Councillor Information & Workshop Session

Tuesday 2 June 2020 commencing at 6.15pm
Tirkanthi Kuu, Level 1 at Payinthi, 128 Prospect Road Prospect and by electronic means

Members of the public are able to view this meeting via the live stream on Council’s YouTube channel

Chair: Nigel McBride, Chief Executive Officer

Agenda

1. Workshop Opening
   - Apologies
   - On Leave

2. Confirmation of Notes from previous Councillor Information & Workshop Session

3. Items for Discussion
   3.1 Local Road and Community Infrastructure Program – Funding Options .............. 3
   3.2 Draft Annual Business Plan 2020-2021 Consultation Feedback........................... 3
   3.3 Finalisation of Budget 2020-2021................................................................. 6
**Guidelines**

The following details provide an overview of the procedures to be observed:

1. **Councillor Information & Workshop Sessions** will be held as required with a preference for them being on a Tuesday evening, between the hours of 6.15pm and approximately 9.30pm (commencing with a light meal for Council members and staff from 6pm).

2. Because of the current COVID-19 public health emergency, and under Ministerial direction, the Councillor Information & Workshop Sessions are currently held in person and online. And will be streamed live to the public and media with notice of the session being given on the Council's website.

3. The Agenda and any associated information will be provided to Councillors by the Friday preceding the Councillor Information & Workshop Session so that Councillors are able to brief themselves on the items thereby allowing the session to focus beyond the basic information.

4. The purpose of the Sessions is to provide an opportunity for discussion in respect to a wide range of strategic issues across the Council area, as well as those of State and National significance. They are designed to provide an opportunity for staff and presenter to provide information and updates only; no decisions will be made. A confidentiality declaration may be determined by the CEO if necessary in accordance with Council's Informal Gatherings Policy.

5. The format for the Councillor Information & Workshop Session may vary on a meeting by meeting basis and could include training, planning, presentations, and discussions.

6. External parties may make Presentations/ deputations to the Councillor Information & Workshop Session, subject to prior agreement by the CEO.

7. The CEO or proxy will convene and chair the Sessions to ensure the smooth running of the meeting. A proxy will be determined by the CEO on a needs basis.

8. Notes will be made of the general issues and items covered by the Councillor Information & Workshop Session. No decisions can be made, meaning the notes will be quite general in nature. Notes will be distributed to Council Members following the meeting.

9. Council Members, employees and consultants will be required to disclose any financial and/or conflicts of interest in matters to be discussed. The disclosure of such interest and participation in the Councillor Information & Workshop Session will need to be made as if the matter was considered in accordance with the Local Government Act 1999. A record of the disclosures of interest will be made and maintained by the CEO.

**Protocol**

The following protocols provide a set of guiding principles that aim to achieve enhanced, meaningful engagement of members and to facilitate an equal and equitable participation of all members.

1. The Chair ensures that every members' input is heard and not overlooked or lost, and will enforce a limit on speakers' time if it is required.

2. Discussion must be focussed on the issues and matters being the subject of discussion. Councillors make a commitment to active listening and disciplined talking, whilst displaying both courtesy and respect to one another.

3. Council Members and staff are to be addressed by their first name and not by their title of office they hold.

4. Problems and solutions expressed by members are a healthy part of the discussion and may lead to positive outcomes, and should not be frowned upon but rather encouraged.

5. The imperatives for a successful conduct of these workshops are that all members need to work together, displaying courtesy and respect to each other.
Councillor Information & Workshop Session Items

3.1 Local Road and Community Infrastructure Program – Funding Options

Responsible Director: Simon Bradley, Director Infrastructure & Environment
Presented by: Simon Bradley, Director Infrastructure & Environment

On 22 March 2020 the Australian Government committed $500 million to the Local Road and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCI Program) to support jobs, businesses and the resilience of local economies. From 1 July 2020, councils will be able to access funding to support delivery of priority local road and community infrastructure projects. The City of Prospect’s allocation is $286,180.

This Workshop will detail what type of projects are eligible for funding and discuss potential projects that City of Prospect should consider allocating the funding to.

Attachments: Nil.

3.2 Draft Annual Business Plan 2020-2021 Consultation Feedback

Responsible Director: Ginny Moon, Director Corporate Services
Presented by: Chris Birch, Manager Financial Services and Brendan Lott, Manager Community Development


Consultation commenced with an advert in The Advertiser Monday 4 May 2020.

