

Special Council Meeting Agenda & Reports

9 June 2026

Our Vision

*A City which values its heritage, cultural diversity,
sense of place and natural environment.*

*A progressive City which is prosperous, sustainable
and socially cohesive, with a strong community spirit.*

City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters
175 The Parade, Norwood SA 5067

Telephone 8366 4555
Email townhall@npsp.sa.gov.au
Website www.npsp.sa.gov.au
Socials  /cityofnpsp  @cityofnpsp



City of
Norwood
Payneham
& St Peters

To all Members of the Council

NOTICE OF MEETING

I wish to advise that pursuant to Section 83 of the *Local Government Act 1999*, the next Special Meeting of the Norwood Payneham & St Peters Council, will be held in the Council Chambers, Norwood Town Hall, 175 The Parade, Norwood, on:

Tuesday 9 June 2026, commencing at 7:00 pm.

Please advise Tina Zullo on 8366 4545 or email tzullo@npsp.sa.gov.au, if you are unable to attend this meeting or will be late.

Yours faithfully



Mario Barone PSM
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

5 June 2026

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City of
Norwood
Payneham
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PRESENT

Council Members

Mayor Robert Bria
Cr Kester Moorhouse
Cr Rita Excell
Cr Garry Knoblauch
Cr Hugh Holfeld
Cr Josh Robinson
Cr Kevin Duke
Cr Connie Granozio
Cr Victoria McFarlane
Cr Scott Sims
Cr Grant Piggott
Cr Sandy Wilkinson
Cr John Callisto
Cr Christel Mex

Staff

Mario Barone (Chief Executive Officer)
Lisa Mara (General Manager, Governance & Civic Affairs)
Carlos Buzzetti (General Manager, Urban Planning & Environment)
Jared Barnes (General Manager, Infrastructure & Major Projects)
Andrew Hamilton (General Manager, Community Development)
Natalia Axenova (Chief Financial Officer)
Jenny McFeat (Manager, Governance)
Allison Kane (Manager, Strategic Communications & Advocacy)

APOLOGIES

Cr Christel Mex

1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2 JUNE 2026

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 2 June 2026, be taken as read and confirmed.

2 ELECTED MEMBER DECLARATION OF INTEREST

3 STAFF REPORTS

3.1 DRAFT 2026-2027 ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN - CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

REPORT AUTHOR: Manager, Strategic Communication & Advocacy
APPROVED BY: General Manager, Governance & Civic Affairs
ATTACHMENTS: A - C

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to present for the Council's consideration, the submissions that have been received on the draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget.

BACKGROUND

Section 123 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act) requires all Councils to have an Annual Business Plan and Budget for each financial year and ensure that citizens are provided with the opportunity to comment on the draft documents.

In accordance with the Act, at the Council Meeting held on 5 May 2026, the Council endorsed the draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget (the draft Plan) for community consultation.

Consultation has been undertaken and a total of twenty-nine (29) written submissions have been received as part of the consultation process.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

***CityPlan 2030* Alignment**

Not Applicable.

FINANCIAL AND BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

If the Council resolves to amend the draft Plan as a result of its consideration of the submissions which have been received, it should be noted that there may be financial implications that will impact the draft Budget. The financial implications on the draft Budget will be determined following the Council's consideration of the submissions.

As such, should Elected Members propose to put forward any amendments, they should contact the Chief Financial Officer before the meeting to discuss possible impacts of any amendments.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Not Applicable.

CONSULTATION

Elected Members

Elected Members have been involved throughout the preparation of the draft Plan and Budget, have considered the various components of the draft Plan and Budget and have made 'in principle' decisions as appropriate during the process.

Community

Citizens have been provided with an opportunity to provide input into and comment on the draft Plan and Budget as part of the consultation process.

Promotion of the community consultation included:

- Public notice in The Advertiser on Saturday 9 May 2026;
- News story on the Council's website and Look East website;
- News item in the Council's e-newsletter, Look East;
- Social media posts on Facebook and Instagram;
- A4 posters at the Council's Libraries;
- A1 posters on The Parade and at the St Peters and Payneham Libraries; and
- A0 roadside corflutes on Osmond Terrace.

The Advertiser also included aspects of the Council's draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget as a news article published on the Adelaide Now website on 26 May 2026.

The draft Plan and Budget was available for viewing at the Norwood Town Hall and at each of the Council's Libraries. A copy could also be downloaded from the Council's website in addition to the *Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre Gymnasium Project Prudential Report* and the LGiQ (Consultants), *Review of the Basis of Rating* report.

In addition, in accordance with Section 123 of the *Local Government Act 1999*, a public meeting was held on 26 May 2026, which was attended by 34 citizens.

A total of fourteen (14) citizens provided a submission to the Council at the Public Meeting.

Citizens were able to provide their submissions via an online form on the Council's website, to a dedicated email address or in hard copy at the Norwood Town Hall or the Council's Libraries.

The consultation period closed on Sunday 31 May 2026, following a 22-day consultation period.

As previously stated, twenty-nine (29) written submissions have been received as part of the consultation process.

A summary of the submissions received is set in the Discussion section of this report.

Staff

The review of the Operating Expenditure, Projects and the draft Annual Business Plan process, has been completed with the involvement of the Chief Executive Officer, Executive Leadership Team and the various responsible officers.

Other Agencies

Not Applicable.

DISCUSSION

At its Meeting held on 5 May 2026, the Council endorsed the draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget 'in principle', for release for community consultation. As Elected Members will recall, the Draft Budget was released for community consultation.

At the time, the draft Plan was released for community consultation, the proposed Rate Revenue increase of 7.9% translated to an increase in the Average Rate payable for the Average Residential Property of 5.45% (or \$122 per annum), which comprises of a property valuation increase of 8.78% and a Rate-in-the-dollar increase of 0.9% and an increase in the Rates payable for the Average Commercial Property of 11.39% (or \$397 per annum) comprising of a property valuation increase of 4.01% and a Rate-in-the-dollar increase of 9.3%.

TABLE 1: DRAFT BUDGET AS RELEASED FOR COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Rate Revenue Increase	7.9%
Average Residential Rate Revenue Increase	5.45%
Average Commercial Rate Increase	11.39%
Operating Deficit	\$2,119,486
Expenditure on continuing services and programs (excluding Regional Landscape Levy)	\$66.747 million
Expenditure on new initiatives and strategic operating projects (excluding 2024–2025 carry-forward projects)	\$1.477 million
Total Capital Works Program and Capital Projects Expenditure	\$21.731 million
Non-Rate Operating Revenue (excluding Regional Landscape Levy)	\$11.339 million
Net General Rate Revenue (excluding Regional Landscape Levy)	\$53.279 million
Regional Landscape Levy**	\$1.61 million

** The Council is acting as a revenue collector for Green Adelaide in this regard and does not retain this revenue – it is passed directly to Green Adelaide.

