

BRIEFING SESSION

Date of Workshop	Friday 12 January 2024 (rescheduled from Friday 8 December 2023)
Time Start	1.00 pm – 3.00pm
Subjects	1. 2024-2025 Annual Business Plan & Budget Session #1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Budget Objectives• Budget Priorities• Budget Parameters 2. 18 July 2023 resolution of Council – Creditors Listing (refer attachment)
Presenter(s)	Mayor Stephen McCarthy (1 & 2) Sam Johnson, Chief Executive Officer (1) Financial Consultant – LGIQ (1) <i>Michele Bennetts, Managing Director</i> <i>Rebecca McCarthy, Senior Accountant</i>
Session	Open to the public https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcMpLMVENz

PURPOSE

This briefing session will discuss the subject topics as listed above.

The briefing session is open to the public and may be viewed in person by observing in the public gallery of the Council Chambers at Melrose or via Zoom.

Attachments :

1 – Minute 171-2023 - July 2023 re Creditors List and CEO's advice

Council Minute (171-2023) - July 2023 Ordinary meeting of Council

<p>5.2.1</p>	<p>Motions without Notice- Creditors List (Cr Keller)</p>	<p>That Council introduce a confidential creditors journal for transactions to be provided to the Elected Members on a monthly basis via email and back dated to November 2022 when the new appointed Council came in.</p>	<p>Director Corporate & Community</p>	<p>Outstanding REQUIRES COUNCIL'S REVIEW</p>	<p>Creditors List has been provided to Council Members on a confidential basis per Council's July resolution. CEO emailed Council Members on 11 August providing advice as follows: <i>"..... You will note attached to this email a report to give effect to the above resolution.</i> <u>Additional Advice</u> <i>I note that the Administration was not sought for advice prior, and the above came by way of Motion Without Notice. I would draw Members attention to the Local Government Act – Section 8 (j) when considering such motions.</i> <i>To assist in future situations should they occur, it would be pertinent to reflect on the Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations, Section 12 (6). Additionally, Council's Code of Practice – Meeting Procedures at Council & Committee Meetings Section 12 (12.6 and 12.6.1) provide grounds for the Presiding Member to seek that Motions without Notice, be provided by way of Written Notice of Motion. By ensuring Motions come by way of written notice in certain circumstances, it allows public transparency (motion to be printed within the agenda), as well as any appropriate additional information being provided to Members, ensuring that informed decisions can be considered by decision makers.</i> <i>The report as requested has been prepared by Council's finance provider, at an indicative cost of \$360 (historical information) and \$720 annually for a monthly listing (this excludes DCMR staff costs), and any further information required from the report will be additional costs.</i> <i>I note the Motion as moved seeks for the report to be provided to Members on a 'confidential' basis. There appears no motion to support the confidential nature to give effect of Section 91 (7) of the Local Government Act ('Act'). Being such, the information provided will be marked confidential, but, in the absence of the appropriate provisions under Section 91 of the Act, the information would need to be provided to external parties in circumstances that may permit (for example, if Council receives a Freedom of Information request). This does pose commercial sensitivity risk to Council.</i> <i>I can advise Members that Council has received feedback from an existing creditor/supplier (verbally), who has become aware of the above decision, expressing their concern in relation to the decision made.</i> <p>Options for consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rescind the motion, OR • Have a monthly creditors report provided on the public agenda, subject to confidentiality provisions within the Act – noting this will create additional staff workload, and, increase our governance management noting that all confidential resolutions need to be reviewed annually, and, released at some point." </p>
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