During the consultation period, the promotional activities were as follows:
- Social Media Post (both City of Prospect and Network Prospect) on 13, 20 and 24 May 2020
- Email to 103 local community and groups (including local schools) on 7 May 2020;
- Email to 273 Community Panel/Mail Chimp members on 8 May 2020
- Copies of the Draft Annual Business Plan 2020-2021 at the main entrance of Payinthi
- Featured in AdelaideNow article on 30 April 2020.

We consulted the Community via the following channels:
- Use of Engagement Hub to undertake a poll (77 responses)
- Use of Engagement Hub to collate feedback (11 submissions)
- Written Submissions (11 submissions)
- Local High School Focus Groups (2 schools visited (one physically, one via zoom))
- Interactive Webinar (5 attendees).
1. Poll (77 responses)

The online poll within Engagement Hub included a focal question Overall, 63 of the 77 respondents supported Council 'Stimulating our local economy with capital and other works'.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poll Result</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Votes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stop all non-core spending and suspend activities</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimise spending and limit any rate increase</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stimulate our local economy with capital and other works</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>62</td>
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Total Votes: 77

2. Written Submissions (11 Submissions)

A total of 11 written submissions were received via email and engagement hub.

Common themes from the written submissions include:

- Concern that City of Prospect has the highest rates when compared to other metropolitan Councils
- Concern about the proposed rate increase and the impact it will have on residents, many of whom, as a result of COVID-19, are experiencing job insecurity and financial impacts (eg. reduced income from employment, superannuation and shares)
- Desire for rates to be reduced this financial year via reduced spending
- Suggestions for reduced spending include cuts/reductions to the events budget, public art and some park and street upgrades
- Concerns regarding Council's borrowings.

In addition, 2 written submissions were provided from:

- Prospect & Broadview Bowling Club
- Prospect Residents Association.

Copies of the written submissions are attached.

3. Youth Budget Workshop

Consistent with last year, Council staff undertook a youth budget workshop with both local high schools. Staff were able to attend onsite with the Blackfriars Senior Economics Class and via zoom with Prescott Colleges Student Leadership Group.

Workshop notes taken during both sessions are attached.
In summary, both schools supported Council undertaking a 1.9% rate increase in order to support local economic stimulus activities.

The workshop notes also contain details of key service areas that students were both happy with or felt required some future budget attention.

4. Interactive Webinar (5 attendees)

An interactive webinar was held on Thursday 21 May 2020 from 6.30pm – 7.30pm via Zoom. This webinar was held in place of the usual face to face public meeting, which due to COVID-19 restrictions, was unable to be held this year.

A total of 5 residents attended the webinar (2 male, 3 female, residing in the east and central council wards), however one resident dropped out of the meeting early on and didn’t return.

The webinar was facilitated by Brendan Lott, Manager Community Development with Chris Birch, Manager Finance Services providing an overview of the budget highlights. Managers from across Council were listening to the webinar and provided clarification on certain projects when required.

5. Prospect Business Leaders Group
Prospect Business Leaders was attended by 12 members on 21 May 2020.

CEO, Nigel McBride made a presentation to the group detailing Council’s options for the Draft Annual Business Plan 2020-2021 and some of the projects that may be considered for stimulus funding.

Overall, attendees were in support of Council undertaking a 1.9% rate increase.

Attachments:
1. Engagement Hub Electronic Submissions
2. Prospect & Broadview Bowling Club
3. Prospect Residents Association
4. Youth Budget Workshop
5. Interactive Webinar Notes
3.3 Finalisation of Budget 2020-2021

Responsible Director:  Ginny Moon, Director Corporate Services
Presented by:  Chris Birch, Manager Financial Services

Furnished with the community consultation feedback from the previous item, Council will be in a position to revisit its draft budget and provide feedback for its finalisation.

An opportunity will be provided to revisit the project lists, and make amendments considered a priority by Council Members.

Members will need to consider new information received / potential Draft Budget adjustments since releasing the draft budget for community consultation in April. The adjustments include:

- Inclusion of the French Quarter Project ($30,000)
- Acceptance of Grants for Prospect Gardens / Narnu Wirra and Churchill Road Stage 3 and their associated matched funding
- Additional Grant from New Local Road Community Infrastructure Program $286,180
- Allocation to cater for potential future borrowings to fund local economic stimulus projects.

The final Annual Business Plan 2020-2021, Adoption of the Budget and Declaration of Rates is scheduled for the 23 June 2020 Council Meeting.

