also be considered when detailed design is undertaken.

#### **Attachments:**

No.	Name	RecFind Ref
14.1.1	Edenhope Playspace Survey	
14.1.2	Edenhope Playspaces Strategy	
	Report	
14.1.3	Gender Assessment	
14.1.4	Summary Report – Edenhope	
	Playspace	
14.1.5	Vision & Voice of Edenhope	
	Playground Submission	
14.1.6	Anne St Masterplan	
14.1.7	Apex Park Masterplan	
14.1.8	Henley Park Rev B Opt 1	
14.1.9	Henley Park Rev B Opt 2	
14.1.10	Lions Park Rev B	
14.1.11	Lions Park Toilet Option	



#### 14.2 MEDIA RELATIONS POLICY

FILE NUMBER:

REPORT AUTHOR: JAMES MAGEE, PMO INNOVATION AND ASSETS

MANAGER

#### FOR DECISION

#### Introduction

The Media Relation Policy provides guidance for Councillors and staff to use to promote coverage of Council affairs that is consistent, fair, accurate and reliable. Through adherence to this policy, Council will maximise its ability to effectively communicate decisions, policies, programs, services and activities to the community by encouraging high standards, consistency and professionalism within the organisation.

#### **Declaration of Interests**

No officer declared an interest under the Local Government Act 2020 in the preparation of this report.

#### **Background**

The Media Relations Policy was last reviewed and adopted by Council in 2017 and is now due for renewal. One important change since this Policy was adopted in 2017, is the creation of an online portal for media enquiries to be lodged. The portal helps to keep a record of media enquiries and rather than individual staff members being contacted directly, the portal ensures that enquiries are lodged through a central location before being directed to the appropriate officer for action.

#### **Risk Management Implications**

The Media Relations Policy provides a process for Council to respond to media enquiries. This will ensure that enquiries are responded to accurately and efficiently and minimise risk for the organisation.

#### **Legislative Implications**

Relevant sections of the Local Government Act 2020 are referenced in the policy.

#### **Environmental Implications**

Nil



#### Financial and Budgetary Implications

There are no direct financial implications of the policy.

#### **Policy Implications**

This report is supported by the following West Wimmera Shire Council Policy:

- Council Plan 2021-2025
- Communications Policy
- Councillor Code of Conduct Policy

#### Council Plan Implications

This report supports the following sections of the West Wimmera Shire Council Plan 2021-2025:

- Goal 4 Good Governance
- Goal 5 Our Commitment

#### **Communication Implications**

There is no requirement for public advertising for submissions. The adopted document should be placed on Council's website.

#### **Gender Equality**

Not applicable.

#### Conclusion

The policy has been reviewed and it is appropriate that Council consider the draft policy before adoption at the at the December Council Meeting..

#### OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt the draft Media Relations Policy (see attachment 1).

#### **Attachments:**

No.	Name	RecFind Ref
14.2.1	Draft Media Relations Policy	



## 14.3 EXTENSION TO THE EXISTING ROAD MAINTENANCE CONTRACT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

#### FILE NUMBER:

REPORT AUTHOR: DARYL SINCLAIR – ACTING DIRECTOR IDW

#### For Decision

This report seeks approval to extend the contract duration of the existing Road Maintenance Contract with the Department of Transport.

#### **Declaration of Interests**

No Officer declared an interest under the *Local Government Act 2020* in the preparation of this report.

#### Background

West Wimmera Shire Council has a long history of undertaking the maintenance of arterial road infrastructure on behalf of the Department of Transport and Planning, and its predecessor organisations.

The current contract (contract 10025), commenced on 1 July 2019 and expires on 30 June 2023.

#### Discussion

Communication has been received from the Department of Transport and Planning requesting an extension to this contract to 31 December 2023. The reason for this extension is to enable the Department of Transport and Planning time to facilitate a new contract with different terms and conditions across all regional Victoria. This new contract will be termed the Victorian Road Maintenance Contract.

Our current understanding is the Department of Transport and Planning will be seeking Council's interest in entering this new contract in due course.

The extension to this current contract effects Council's income. This is anticipated to be more than \$700,000 over the six-month period and provides for employment opportunities and efficiencies of operation.

#### **Risk Management Implications**

Not commented on.



#### **Legislative Implications**

Not commented on.

#### **Environmental Implications**

Not commented on.

#### Financial and Budgetary Implications

This decision directly will impact Council finances.

#### Council Plan Implications

This report supports the following section/s of the West Wimmera Shire Council Plan 2021-2025:

• Goal 2 – Diverse and Prosperous Economy

### **Communication Implications**

Not commented on.

#### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council authorise the CEO to extend Contract 10025 with the Department of Transport and Planning to 31 December 2023.

#### **Attachments:**

No.	Name	RecFind Ref
14.3.1	Letter from DOT	
14.3.2	Council Resolution	



#### 15.0 LATE ITEMS OF BUSINESS

**Pursuant to West Wimmera Shire Council Governance Rules – Division 3 Section 20:** 

20. Urgent Business

If the agenda for a Council meeting makes provision for urgent business, business cannot be admitted as urgent business other than by resolution of Council, and only then if it:

- 20.1 relates to or arises out of a matter which has arisen since distribution of the agenda; and
- 20.2 cannot safely or conveniently be deferred until the next Council meeting.

No late items presented

#### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council consider the following late items of business:

15.1

**FILE NUMBER:** 

**REPORT AUTHOR:** 



#### 16.0 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS OF BUSINESS

#### RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That Council pursuant to Section 66 (2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020 close the meeting to members of the public at ...... pm to resolve on matters pertaining to the following items:
- 16.1 2023 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS
- 16.2 CM0 567 EDENHOPE LAKESIDE CARAVAN PARK AMENITIES CONSTRUCTION
- 16.3 CM0 569 MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF THE KANIVA CARAVAN PARK
  - 2. That as required by Section 66 (5) (a) and (b) of the Local Government Act 2020, Council hereby records the ground or grounds for determining to close the meeting to the public as follows:

#### ITEM 16.1: 2023 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

**Grounds:** (f) personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.

**Explanation:** This report contains confidential information regarding nominations received for the 2023 Australia Day Awards.

## ITEM 16.2: CM0 567 EDENHOPE LAKESIDE CARAVAN PARK AMENITIES CONSTRUCTION

**Grounds:** (g) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that—

- (i) relates to trade secrets; or
- (ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage;

**Explanation:** This report contains Council business information regarding commercial negotiations and private commercial information.



## ITEM 16.3: CM0 569 MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF THE KANIVA CARAVAN PARK

**Grounds:** (g) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that—

- (i) relates to trade secrets; or
- (ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage;

**Explanation:** This report contains Council business information regarding commercial negotiations and private commercial information.

**MEETING CONCLUDED:** 

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 2023

EDENHOPE COUNCIL CHAMBER