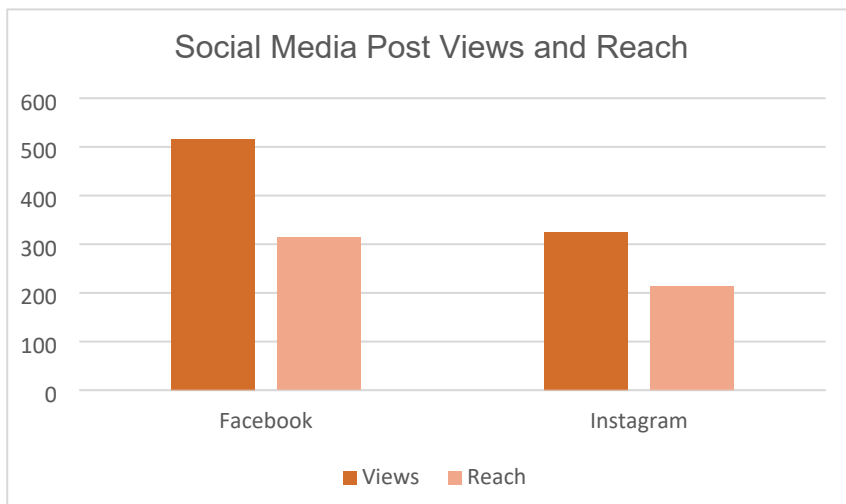
Consultation Reach and Participation

The article on Council's website and hosted on the Council's Look East website, was viewed 294 times between 13 May and 1 June 2026.

The dedicated consultation page was visited 623 times during the consultation period.

The Council's Look East e-newsletter is sent to more than 13,000 subscribers. The draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget consultation was promoted through the e-newsletter on 14 May 2026 and achieved an open rate of 12.7% (which is below the average 19%) and generated 259 clicks on the article. The e-newsletter was then resent to subscribers who had not opened the e-newsletter on Friday 22 and Thursday 29 May, generating a further 42 clicks on the article.

Social media posts on Facebook and Instagram received reasonable views and reach but only generated a total of seven link clicks.



Thirty-four (34) citizens attended the Public Meeting held on 26 May 2026 and twenty-nine (29) written submissions have been received via email or an online feedback form in respect to the draft Plan and Budget (compared to 40 submissions in 2025).

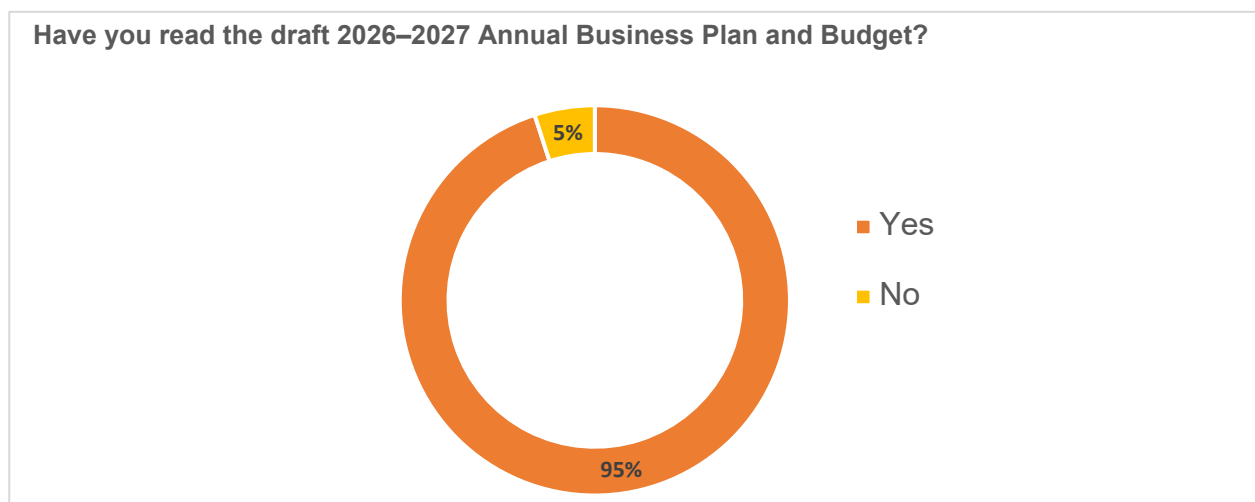
Written Submissions received on the draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget

A copy of all of the written submissions that have been received is contained in **Attachment A**.

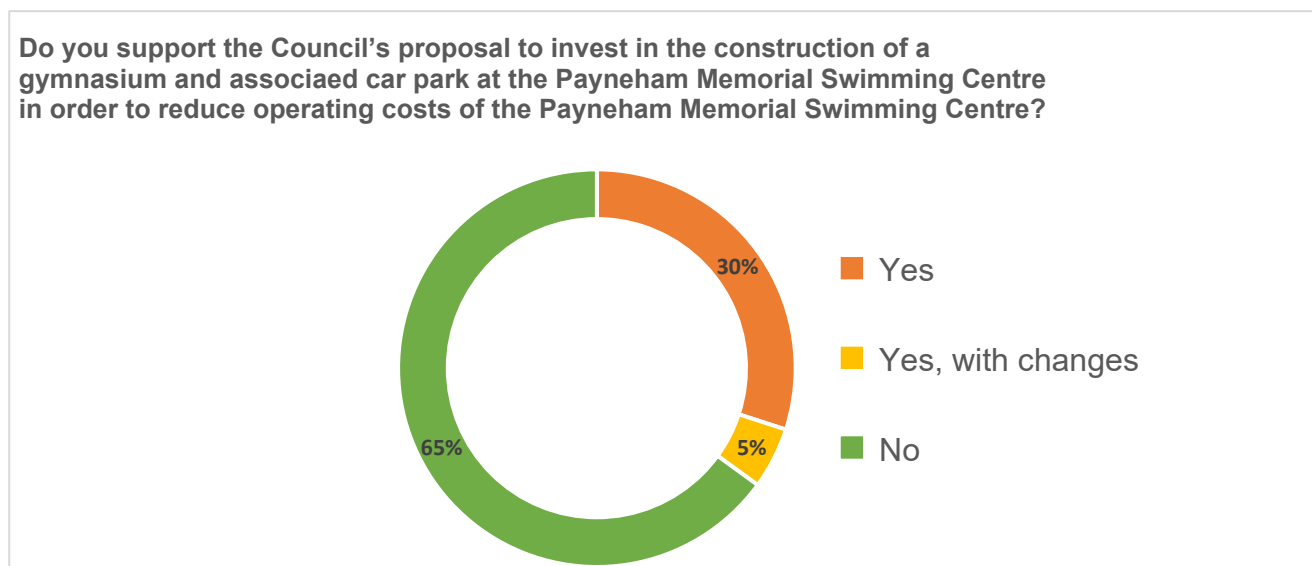
A copy of the feedback form is contained in **Attachment B**.

The feedback form asked respondents two (2) questions. A summary of the twenty (20) feedback forms that were submitted to the Council as part of the consultation process set out below.

The first qualifying question asked if the respondent has read the draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget. Responses were recorded as follows ($n=20$):



Respondents were then asked if they supported the Council's proposal relating to the construction of a gymnasium and associated car park at Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre. Responses were recorded as follows ($n=20$):



One (1) respondent supported the proposal with changes regarding a range of improvements to Patterson Reserve, including protection for cars utilising the car park, additional lighting in the south-western corner of the playing field, new storage facilities and alternate green space to be used for pre-game warm up activities.

A review of all written submissions, including the feedback forms and emails, has been undertaken and a summary of the submissions is set out below.

Summary of Written Submissions

Based on the written submissions for the draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget, several key themes have emerged from the feedback provided by citizens and local organisations.

1. Opposition to the Proposed Gymnasium

A significant number of submissions strongly opposed the proposal to add a \$5.9 million gymnasium to the Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre including the following:

- Financial risk: Many viewed the project as an unnecessary additional expense given the substantial investment already made into the Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre.
- Market competition: Respondents argued that the local area is already well-serviced by private gyms and that the Council should not use ratepayer funds to compete with private business.
- Fiscal restraint: Several submissions labelled the gym a "nice to have" rather than a "must have", suggesting the money would be better invested in core infrastructure such as roads and footpaths.