Attachments:  Nil.
1. I believe there is to be an increase in Prospect Council rates and am writing to advise my opinion of this. In these very difficult times both emotionally and financially I do not support an increase in our council rates. In times of economic difficulty I would expect Prospect Council to show some understanding and empathy for its ratepayers. How about showing affinity with your residents and keep both yours and our costs down.

2. What are you doing to REDUCE our rates next FY?? We already pay 25 – 30% more rates than comparable Councils, as admitted by the Mayor on ABC radio. Many of your rate payers have lost jobs, or had significant reduction in income, people who are retired are grappling with reduced value of their super funds, and reduced income from shares. THIS IS NOT GOING TO GO AWAY IN THE NEXT FY. YOU HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO HAVE REGARD FOR THE NEEDS OF THE RATE PAYERS, ABOVE ALL ELSE.

3. I find it totally outrageous that at a time when rate payers are under extreme emotional and financial hardship due to COVID-19 job losses or reduced working hours. Prospect Council is trying to increase rates. This is arrogant and shows a total lack of compassion. No other councils are doing this. With this email I am formally lodging my complaint.

4. I am concerned about the woefully inadequate level of funding allocated for footpath construction for Davies Terrace. Considering that only $250 000 has been allocated for footpath construction for Davies Terrace as well as 4 other streets and Hampstead Road. I fear that Davies Terrace will get little more than a few holes filled with bitumen or be totally forgotten once again.

   Davies Terrace is in a disgraceful state of disrepair. It has been neglected and overlooked constantly with no major overhaul for at least 40 years. It should be setting off alarm bells to the City of Prospect council with the level of danger it presents to pedestrians especially as it has many elderly residents and is used by many others on their way to the bus stop and for other purposes. The drain cover near Midas is constantly dislodged and is a potentially death trap. Moreover the Terrace is in dire need of beautification. I urge you to allocate enough funds to totally reconstruct the footpaths on both sides of Davies Terrace.

   The footpaths are in severe decay and are breaking up are made of many disparate materials are cracked uneven and potholed and present many significant trip hazards to those who use them including many elderly residents.

   The drain cover near Midas is broken and continually dislodged and needs rebuilding (I suggest with a bollard to prevent vehicles from driving over it). I do not believe the allotted funds in the plan will be adequate to do more than minimal palliative repair which will be largely a waste of time in the long term.

   This street has been woefully neglected by Council for many decades and requires a significant investment to repair or preferably rebuild! I am having difficulty uploading photos on this format but both Steven Rypp and Simon Bradley have each taken photos at separate meetings we have had

5. We like many rate payers are doing our upmost to put as little as possible into our red bin that goes to landfill. However we are constantly facing an uphill battle with filling up our green and yellow bins before the fortnightly collection. Several times my neighbours and I have had issues with maggots in our compostable green bag waste and having flies in our green bins. Our yellow
bins overflowing.

I would support the green & yellow bin collection weekly and red bin collection only being collected fortnightly. It is an outdated practice to support landfill waste over and above more sustainable methods of disposal.

I would also request for a soft plastics collection program being considered. This could involve some sort of capital works/ local economy stimulation using local resources.

6. I would like to make the following submission regarding the proposed Business Plan Major Events.

If Council is considering holding another TOURIFIC event I am totally opposed to it. This event has lost its relevance due to the TDU not starting in Prospect. It is an indulgence that the Ratepayers cannot afford to continue with. The cost to the Ratepayers is not justified at any time let alone when the general economy is in its present state.

Recently Council supported a proposal for $30 000 to be spent on establishing a French Quarter on Prospect Road. Whilst this has not been included in the current Business Plan it has been left open that it may be included as the plan is being finalised. This proposal is a total waste of Ratepayers money and is not a matter that Council should be funding. It is another example of Council favouring Prospect Road over the Eastern part of the area.

$30 000 would go a long way to improving the condition of footpaths in the City Footpaths in the Council area are in very poor condition and yet I can see no provision in the proposed plan for a citywide program to repair and maintain the footpaths.

Tree replacement is haphazard with trees being removed and not being replaced. A complete audit should be provided for in the budget so that all trees that have been removed are replaced.

Proposed Stimulus Projects. No details of proposed projects are provided in the Draft Plan. I would like to be advised of the nature and cost of these proposed stimulus projects so that I can provide feedback on them.

Prospect Magazine. The $44 000 spent on this magazine could be better spent elsewhere or used to reduce rates. Mine goes into the bin each time it is delivered and would hazard a guess that this is what most people do with it.

Free Wi-Fi. The cost of maintaining the Prospect free Wi-Fi has not been detailed in the proposed budget. What is the cost and what is the benefit to all of the residents of Prospect not just those of Prospect Road.

7. So many playgrounds have been upgraded but sadly not the Narnu Wirra one on the cover of the plan! This playground gets a lot of use but the equipment is in really bad condition. At times the bouncers and seesaw have been coming apart. It would also be good to have separate areas for children and dogs as unfortunately there are often deposits left by dogs in the immediate (bark chip) area of the swings and play frame.
8. I am concerned at yet another rate rise in Prospect. In view of the current job insecurity for many, it is appropriate now to revise the whole budget. Bank interest rates are zero or close to that. How can you expect those on low incomes to absorb the increase?

I have always been against the Tourrific held in Prospect. Allocation for public art or upgrades of any sort should now be delayed.

Many corner nature strips have been poisoned. These look ugly. Parks and gardens need funding to beautify them.

I think roads, footpaths and easing traffic congestion should be the highest priority in the budget.

Incidentally, members of the Council have complimentary wine with their meals. The unemployed and low income earners cannot afford healthy food! Is wine really necessary?

Many of us do not enjoy the luxury of Government jobs.

It is about time Prospect council aimed at balancing the budget before borrowing more money.

9. In regards to the long term financial plan as proposed in part C of this paper, can someone explain and have evidenced in more clearer detail in regard to the following

- Council in respect of the new Council premises agreed to spend considerable rate payer funds on its proposal to include additional footprint of the building's layout to accommodate commercial premises on the basis that its rent return would hopefully exceed borrowings in the long term. Where in the draft budget is there reference to the proposed lease/rental of this commercial lease arrangement?
- Where in the LTFP is the estimated return of income to Council for the considerable capital expense in having this included in building design and its construction?
- Whilst acknowledging that this is hopefully a long term profitable decision benefiting ratepayers, current ratepayers carry the can on the borrowings and in the future may not see the benefit.
- As this type of decision can be of differing benefit to ratepayers in the short to long term, the devil is in the detail for how it impacts ratepayers from this year and moving forward.

10. I am writing regarding the draft Annual Business Plan. One of the budget principles is listed as affordable rates but it is noted that Prospect Council has:

- The highest minimum rates of the metropolitan councils; and
- Second highest average rates of the metropolitan councils (when Adelaide Hills Council is excluded)
- Capital valuations in the Council area have increased on average by 7.7% in the last financial year. This of itself leads to a significant increase in residential rates and income to Council before a rate increase is applied. Despite this, the draft annual budget forecasts an operating deficit.
- It is also evident that Council has significant borrowings which appear to be used to pay expenses rather than for investment in income generating activities. These areas are of concern.
- I am of the view that Council needs to critically evaluate its expenditure and bring it below revenue.
COVID-19 will have a financial impact on residents who will need to reconsider their expenditure. Council needs to do the same, live within its means, and not add unnecessarily to the financial burden for residents. I therefore ask that Council reconsider and reduce its proposed rate increase.

Naturally this will result in a reduction in expenditure areas and some of the ‘nice to haves’ must go. Council should, however, demonstrate both greater fiscal responsibility and care for its residents.

11. Whilst I appreciate that the last few months have been challenging for businesses and the wider community I strongly believe that the Council needs to learn to live within its means as for too long rate increases have been high compared to other Councils and this is not sustainable.

The Cities of Campbelltown and Norwood Payneham and St Peters are proposing 0% rate increases and the City of Prospect should follow suit. The pandemic has hit households hard and as a result the Council needs to be flexible in its approach to when projects are delivered and look at possibly delaying them to be able to provide rate relief.

The Council has stated on the website that a 0% rate increase was considered but ‘this would leave Council approximately $400,000 short in its budget’. There are several items that could be trimmed from the budget which could easily provide these savings. These include:

- Postponing the $200,000 upgrade of Vine Street Plaza.
  - Significant funds have already been spent in the Town Hall precinct and this project could be delayed.

- Not undertaking all of the planned building and park redevelopments in the 2020/2021 financial year.
  - I think at least one major project should occur along the eastern side of the city but Prospect Gardens (at $437,500) could be deferred so that the Nailsworth Hall upgrade can proceed.

- Trimming or removing the contingency funds for ‘stimulus projects’. I find it extraordinary that a Council of this size thinks that it should quarantine $351,000 for projects that are undefined.
  - I appreciate that the economy needs stimulating but household budgets needs to be considered and State and Federal Government also have funds available for businesses.

- Reducing the event budget for next year. To budget almost $200,000 on major events next year (when it is uncertain when major events will be able to be held) is extravagant.