2. Concerns over Rates and Affordability

Submissions raised concerns with the proposed rate increases, which many described as being above inflation and that their personal income increases have not kept pace with rate increases.

One submission questioned the discrepancy between the proposed 11.39% increase for Commercial Rates compared to the 5.45% for Residential Rates.

3. Services and Infrastructure

Submissions suggested that the Council prioritise infrastructure maintenance and road safety improvements over streetscape upgrades, until the Council is in a stronger financial position to complete them comprehensively. There was also support for environmental initiatives to ensure the future of the City's tree canopy.

4. Financial Sustainability

Submissions referenced the Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA) report and advice, expressing concern over the Council's debt and Capital and Operational expenditure.

As Members are aware, the final 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget will be considered by the Council at its meeting to be held on 7 July 2026. At that time, further information will be provided to the Council regarding the Valuer-General's valuations across the City before a final decision is made.

On this basis, staff will prepare updated Rates information based on the latest Valuer-General's valuations (as at 15 June 2026) and the Rate Revenue that the Council is seeking to raise. This will allow the Council to make its final decision in respect to the 2026–2027 Rate Revenue based on that information.

In addition, the Council will be provided with a comparison of rating information which benchmarks this Council with the Eastern Region Alliance (ERA) Councils — City of Burnside, Campbelltown City Council, City of Prospect, City of Unley and the Town of Walkerville.

Public Meeting Submissions

Fourteen (14) submissions were made by citizens to the Council at the Public Meeting held on Tuesday, 26 May 2026.

A number of questions were also asked by citizens as part of their submissions and a response to those questions as well as responses, where appropriate, to the issues raised in the submissions will be included in the report which will be presented to the Council regarding the adoption of the 2026-2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget at its meeting to be held on 7 July 2026.

A summary of the submissions which were provided to the Council at the Public Meeting is contained in **Attachment C**.

OPTIONS

On the basis of the submissions that have been received, there is no recommended action in respect to the submissions in terms of the draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget as this is a decision for the Council to make.

To this end, the Council can determine whether it wishes to amend the draft Annual Business Plan and Budget or whether the Council requires matters that have been raised to be further investigated.

CONCLUSION

Pursuant to Section 123(6a) of the Act, should the Council propose to make amendments to the draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget, the adopted Annual Business Plan must include a statement which sets out the significant amendments from the draft Plan and provide the reason for those amendments.

RECOMMENDATION

1. *That submissions made in respect to the draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget, be received and noted.*
2. *That the Council thanks those citizens and organisations who have made submissions in respect to the draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget.*
3. *That the Council notes that a further report in respect to the adoption of the draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget, will be prepared for the Council's consideration at its meeting to be held on 7 July 2026.*



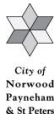
**City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters
 Draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget
 Community Consultation Written Submissions**

Name		Support for gym proposal	Comments in relation to support for gym proposal	Comments on the draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget
Rino Fabbro	Online survey form	No	<p>Money is better spent on reducing the cost of the pool which for a metropolitan pool seems to be extraordinarily high.</p> <p>Checking the condition of the footpaths especially those pavers around trees may be money better spent. And of course any comments will go the same way as all the negative comments on reducing traffic to 40MPH.</p> <p>And I will use a saying from the film Taken "Good Luck"</p>	<p>Properties generally increase in value year on year & rates rise accordingly so how is an increase of 5.45% justified.</p> <p>Maybe trim your costs a bit by reducing the requirement for Councillors (2 in my area that I have only seen twice in my 86 years in the zone) only seen when touting for votes.</p>
David Coorey	Online survey form	No	<p>The gym market is notoriously low margin and volatile with closures due to non-viability frequent.</p> <p>In addition, the presence of established national operators, including Goodlife, in close proximity to the proposed site would question the ability to generate sufficient memberships without clear competitive advantage, e.g., price.</p> <p>The risks of bringing this proposal to completion are substantial under council management with identified cost blowouts likely. I do not support this proposal and believe council should leave this service to private operators who are already over servicing the council area.</p>	No comment provided.
Peter Whiteman	Online survey form	No	<p>Given the budget situation and cost overrun of the Payneham Pool I think it's time for restraint hence I don't support the additional expenditure on the gym.</p> <p>The potential cost overrun for the gym has been rated as Extreme with the ultimate control being to source</p>	I'd prioritise the development of The Parade over the gym given its strategic importance and benefit to the community.

**City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters
 Draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget
 Community Consultation Written Submissions**



Name		Support for gym proposal	Comments in relation to support for gym proposal	Comments on the draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget
			<p>additional funds which in the current situation is not acceptable. More acceptable controls would be to decrease scope, i.e. cut the footbridge.</p> <p>Furthermore there is no assurance the gym will generate the necessary revenue to pay down the borrowing debt. The gym will exist in a cost competitive industry with many similar businesses struggling.</p> <p>Whilst I understand that outsourcing the management of the gym is standard practice for government it is additional overhead on operating profit which increases the risk. Normally I'd support new development but I think given the Council's financial position and likelihood for cost overruns the gym should not be built. I'd be interested to understand the number of NPSP rate payers expected to benefit from using the gym. My guess it would be fairly low, hence the cost-benefit would also be low. It's time for a tough decision to be made but ultimately it's a 'nice to have', not a 'must have'.</p>	<p>Overall, I think the remainder of the budget is balanced and whilst I don't like the rate increase I accept that it is necessary largely due to the financial impact of the Pool project.</p>
Will McLeay	Online survey form	No	<p>Why does this organisation continue to go into large scale debt to construct facilities that have marginal impact on a small demographic of their constituents?</p> <p>We wasted circa \$11m dollars to build a function space at Norwood Oval for a capacity of 100ppl.</p> <p>Now we want to borrow another \$5m (that will end up being more based on current market conditions) to create a gym space.</p> <p>We have gyms operated by private enterprise all over the council area and many of them are documented to be struggling or failing.</p>	<p>Please exercise some fiscal restraint and do not borrow more money for the new gym.</p>



**City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters
 Draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget
 Community Consultation Written Submissions**

Name		Support for gym proposal	Comments in relation to support for gym proposal	Comments on the draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget
			<p>Why do we need to subsidise another one?</p> <p>All of this while our roads have potholes everywhere, failing dangerous footpaths and aging infrastructure waiting to fail.</p> <p>With the cost blow out on the PMSC, please don't throw more good money after bad.</p> <p>Please exercise some fiscal restraint and spend the money on something that benefits the Council constituents on a wider scale and is not a 'dime a dozen' business proposition.</p>	
Madeleine St Johnston-Romano	Online survey form	Yes	No comment provided.	I write in support of the development of a detailed audit of the City's street trees and the capturing of the relevant data into the Council's tree asset management system, 'Forestree', at \$20,000. Our street trees represent an approximately \$40m asset (conservatively appraised), one that is necessary to protect our wellbeing as much as to protect our property values. The audit is necessary for Council to be able establish the condition and needs of our street trees and thereby determine the best and most efficient courses of action to take to protect them.
Liam Connolly	Online survey form	No	<p>In concept this was a sound proposal to re-life the pool area.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the absurd cost blowout has soured the whole project and should not have progressed to final investment decision. Many other council projects have slid back due to this cost and will likely take some time to get back on track, punishing rate payers who expect better fiscal management.</p>	No comment provided.

**City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters
Draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget
Community Consultation Written Submissions**



Name		Support for gym proposal	Comments in relation to support for gym proposal	Comments on the draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget
Nafsika Saric	Online survey form	Yes	No comment provided.	<p>Council should also focus on developing unused land that they own.</p> <p>The vacant land next to Hannaford Reserve on Sixth Avenue is an eyesore and is rarely maintained properly by council. Landscaping on this allotment would be beneficial to enhance the streetscape.</p>
Vicki Brougham	Online survey form	No	No comment provided.	No comment provided.
Kate Eatts	Online survey form	Yes	I support this as its predicted to bring more revenue to the Council.	I strongly support the greening initiatives and would especially like to see an audit of existing trees so that tree planting and watering can be targeted at the most in-need areas.
Kent Town Residents Association	Online survey form	Yes	<p>There will definitely be a need for appropriate car parking space so that nearby roads are not clogged up.</p> <p>The gymnasium is an extra cost which is a concern but this is alleviated by the prospect of it bringing it much needed revenue.</p>	<p>We are concerned about the level of debt and the council's ability to maintain (and improve) services.</p> <p>Greening of Kent Town as described the Kent Town Public Realm is very important to us and we want to see it continue with replacement of trees which have died and protection of new trees with large tree guards in known areas of tree vandalism – (ie Parade West along the PAC gym and Capper Street in particular).</p>
Sonia Kuerschner	Online survey form	No	<p>There are numerous Gyms in the area which provide income to small business operators. This pool project has been a complete rort of tax & rate payers funds.</p> <p>This project should have been consulted on by retired councillors from Whyalla, Pt Pirie, Pt Augusta & other country areas that have overseen & completed 50m pool builds & renovations on limited funds to give</p>	<p>I understand there is to be a Street Tree audit to ensure the health of our beautiful street trees. Where will these audit jobs be advertised as I would love to participate .</p> <p>Please email me if any positions available</p>

**City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters
Draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget
Community Consultation Written Submissions**



Name		Support for gym proposal	Comments in relation to support for gym proposal	Comments on the draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget
			these unscrupulous pool/developers a rude wake up call.	
Pam DiLorenzo	Online survey form	Yes	No comment provided.	<p>I support a detailed audit of the City's street trees and the capturing of the data into the Council's tree asset management system, 'Forestree', at \$20,000.</p> <p>I would like to see more community education about the need for citizens to help maintain trees and create sustainable green verges etc.</p>
Darren Trenerry	Online survey form	Yes	No comment provided.	<p>In consultation with other residents of Ninth Ave for the Christmas lights display. Page 68 of the draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 26-27 states that an annual budget of \$10,000 for the Ninth Ave Christmas Lights has been allocated. It has been recommended by council staff that an allocation of \$70,000 be available for the traffic management but was not supported by all Councillors.</p> <p>We believe the allocation of \$10,000 is insufficient to cover safety and traffic management for the lights display. The \$10,000 allocation is deemed to cover the signage and rubbish bins. We believe that due to an increase in foot and car traffic and in particular the crossing of Stephen Terrace to view the lights by families (approx 3,000 per night) that it is imperative traffic monitoring is required for safety purposes at the intersection of Stephen Tce and Ninth Ave as per Christmas 2025.</p> <p>Vehicle movements in 2025 were in excess of 30,000 as reported in the Ninth Avenue Christmas traffic review, (refer council minutes on</p>

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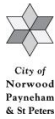


Name		Support for gym proposal	Comments in relation to support for gym proposal	Comments on the draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget
				<p>05/05/26). Whilst it is not imperative for the side streets of Werrina and Koolaman to be closed it is helpful to provide a controlled operating environment for ice cream vendors enabling patrons to queue, wait and dwell (refer council minutes page 71) without impacting vehicle and pedestrian movements. Other recommendations to consider to reduce costs- traffic management from 11/12/26 - 26/12/26 - road closure from 8.00pm to 10.30pm Monday to Thursday and Friday to Sunday 8.00pm to 11.00pm - we agree that the Mayor seek some financial contribution from the State Government for Stephen Terrace being a DIT road.</p>
<p>Daniel Elsdon East Torrens Payneham Lacrosse Club Chairperson</p>	<p>Online survey form</p>	<p>Yes, with changes to the proposal</p>	<p>East Torrens Payneham Lacrosse Club has a proud 127 year history in lacrosse, from our foundation in 1899, making us one of the oldest lacrosse clubs in Australia. We have resided at Patterson Reserve since approximately 1972 – some 54 years – prior to which we called Murray Park Oval in Magill our home, so have been a long-term Council patron.</p> <p>We currently lease the Reserve for 6 months each year from 1st April until the end of September, and currently have over 140 playing members. We field teams in age groups U8, U11, U13, U15, U18 and 3 senior grades, with 15 teams in total in 2026. In the last 2 years our U8 and U11 participants have grown from 19 to 52, representing our commitment to youth in the local council area, and the Clubs focus on rebuilding our junior program.</p> <p>As these players filter through to the older age groups while maintaining an infeed in the U8 and U11 age groups, our player and team numbers will steadily increase. And with the addition of lacrosse in the 2028</p>	<p>No comment provided.</p>

**City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters
 Draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget
 Community Consultation Written Submissions**



Name		Support for gym proposal	Comments in relation to support for gym proposal	Comments on the draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget
			<p>Olympic Games, the sport is anticipating unprecedented growth from that point onwards, making green space and importantly lit green space for evening weeknight trainings of critical importance.</p> <p>There are a number of areas in which ETP will be directly impacted by the addition of the proposed carpark to the Northern end of Patterson Reserve. These are highlighted below, along with proposed solutions to counteract each effect.</p> <p>Issue - Protection of vehicles in the new carpark against damage from lacrosse balls (hard, rubberised balls) during training and on game days, as the carpark is immediately behind the goals of our main field. Solution – Require a permanent 2m high chain-link fence AND also nylon netting up to 6m height to protect cars from ball impact (the 2m chain link alone would be insufficient in height). Refer to similar fencing/netting arrangements at Charles Cane Reserve and Brighton Lacrosse Club.</p> <p>Issue – Loss of lit green space which is required for training given our player/team numbers. Solution – At least one new light tower with appropriate lighting (output lux levels) located on the South Western corner of our main field (ie near the current creek pedestrian footbridge) would be required to offset the loss of necessary training space.</p> <p>Issue – Loss of enclosed secure storage space. Solution – New storage facilities would be required to be built, suggested location is East of the current Community Hall within the Patterson Reserve</p>	



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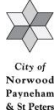
Name		Support for gym proposal	Comments in relation to support for gym proposal	Comments on the draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget
			<p>precinct, with access to be from the existing carpark roadway to the South of the Hall.</p> <p>Issue – Loss of green space used for pre-game warm ups, and used by the U8/11 age groups for playing. Solution – No current solution, would need to review alternate areas within the precinct as a compromise.</p> <p>Without all of the above solutions being implemented, lacrosse - a long term tenant - would be severely negatively impacted.</p>	
Bruce Hatwell	Online survey form	No	<p>When entities start to lack skilled judgement they require micro- and performance management. Such may be the case now with the NPSP Council. This appears to affect both the administration and Council who have become delirious with uncontrolled spending of other people's money. Therefore people who would otherwise not become involved feel they have to. Our council has no money and therefore we cannot even contemplate the gymnasium project. How the proposal got this far beggars belief and should be of embarrassment to the Council Members.</p> <p>Additionally, I am not aware that the public has had a proper explanation of the cost blowout for the pool project. Subject to this I am surprised that there are not terminations that rise to the level of both the CEO and Mayor. The Council appears to believe that securing money is simply a matter of increasing rates or getting bigger loans. The process that now leads to the eventual sale of land at Norwood Swimming Centre for funds is obvious and contrived.</p> <p>The risk analysis in the Gym reporting paper is over-cooked, giving the aroma of cover up for an extremely marginal project. Commercial projects such as the</p>	<p>The report is well structured, but misses the point of the critical position that the Council has created for its residents, not of their asking.</p> <p>This is the Pireto cause and the message throughout the budgeting process should be one of extreme care with our people's money.</p>