- As a resident of Olive Street I’m also unsure why the kerb, gutter and road would be upgraded in Olive Street next financial year when there are building works occurring at the end of the street.
  - Traffic management is going to be an ongoing nightmare (yet again) without factoring in work scheduled for the road. It would be sensible to defer this until the building work is completed otherwise the movement of large trucks associated with the building next the Town Hall could result in damage to the road surface. This would provide further savings to the budget.

- As stated, this Council needs to deliver services but without the cavalier approach it has taken for many years when deciding how to spend the community’s money.
PROSPECT BROADVIEW BOWLING CLUB’S
FEEDBACK TO CITY of PROSPECT DRAFT ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN 2020-2021

Mayor O’Loughlin

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the 2020/21 Annual Business Plan and Budget.

For some time now, the Prospect Broadview Bowling Club has requested some urgent repairs and maintenance works within the existing clubrooms. The items raised have included:

- ceiling repairs - the condition of the ceiling continues to deteriorate from rainwater intrusion. In the worst affected area, prevention to further damage to flooring has required careful placement of a rubbish bin to collect rainwater
- building heater - condemned last October as unrepairable
- surrounds of external timber windows

These requests have occurred over many months and years. The most recent request for these issues was an email on the 4th of February 2020 which asked the council to have these matters addressed in budget considerations.

To date, no direct replies to emails for these maintenance issues have been received, and we therefore ask that these items be considered in the Council’s operating and maintenance budget as part of the 2020/21 Annual Business Plan and Budget.

We understand the Broadview Oval Masterplan has been developed and endorsed for the site, however this is a long-term vision and remains largely unfunded. Maintenance issues require attention on an ongoing basis.

I implore Council to set some funding aside within the operating and maintenance budget for these works which should be reflected within the Council’s Asset Management Plan.

My thoughts are that the Council’s Business Plan should clearly provide for building asset maintenance and repair, and that sporting clubs should sit alongside arts, diversity, heritage, parks, history, environment, etc in an inclusive package. They should rate a mention somewhere other than in a Master Plan where adequate funding over the next decade has clearly not been allocated.

I believe there should also be a commitment within the plan to have staff obliged to respond in a timely manner to reasonable requests from the public, and that they should advise clubs and societies of matters being undertaken by council which could directly affect those organisations.

I would be happy to discuss these issues at any time.

Rob Clutterham
President
Prospect Broadview Bowling Club
04300 44 258
14 May 2020
Annual Budget 2020-2021 Feedback

The Residents Association is pleased with the number of people who responded and engaged with us regarding the budget feedback. Below is a summary of the main themes from the feedback.

Of the respondents only 1 person has supported the draft budget in its current form.

This person supported the Prospect Gardens upgrade and work to do with the Broadview Oval in particular. They were of the belief that given Prospect has the third highest residential rate suggests that ratepayers have the capacity to pay and as a consequence may lessen the exposure to rate default. They also saw the Village Heart businesses as potentially most at risk within Prospect.

The comments from the rest of the people we spoke to are as follows.

Most people did not support an increase in rates at all due to the current economic hardship when many people have lost their jobs and are having a difficult time financially. People were of the opinion that it would be fairer to benefit the whole community by having a zero rate increase and the council adjust spending in response. This is on the back of the fact that Prospect council rates are already the third highest in the state. Some of the comments received include:

- Don’t get much for the $ money Going up all the time
- Not the right time to be increasing rates
- Disagree, not at this time when people are losing jobs, poor form
- Disagree with the increase, need to pay debt (2)
- Really bad idea, needs to be reversed
- Sick of council and constant increases. Little disregard for rate payers and current climate.
- In these times poor choice, totally disagree
- Bad timing, no disagree, too much hardship, no value for
- Poor decision, no increase in these times, tighten your belts instead
- Spending too much
- Don’t agree, increase beyond insulting in these times. Are you kidding me
- Too much $
- Spending other peoples (money) and you would not do this if it was yours
- Absolutely not. During this time of economic hardship when many people have lost their jobs and the value of their homes is likely to go down substantially. This cannot be justified. Just because money is cheap at the moment does not mean we should (council) borrow and spend it.
- Against rate increase. Current world wide crisis job uncertainty for many.
- I am furious at the suggestion that I pay more than the 1%. The Mayor has admitted on radio that Prospect’s rates are 25% - 30% higher than comparable Councils. They make decisions which do not take into account the need to bring our rate costs down in line with other Councils. They are profligate in their spending. Eg $110,000 on Deliver Prospect
which gives $25 vouchers for meals at local restaurants. The aim is primarily to support businesses. I am not a charity! Those businesses are getting a lot of support from the federal Govt in a number of ways – eg Job Keeper. I sympathise with the businesses but the residents ARE SUFFERING TOO. WE HAVE LOST JOBS, HAD A HUGE DECREASE IN OUR INCOME AND WE DESERVE THE COUNCIL TO RESPECT THAT AND PULL THEIR HEADS IN.