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 Draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget
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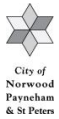
Name		Support for gym proposal	Comments in relation to support for gym proposal	Comments on the draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget
			<p>gym with paybacks exceeding 10 years (even then highly doubtfully) would never be undertaken.</p> <p>Notwithstanding, our Council has not recognised some of the identified 'extreme' risks, when these are invariably encountered in council projects.</p>	
Constantina Hatwell	Online survey form	No	<p>The Council is broke! It has no money! Thanks to the Council the ratepayers have a huge \$200,000,000 debt.</p> <p>The proposal to build a gym is ludicrous and to add to the debt is even more unbelievable ludicrous. It is irresponsible.</p> <p>The gym would be an asset that would require continued maintenance and refurbishment in time. There are plenty of gyms out there. The council has no idea of how to run a successful operation and the gym would lose money and be another money pit. If we compare a household budget to the Council's budget I would presume it's ok for me with a regular income of \$90,000 per year to build a \$300,000 pool in my back yard this year, next year a high end \$2,000,000 extension and next a \$200,000 new Mercedes. Why not? It's irresponsible! I don't have the money.</p> <p>The council has a history of irresponsible management of ratepayers' money. This is the council's strategy build, spend with no consideration of where the money will come from and how it will be paid back.</p> <p>STOP the gym! Get back to \$0 debt. Live with in the budget without having to increase rates for poor money management and pie in the sky ideas.</p> <p>No more projects until debt is \$0. Only essential services.</p>	<p>Firstly, rates for all rate payers should be equitable. Not different percentages for different homeowners.</p> <p>Stop rate increases by careful management of funds.</p> <p>The gym should not be built. Do not add to ratepayers' debt.</p> <p>Please explain how the overall spend on the Payneham Pool was three times the original contract. Who is responsible for this blow out? Are they still employed at the council? If the building company, engineers or quantity surveyors are at fault are they being pursued in court?</p> <p>Spend on basics. No more projects. The council has clearly demonstrated its team can not manage projects.</p> <p>The council must stream line its operations. This includes keep hard working staff. Let others go.</p> <p>The Council budget and \$200,000,000 debt is a reflection of Council CEO, Mayor and managerial staff's ability to manage a budget. The ratepayers are available to assist.</p> <p>No more debt.</p>

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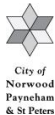


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Antonia Cardone	Online survey form	No	Per the prudential report, it is a risky proposition for which rate payers will likely need to subsidize.	<p>Summary:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Focus 100% on debt & deficit reduction 2. Cut costs by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Demanding savings be delivered from the Recurrent Budget \$45.5M proposed for line items: Employee Expenses (\$21.5M) and Materials, Contracts and Other Expenses (\$24M). This is the ‘elephant in the room’ of the budget review process. Savings MUST be found there rather than from eliminating small Operating Projects that amount to very little. b. Not spending \$880k on design development for The Parade renewal project. 3. Increase revenue through more equitable rate increases, rather than building a gym 4. Defer any and all spending on The Parade and add it to the LTFP instead 5. Spend Renewals dollars on long overdue, safety-conscious footpath, pedestrian, traffic and street improvements. <p>Discourse:</p> <p>It is disappointing that the Council waited until the ESCOSA Report to address the Pool cost blowout rather than acting swiftly when it became apparent back in 2023.</p> <p>This suggests a Council in total denial of the scale of the issue or perhaps intentionally ‘sweeping it under the mat’ in order to get other pet projects done. George St entrance upgrade for instance – which I would argue, was of debatable value to the community at large. These projects might otherwise have been delayed to address the pool and debt debacle, thereby saving residents disproportionately high rate increases and the inevitable declining of services</p>

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				<p>for years to come.</p> <p>The inexplicable delay in acting to minimize the cost over-runs and debt now means BOTH high rates AND curtailed scopes of work for valuable projects going forward. It also means ‘robbing Peter to pay Paul’ with Renewal funds, for example, essential pedestrian, footpath and street projects are being delayed for works on the Parade to proceed first. This assumption is underpinned by a LTFP showing no projects budgeted for nine years which seems shortsighted for a premium eastern suburbs municipality with a most vibrant main street.</p> <p>What should happen is that any and all spending and work on the Parade be delayed until NPSP are in a financial position to do it properly, comprehensively, and independently rather than the currently budgeted lack-lustre, minimal paving refresh to a few blocks of the ‘heart’ of the Parade combined with wishful thinking that the State Govt will fund some of it.</p> <p>Bottom line: use the money now to minimize debt, and then, when in a better fiscal position, do a deservedly world-class upgrade to our beloved main street.</p>
Paul Symmons	Online survey form	No	The cost of the centre is already out of control. The Council is clearly unable to provide accurate costings and I have no faith that they will keep it within the \$5.9M quoted. We have many gyms in the local area, it shouldn't be up to the rate payers to pay for another.	Once again NPSP rate payers are having the largest increase of any Council area.



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Brendan Warn	Online survey form	No	<p>A new NPSP Council delivered gym is not required. The area is serviced by a range of privately operated gyms.</p> <p>The gym is an afterthought.</p> <p>A new gym development will likely have a higher Capital Cost than currently forecast. Capital renewal of gym equipment is likely not factored into the the 11-yr payback and a likely cost overrun is also not factored in, therefore any paybacks more than 15 years away.</p>	<p>The total Capital Budget Cost spent on the New Pool is not clear.</p> <p>The Council website states that the CapEx for the new pool total is \$60 million.</p> <p>What is the Pool Capex, as built?</p> <p>If Council knows there has been a cost overrun, that should be clearly disclosed in the new Annual Budget Report.</p>
Peter Brazel	Online survey form	No	<p>High-Performance Local Government Prototype A pilot model for strategic democratic governance, operational accountability and citizen-centred service delivery. © Peter Brazel. All rights reserved.</p> <p>Purpose of the Pilot This prototype demonstrates how a high-performance democratic system could operate at local government level before broader regional, state or national expansion. The objective is not ideological change. The objective is: measurable operational improvement that citizens can directly experience. The pilot focuses on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clearer accountability • simplified citizen interaction • professional operational management • visible public performance • reduced consultant dependency • improved service delivery <p>Local government is the ideal starting point because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it is highly visible 	<p>Citizen Dashboard System</p> <p>Citizens gain access to a public dashboard showing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • project status • infrastructure progress • budget allocation • service response times • planning application progress • maintenance requests • operational performance data <p>This creates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • transparency • accountability • public visibility • performance pressure <p>Citizens should be able to clearly see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what government is doing • how effectively it is operating • whether outcomes are improving



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • operational outcomes are measurable • citizens directly experience service quality • implementation complexity is manageable <p>1. Governance Structure Current System Problems Many local governments currently suffer from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fragmented accountability • weak operational visibility • consultant dependency • inconsistent delivery standards • limited public performance transparency <p>Elected representatives are often expected to simultaneously:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • manage politics • oversee operations • supervise complex delivery systems • respond to public concerns • manage media exposure <p>This creates operational overload and diffused accountability.</p> <p>2. Strategic Democratic Governance Model Under the pilot model:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • elected representatives provide strategic direction • operational executives manage delivery • public performance systems measure outcomes <p>Governance Architecture CITIZENS ▼ DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS ▼ ELECTED COUNCIL (Strategic Direction)</p>	<p>8. Integrated Citizen Service Model Citizens interact through: one integrated service system.</p> <p>Service Features The pilot system includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • single citizen identity verification • integrated service portal • reduced form duplication • unified service tracking • simplified communication channels <p>Citizens should not repeatedly provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • names • addresses • property details • supporting information <p>across disconnected systems.</p> <p>Data Protection Principles NO CENTRALISED DATA REPOSITORY</p> <p>DATA REMAINS WITH ORIGINATING SYSTEMS</p> <p>ACCESS REQUIRES EXPLICIT CITIZEN CONSENT</p> <p>ALL ACCESS IS RECORDED AND AUDITABLE</p> <p>9. Consultant Dependency Reduction The pilot prioritises rebuilding internal capability. Consultants may still provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • specialist expertise • technical support • independent review <p>However:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strategic planning



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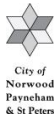
Name		Support for gym proposal	Comments in relation to support for gym proposal	Comments on the draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Community Priorities — Budget Approval — Policy Direction — Public Accountability — Executive Appointments <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>CHIEF OPERATIONAL EXECUTIVE (Fixed-Term Mandate)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>PORTFOLIO EXECUTIVES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Infrastructure & Assets — Planning & Development — Community Services — Environment & Sustainability — Finance & Delivery — Citizen Services <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEMS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>CITIZEN OUTCOMES</p> <p>3. Strategic Leadership Responsibilities The elected council remains fully democratic and publicly accountable. Council responsibilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • setting strategic priorities • approving budgets • defining measurable objectives • overseeing public accountability • appointing operational leadership <p>Council focuses primarily on: strategic direction and public representation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • operational management • performance oversight <p>should remain internal wherever practical. The objective is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stronger institutional knowledge • reduced outsourcing dependency • clearer accountability • lower long-term operational cost <p>10. Public Visibility and Trust The pilot is designed to create:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • visible accountability • measurable performance • operational transparency • simplified citizen interaction <p>The objective is not political theatre. The objective is: rebuilding public trust through demonstrable operational performance.</p> <p>11. Pilot Success Indicators Pilot evaluation should measure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduced citizen administrative burden • improved service response times • delivery consistency • budget discipline • citizen satisfaction • reduced consultant expenditure • operational transparency • infrastructure delivery performance <p>The pilot succeeds if citizens experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • simpler systems • clearer accountability • better service outcomes • visible operational improvement <p>12. Long-Term Expansion Path</p>

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			<p>4. Operational Leadership Model Operational executives are responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delivery execution • operational management • implementation coordination • performance outcomes • service quality <p>Operational executives operate under:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fixed-term leadership mandates • measurable objectives • annual public performance reviews • transparent accountability systems <p>This creates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continuity • operational clarity • measurable responsibility <p>while reducing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • political overload • fragmented accountability • reactive governance <p>5. Leadership Incentive Structure High-capability operational leadership requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • competitive compensation • measurable accountability • aligned incentives • visible consequences for failure <p>Executive Mandate Structure Operational executives operate under:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fixed-term mandates • publicly visible objectives • annual performance review • deferred performance incentives <p>Performance assessment includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • operational delivery 	<p>Successful pilots may progressively expand toward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regional adoption • state-level integration • shared standards • interoperable systems • national accountability frameworks <p>The objective is not rapid centralisation. The objective is: gradual democratic modernisation through proven operational success.</p> <p>Conclusion A high-performance democratic system must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preserve democratic accountability • improve operational capability • simplify citizen interaction • strengthen public visibility • reward competence • measure outcomes transparently <p>Local government provides the ideal environment to demonstrate that: democratic systems can operate more effectively without reducing democratic freedom. Operational success creates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • credibility • public trust • political pressure for expansion <p>A high-performance democracy will emerge not through ideology alone, but through: systems that visibly work better for citizens.</p>

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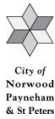
Name		Support for gym proposal	Comments in relation to support for gym proposal	Comments on the draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • project completion • service quality • citizen outcomes • financial discipline • efficiency improvement without service degradation <p>The objective is not corporate bonus culture. The objective is: alignment between responsibility, capability and public outcome.</p> <p>Consequences for Persistent Failure Persistent operational underperformance may result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduced deferred compensation • public performance exposure • leadership replacement <p>High accountability legitimises high responsibility.</p> <p>6. Annual Public Performance Reviews (APPR) All major operational portfolios undergo Annual Public Performance Reviews. Performance reporting includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • budget performance • project delivery rates • infrastructure completion • maintenance response times • planning approval timelines • citizen satisfaction metrics • operational efficiency indicators <p>Review results remain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • publicly accessible • independently measured • comparable year-to-year <p>The objective is: visible accountability and measurable operational improvement.</p>	

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Name	Email	Comments
Barbara Godfrey	Email	<p>I wish to raise a very strong objection to sections of the proposed budget relating to the Payneham pool complex. The original cost blew out by a factor of almost 3. From about \$24 million to \$66 million. This is beyond outrageous in itself. Who provided the initial gross underestimate?</p> <p>The proposed budget adds a further \$3 million to this cost, which can possibly be explained by rising costs of everything, but to propose spending of \$5.9 million on a gym is completely irresponsible. While I understand the bizarre logic that gym memberships will defray some of the losses incurred in running the pool, there are already sufficient gyms in the area. Which of these gyms is the Council going to send into bankruptcy? There is a finite number of people who go to gyms, and there is plenty of choice for these people, so inevitably those who migrate to a gym at Payneham pool will cause financial headaches for owners of existing gyms.</p> <p>Have you remotely considered the effect on people like ourselves who have lived in this area for almost 40 years and are self-funded retirees? Our council rates have increased since 2020 from about \$2400 pa to \$4240, and a further increase of about 5% for 2026-2027 is proposed. Have our incomes increased by 100% over the last 7 years? Of course not.</p> <p>We are of the old school and do not buy anything unless we have the funds to pay for it. The council is acting in a profligate manner with ratepayers' money, ie someone seemingly has a thought bubble, usually relating to Norwood, and more money is borrowed.</p> <p>As an example, the needless \$4 million "beautification" of George Street, Norwood. Meanwhile our neighbour across the road has complained fruitlessly to NPSP about the lake about 10 metres by 3 metres that appears outside his home after heavy rain. At such times I need to put on my gumboots to cross the road to talk to him.</p>
Aspen Group John Carter	Email	<p>I am writing on behalf of Aspen regarding the Draft Annual Business Plan released on 9 May 2026. Aspen is the owner of the various properties within the LGA.</p> <p>About Aspen Group Aspen Group's mission is as follows "Solving Australia's housing shortfall as the leading value-for-money accommodation provider with over 10000 dwelling and sites by 2030"</p> <p>We own Adelaide Caravan Park and a number of blocks of villas/units in the LGA.</p> <p>Council</p> <p>We acknowledge the good work that council has done and that council officers that we have interacted with have performed well.</p>