- I would prefer to have the rates remain the same but realise that the council is not going to do this. Other councils have maintained their current rates with no increases.

Other issues that got little support are the Vine Plaza upgrade, the Tourrific street party and money for stimulus packages.

The majority of people did not support the street party, seeing it as an expensive event of limited value to rate payers. Four people supported it but said that it should not be a yearly event. Two persons did not mind it but did not see it of economic benefit. Only one person supported it as a yearly event.

Some of the comments in relation to Tourrific street party are

- For the same reasons that I don’t support an increase in council rates, I do not support the street party at all. I am strongly opposed to it. The council needs to pull its head in and only pay for those things which are absolutely necessary.
- I never agreed with it. Total waste of rate payers money
- It is not necessary to have this every year. The expense is enormous. Every two years would be sufficient. It’s just a publicity exercise for some members of council
- Expensive
- Too expensive
- Every two years
- Not so good
- Far too expensive. Every 3 or 4 years
- Not happy
- No waste of money
- Every two years max
- Stop it waste of $
- Too much money not necessary at all
- For that not each year
- For street party not each year
- No waste of money
- This is a big ego trip, no economic value to businesses and absolutely nothing for residential rate payers
- Who does it benefit? Who attends? A very expensive exercise if we are paying for mainly people from outside the area to attend. How does this benefit residents who in the main pay for it?
- The street parties are fun but a lot of effort for how much coming back into our community long term? Have surveys been shown the benefits to Prospect businesses? From my
conversations with business people who open for the street party, they get little business that night and no ongoing business connected to the street party.

- I like the party but at that cost not necessary each year
- Party good but at that cost not necessary each year
- I like it but not each year with this cost
- Don’t mind it. No economic benefit to local businesses as have food trucks
- Good each year

In relation to the major/special projects there was a lot of support for the stormwater project and the upgrading of the playground in Prospect Gardens. Generally people were concerned about the overall expense of the major projects and questioned the justification for the number of projects with comments such as “Too small a council for this expenditure. Need to repay loan and have services for residential.” “To justify spending this money is reprehensible” “I do not support any of these unless they are absolutely necessary. This is a time when constraint is required.” Some criticisms were about spending overall.

The Vine Plaza project came under the most criticism.
The following are some of the comments in relation to the Vine Plaza project.

- Should be deferred
- How can the expense on Vine Plaza be justified
- Huge waste of money especially Vine Plaza
- Vine Plaza expense is reprehensible
- Waste of money especially Vine Plaza
- Too much money for Vine Plaza unnecessary
- Outrageous money on Vine Plaza
- Far too much wastage especially Vine Plaza
- Outrageous for playgrounds (2) and Vine Plaza
- Not necessary, not wanted not helpful for a long standing successful business Cibo being put in opposition to the renovated (destruction) of the town hall where space is currently being built for a new cafe.

There was not a lot of support in the projects for the money for stimulus projects. The majority of people thought that council should pay off the current loan and not borrow more money even though money is very cheap at the moment. The majority view was that council should stop spending money. “With interest rates at 0% there is no justification in a rate rise for a stimulus package.” “Too many people are experiencing financial hardship at the moment.”

Residents commented on the maintenance services they receive. There were numerous comments about poor or no street sweeping. Many thought they only received rubbish removal. Services seen to have been slowly reduced include removal of street tree leaves from footpaths, little to no marking of yellow lines, too many potholes in roads, slow replanting of street trees once removed for some reason, poor response to noise complaints. It was suggested that the money for the Tourrific street party be diverted into the pruning of street trees.
In summary the feedback we got from the community is that this is a time of financial hardship and the council needs to have a zero rate rise and stop spending except what is in the budget with a zero rate rise. This will mean the council needs to work out what are priorities from all the projects and spend accordingly remembering that there is not a lot of support for the street party or the Vine Plaza project or the stimulus package. There is not a lot of support for borrowing more money even though interest rates are cheap at the moment. The community is more interested in seeing current loans paid off and current projects completed and better maintenance services than it is in borrowing more money for more projects.