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Name	Comments
	<p>Proposed rate increases</p> <p>We seek clarification regarding the significant increase proposed for commercial rates which impact Adelaide Caravan Park , rising from a 6.4% increase in FY26 to a proposed 11.39% increase in FY27.</p> <p>We also note the comparatively lower proposed residential increase of 5.45% and would appreciate an explanation for the substantial discrepancy between the two categories of ratepayers. Additionally, this rate increase reflects the most significant jump out of the 11 South Australian LGA's Aspen owns properties in and is also the highest rate increase of any council we own assets in across Australia.</p> <p>Our concerns regarding the proposed rate increase are further compounded by several headline matters identified within the report, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The forecast operating deficit of approximately \$2.1 million, being projected income of \$66.2 million against expenses of \$68.4 million; and • The additional FY27 capital expenditure allocation of \$5.9 million for the Payneham Pool project, particularly considering the previously reported cost overruns and Council's recent difficulties in managing large-scale capital projects within budget. Additionally, Aspen questions assumptions underpinning the gymnasiums potential revenue, as there are significant existing offerings within a 5km radius. Unfortunately, there is a need to substantially reduce capex in addition to not proceeding with the proposed gym in Payneham. • Debt is forecast to continue growing by another \$2.9m to \$78.8m in 2026-27. Aspen cautions against the Council's continued expansion of its debt burden, which has ballooned by \$70m in long-term borrowings since 2022/23. We want council to manage expenses and capex to reduce debt over time. • Employee costs are forecasted to grow by a further 8.4%, leading to an average growth rate of 10.4% per annum since 2022-23. Aspen advises Norwood Payneham & St Peters Council to exercise restraint in its continued expansion of staffing costs. This growth rate is well above inflation and cannot be defended. • We are also seeking clarity on the use of consultants outside of council staff and want these expenses to be reduced. <p>In line with prudent corporate governance and sound financial management practices, we suggest the Norwood Payneham & St Peters Council should exercise greater financial discipline during a period of elevated inflation and ongoing economic uncertainty, particularly as the debt servicing ratio is forecasted to hit 16.6%. This should include careful review of operating expenditure, wages growth, and discretionary capital expenditure.</p>

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Name		Comments
		<p>In summary, Aspen Group strongly opposes another substantial increase in annual commercial council rates. We believe a more reasonable and equitable increase would be in the order of 4%, broadly consistent with prevailing inflationary conditions. Like many businesses, we continue to absorb significant increases across wages, utilities, insurance, and other operating costs, and therefore question both the magnitude of the proposed increase and the fairness of the differential treatment between commercial and residential ratepayers.</p> <p>We look forward to receiving your response within 14 days. If you require any further information please contact myself or Ben Kelsey.</p>
<p>East Torrens Baseball Club Damien Norsworthy</p>	<p>Email</p>	<p>The East Torrens Baseball Club (ETBC), formerly the Norwood Baseball Club, is one of the founding members of the South Australian Baseball League, with a history dating back to 1923. The Club has been an integral part of the South Australian sporting community for over a century. For reference, ETBC participate in the Senior Baseball Competition, one below the Australian Baseball League, so the equivalent to SANFL level competition.</p> <p>ETBC has been based at Patterson Sports Ground for over 50 years, operating from clubrooms since January 1971 and subsequent extension in 1980. Additional facility developments have included the construction of the batting cages in August 1982 and a storage shed in March 1987.</p> <p>Since its establishment at Patterson Sports Ground, ETBC has experienced significant and sustained growth. The Club currently fields six senior men’s teams, three women’s teams, eight junior teams, in addition to T-Ball and Inclusive Yard Ball programs. This growth reflects increasing community participation but has placed considerable pressure on existing facilities and available green space.</p> <p>Discussions commenced nearly a decade ago regarding a potential redevelopment of the precinct to modernise facilities, improve accessibility, and expand green space to accommodate ongoing growth. While aspects the Payneham Pool project did progress, the anticipated comprehensive redevelopment has not eventuated to date.</p> <p>Based on the impacts of the proposed plan the ETBC provides the following feedback.</p> <p>1. Parking</p> <p>ETBC acknowledges the existing challenges associated with parking within the precinct and supports initiatives to increase parking capacity across the Payneham Youth Centre, Patterson Sports Ground, Library, and Pool areas. Currently, overspill parking along Turner Street contributes to congestion, traffic safety concerns, and an unsafe environment for pedestrians and road users. Increased on-site parking would help alleviate these issues. However, the Club has significant concerns regarding the proposed location of additional parking and the associated impacts. In particular, the potential loss of green space and its effect on member access and facility usability is a critical issue.</p>

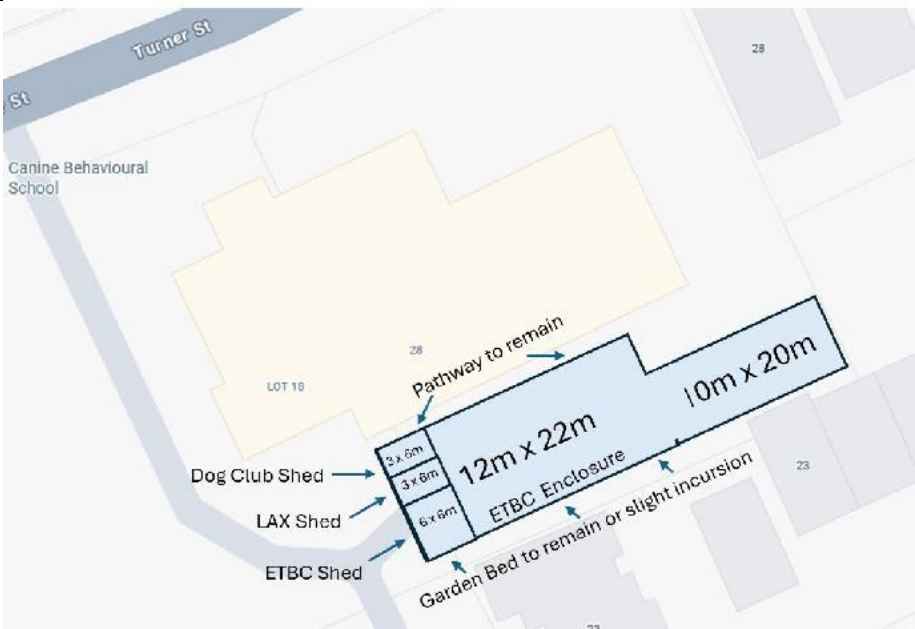
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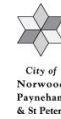


Name	Comments
	<p>2. Batting Tunnels and Green Space</p> <p>The proposal identifies a requirement to relocate the existing storage sheds and batting tunnels. ETBC has serious concerns regarding both the relocation and the anticipated reduction in green space.</p> <p>The proposed changes would result in the loss of several thousand square metres of functional playing area. This reduction would materially affect the Club's capacity to sustain current programs and would significantly constrain future growth and participation.</p> <p>The relocation of the tunnels to the grass and the carpark installation we believe would also add significantly to the liability risk for the Council as well.</p> <p>Furthermore, the suggested relocation of the batting tunnels to the south of the proposed car park would compound the loss of usable green space and is not supported by the Club.</p> <p>3. Alternative Relocation Proposal</p> <p>ETBC proposes an alternative arrangement involving the relocation of the storage sheds and batting tunnels to the southern side of the Payneham Youth Centre.</p> <p>While this option may result in a reduction of approximately nine car parking spaces, it offers several important advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retention of a greater proportion of existing green space • Opportunity to maintain current program delivery without disruption • Capacity to expand facilities to offset the impact of unavoidable space reductions • Improved long-term sustainability for the Club's operations and growth <p>Although this alternative may require a slightly increased facility footprint, and it is requested this become an enclosed space, this is justified given the current and projected utilisation of green space for community sporting programs.</p>