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Interactive Webinar

An interactive webinar was held on Thursday 21 May 2020 from 6.30pm – 7.30pm via Zoom. This webinar was held in place of the usual face to face public meeting, which due to COVID-19 restrictions, was unable to be held this year.

A total of 5 residents attended the webinar (2 male, 3 female, residing in the east and central council wards), however one resident dropped out of the meeting early on and didn’t return.

The webinar was facilitated by Brendan Lott, Manager Community Development with Chris Birch, Manager Finance providing an overview of the budget highlights. Managers from across Council were listening to the webinar and provided clarification on certain projects when required.

Below is a summary of the questions asked and comments provided by participants during the webinar:

- Regarding the projected 2.75% rate increase in future years, is this a prediction or is it locked in? I thought rate increases should reflect costs not predictions.
- Our rates are significantly higher than other Councils. Why aren’t we trying to reduce our rates so they’re comparable with other Councils?
- Community feedback provided by the Prospect Residents Association has been ignored over recent years
- Council needs to be more careful about how it spends ratepayers money
- This Council doesn’t have major things like swimming pools or recreation centres – I don’t understand why we are paying so much more than other Councils
- I think there are a number of items Council fund that are unnecessary, especially in these tight financial times. For example Tourrific is extravagant and I don’t support it
- Spending $100,000 on art is extravagant and I don’t support it
- How much is being spent on Vine Street Plaza upgrade this year and next year? What is the total cost of this? Is the work currently being done on the Town Hall opening included in this budget?
- Why are we spending money on Vine Street Plaza when Prospect Road has had a lot of upgrade work done and there are many
facilities in a poor state in other areas of the Council. Lots of capital work is concentrated on Prospect Road area and not spread out across the whole Council. I’m surprised $200,000 is being spent.

- What “traffic” projects are we working on? I don’t want to see any more traffic calming devices – they are unnecessary and increase noise for nearby residents.

- Were people in favour of the 40km/hour speed limit? What are the timeframes for its implementation? Are there any plans for the enforcement of the 40km/hour speed limit?

- How does Council decide which streets and footpaths get done each year? What about streets with potholes?

- Support for spending on Farrant Street flood protection

- What is a “green tunnel”?

- How can we get you to reconsider major event spending?

- Major event spending should be rolled back into the general budget and rate relief be provided for all ratepayers. We don’t need major events when things are as bad economically as they are now.

- Tourrific – suggest hold only every two or five years

- I’m in agreement with the comments re major events. The Fair is a good community event but Tourrific is not necessary or appropriate at this time

- Tourrific costs $194,000 and the major events budget is $194,600 – has the Fair budget been cut?

When asked the question:

*What direction would you like to see Council take in our 2020-2021 Budget?*

  a. Continue to deliver services at the current high standard
  b. Stop all non-core spending and suspend activities
  c. Minimise spending and limit any rate increase (ie. 0% rate increase)
  d. Stimulate our local economy with capital works and other projects with a 1.9% rate increase

All 4 participants selected “C - Minimise spending and limit any rate increase (ie. 0% rate increase)” with one participant swaying between “C” and “D Stimulate our local economy with capital works and other projects with a 1.9% rate increase”.


The following comments were provided in relation to this question:

- Number of projects to eliminate now are 1. Major events 2. Vine Street upgrade. Not justified.
- So many people are financially effected by COVID-19. When does Council ever say no? $100,000 on art is outrageous. Limit any non-core spending to minimise expenses. Limit spending on art, events, removal of speed humps
- Agree - scrap art work and major events to save money. Support capital works using local contractors to stimulate economy for employment.
- Don’t believe it is Council role to stimulate the economy
- Many people are undergoing financial hardship
- I’m vigorously opposed to $30,000 being spent on the establishment of a French Quarter in Prospect

We are going into a very unknown time. We don’t know how the corona virus has effected people. It will take time before we really know what financial impact is on everyone (businesses, individuals, families). Council need to take this into account in their planning.
Youth Budget Workshop 2020

Background

Workshops were held on Friday 15 May 2020 with Blackfriars (Senior Economics Class) and Prescott College (Student Leadership Group). Over 25 students were involved in the process and we were able to conduct the Blackfriars session at the school, while we conducted the Prescott College session online via Zoom. These sessions were customised in light of each school having specific requirements regarding COVID-safe access. In 2020 we kept the groups at the respective schools as a singular working party to discuss a range of topics involved in the budget, including operating and capital programs, and proposed the implementation of rate increase as per the Draft Annual Business Plan.

The Revised 2020 Approach

Our current environment regarding COVID-19 led to some of the workshop time being dedicated to discussing and answering enquiries regarding City of Prospect’s role in our community services, including our residents base as a whole, our vulnerable community members and also the business sector. We discussed the Prospect Delivers program to ensure the youth were educated about the ‘behind the scenes’ components of this project which is very current in the community.

Additionally we provided a more in depth understanding of the funding models available to Local Government for ‘shovel ready’ capital projects (eg matched funding), ensuring discussions throughout the workshop had a base level understanding of our current community and financial issues that are affecting the 2020/21 budget considerations.

In reviewing the 2019 process, it was acknowledged that in the time allocated it was challenging for staff to provide detailed background on every area of service the Council undertakes, and then seek student feedback under a set formula of timed segments. Therefore in 2020 we provided a condensed update on the areas of council, and created an open session for student led discussion on areas that they see of high importance, areas they sought more clarification on before providing feedback, and ultimately forming a position regarding the adoption of the Draft Annual Business Plan.

Summary

It is evident that waste and environment are large focus areas of our youth, along with Council continuing to keep the area in pristine condition regarding parks, footpaths, amenities and general cleanliness. This was referred to regularly and the youth place a high value on the reputation of City of Prospect regarding the overall liveability of the area due to many of these reasons. It was agreed that the Library was an outstanding facility, events play an important role in community connectedness, and both are important for community wellbeing moving forward. Support of stimulating the business sector in the current COVID-19 circumstances was also of high priority, including focus on local businesses through support packages, and additionally seeking ‘matched funding’ opportunities that see capital asset renewal in the community along with overall input into South Australian’s economic recovery process.
The below are a combined results of the workshops:

**Business Support & Economic Development:**

- It was agreed that not increasing rates was appealing on one level, however it will not help the local economy and community in comparison to stimulus options and therefore support was received for an increase in rates at 1.9%.
- Students agreed that more stimulus is required for local businesses to help them rebound during and post COVID-19.
- The option to seek matched funding for larger capital works projects (eg State or Federal support) was a positive and should be leveraged at this unique time.

**City Planning / Development and Infrastructure**

- Students commented that the quality of roads in City of Prospect are great in comparison with other council areas where they live or visit.
- Likewise the quality of roads are in excellent condition compared to other council areas.
- It was noted that footpaths, kerbs and general streetscapes are excellent and maintained to a high standard, and that this should continue.

**Library, Arts/Events, Marketing**

- There was familiarity with events in the community, including large scale events such as Tourrific, and students agreed that community events are required to promote a sense of wellbeing and connectedness. This was in the context of a ‘normal’ year, and also to assist in the recovery post the current pandemic.
- Students were aware of Payinthi including visiting the site, and Prospect Library was reflected upon as having a nice atmosphere, good open space feel, that staff were friendly and helpful and it’s a great environment to study.

**Waste Management**

- Education is required regarding waste bin management systems to eliminate cross contamination and reduce the levels of food waste entering the general waste system. This should include stronger marketing regarding the small kitchen green bins as this was seen as a great initiative.
- Council is encouraged to use recycled products where possible, and it was seen that advertising was an area this could be implemented (if the product exists).
- Suggestions for improvement in the waste area included:
  - Stronger communication regarding e-waste disposal as this is very common and much of it ending in landfill.
  - Bin sizes and quantities should be determined by the number of people living in the house, and potentially the provision of smaller general waste bins (smaller than the current red bin) to encourage people to think about their waste and management. It was suggested this could be a pilot project.
o Encourage local businesses to include labels (info graphs) on food packaging to advise what bin they belong in and reinforce good habits.
o Use social media and videos to explain waste management and encourage residents to hash tag to spread awareness.

**Rates in 2020/21**

- There was wide support for the 1.9% rate increase with significant focus on stimulating our economy, maximising accessing grant funding for asset renewal and being a leader in the economic recovery process.
- It was viewed that the rate increase will create more jobs and provide more services for the community, especially when unemployment is currently so high. The students drove conversations regarding rising youth employment in particular, and the poor outlook for this age group in next five years as a result of the pandemic which they felt was largely under-represented in COVID-19 response so far.
- Additional funds will help with area upkeep and maintenance. City of Prospect is very nice and presentable and should remain that way.
- Continuous investment in the Council through matched funding projects will continue to motivate people to live in the area and elevate house prices which is great for home owners / investors.
- In reflection Prospect is upmarket, and investments at this time made by Council is highly visible, unlike some other council areas.