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Name	Comments
	 <p>4. Additional Considerations ETBC also recommends consideration of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realignment of the temporary junior diamond and backstop: Reorienting the playing surface would reduce the risk of baseballs entering adjacent car parking areas, thereby improving safety outcomes. • Support for future lighting infrastructure: This proposed reconfiguration would better support the installation of new lighting towers on the western side of the fields, benefitting other sports, including lacrosse. <p>Conclusion ETBC strongly supports investment in the precinct and recognises the importance of improving infrastructure to meet growing community needs. However, it is essential that any redevelopment carefully balances parking requirements with the preservation and enhancement of green space to ensure the continued viability of existing sporting programs. The Club welcomes ongoing consultation and collaboration to achieve a solution that supports both community access and the long-term sustainability of Patterson Sports Ground as a key sporting venue.</p>



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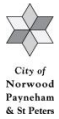
Name		Comments
PV & G Groves	Email	<p>Should the council wish to discuss these comments further please contact Damien Norsworthy on 0407 396 787 or president@etbc.com.au</p> <p>The 11th hour proposal by Council to “tack on” a gymnasium to the grossly over budget and still incomplete Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre to “enhance community well-being and improve financial sustainability” is not persuasive.</p> <p>Council’s rationale for the gymnasium proposal has the hallmarks of a “gambler chasing their losses” as it scrambles to mitigate the potential drain on revenue by the heavily over-capitalised swimming centre and its attendant operating costs.</p> <p>We only became aware of the gymnasium proposal on 14 May 2026 upon receipt of the Look East Newsletter. The gymnasium proposal was incorporated into the newsletter via a link to the Draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget. Only ratepayers who are subscribers to the newsletter would have potentially been able to access details of the proposal with its totally inadequate closing date for submissions of 5.00pm on 31 May 2026.</p> <p>We do not think it is acceptable for Council to deliberately bypass normal Public Consultation processes that are warranted for the gymnasium proposal. It is noted public submissions in respect of the Draft Plan will be considered by Council at its meeting of 9 June before the adoption of the final Business Plan and Budget on 7 July.</p> <p>Until such time as ratepayers are provided with a Public Consultation to test the various claims made by Council to justify its proposal to make a further capital investment of \$5.9 million into the swimming centre gymnasium, we call upon Council to delay any decision until ratepayers have had a genuine say.</p>
Peter Balan OAM	Email	<p>The Draft Annual Business Plan states that ‘Australia is experiencing unprecedented levels of cost of living pressures and inflation and the Council is not immune from these price increases, in particular electricity and the ever-increasing construction costs to build, maintain and replace Council assets.’ (p.20)</p> <p>This is correct, but the Council should acknowledge more clearly that the same pressures apply to resident and business rate payers, and the Plan should take more account of cost pressures on those groups.</p> <p>Given this context, the Council has an obligation to review its programs and activities to ensure that they are in line with rate payers’ expectations and ability to pay.</p> <p>This review proposes that the Council should eliminate developments, programs and activities that fall outside essential or basic services. In addition, the Council should review essential activities to ensure that they are delivered in the most economical and cost-effective manner.</p> <p>The Council should also seriously consider selling facilities to reduce the dramatic debt increase due to the Payneham Swimming Centre development.</p>

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Name	Comments
	<p>REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS, PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES</p> <p>A Payneham Gym (p. 26) The Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre development is generally regarded as a disaster in terms of its expected cost. The Plan proposes the addition of a new gym as part of this redevelopment (p.27). There are straightforward reasons for the council to reject this proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will simply add additional cost to the redevelopment project • More importantly, it would be direct competition to existing fitness facilities in the area. <p>A quick web search lists a significant number of large and small fitness facilities in the Payneham/Marden area. In particular the following facilities are located close to the Payneham Swimming Centre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goodlife Payneham at 7 Portrush Road • Healthworks Marden Gym at 63 Lower Portrush Road • Robinhood Free Outdoor Air Gym at Payneham Oval <p>In particular, it is simply unconscionable for the Council to use ratepayer money to compete with private sector enterprises that are also ratepayers.</p> <p>Cultural Vitality (p. 65) This is not an essential or core council activity and should be discontinued.</p> <p>Social Equity (p. 66) Spending on 'Library programs and events' consultants, 'On-street Parling Policy', '40Kmp/h evaluation' should be stopped as they are not essential.</p> <p>Cultural Vitality (p. 66) Spending on the Tour Down Under should be supported by the Norwood business sector if those businesses consider that this is worth-while. It is not a Council core activity.</p> <p>Economic Prosperity (p. 66) Any funding for AFL matches should come from the business sector if they consider it would be worthwhile. It is not a Council core activity. The same applies to 'Raising the Bar' activity; it is not a Council core activity.</p> <p>Environmental Sustainability (p. 67) It is not clear what proposed projects relating to a 'tree inventory' and 'biodiversity' would add to the quality of our environment and should not be carried out or deferred for at least two years.</p> <p>Operations (p. 67) The amounts budgeted for the elections and for the IT strategy seem very high and should be reviewed.</p>

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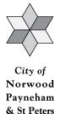


Name		Comments
		<p>REVIEW OF BUDGET EXPENSE ITEMS</p> <p>Employee Costs (p. 61) Staffing cost pressures are currently being experienced by small and large organisation across almost all industry sectors, and this is resulting in the reduction of staff numbers. Another factor currently leading to reduction in staff numbers is the increasing use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). The Council should be carrying out an evaluation of positions and the degree to which they contribute to the core or essential functions and reduce staff numbers and staffing costs out of respect to ratepayers. This is the same process that business ratepayers are carrying out with the aim to help them survive the current and emerging economic challenges, and the Council should be doing the same.</p> <p>Materials, Contracts and Other Expenses (p. 61) These are significant expense items. There is a possibility that a review of contracts may reveal the impact of inflation in the prices of items (eg building materials), but a systematic review with the aim to reduce expenses in these areas. This is the same process that many individual and business ratepayers are currently implementing to reduce their outgoings and improve their chances of surviving, and there is no reason why the Council should not do the same.</p> <p>Salary Capitalisation (p. 65) The amount listed should be reduced with the review of existing projects.</p> <p>SALE OF FACILITIES The Council should seriously consider selling the Payneham Community Centre (374 Payneham Road) to reduce debt. Meeting rooms are available nearby at the Payneham Library (2 Turner Street, Felixstow), and 'multipurpose meeting rooms' will also be available at the nearby Payneham Swimming Centre.</p>
Canine Behavioural School	Email	<p>Canine Behavioural School (CBS) opposes the proposed construction of a new 96-space car park at the northern end of Patterson Sportsground, Payneham, as outlined in the Norwood Payneham and St Peters Council draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget.</p> <p>CBS is recognised locally, nationally and internationally as a leader in providing force-free dog training. Our purpose is to help dogs remain in family homes for life. We do this using evidence-based training methods that strengthen the relationships between people and their canine companions, support responsible dog ownership, and contribute to community safety. In any school term, CBS provides training to between 48 and 80 dogs and their families, many of which are members of the NPSP community. More information about CBS and our work is contained in Appendix 1.</p> <p>CBS objects to the proposed car park for the reasons set out below.</p> <p>1. The proposal would reduce valuable community open green space Patterson Sportsground is an important community asset. Recreational areas are particularly important to community members and are identified as the third most important factor which impacts community satisfaction with infrastructure (see Table 1).</p>



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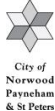
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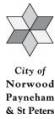
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		<p>Recommendation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPSP should review and update its Open Space Strategy prior to considering any proposal to reduce existing open green space in the council area. • The proposal would reduce usable open space, particularly at night <p>2. The proposal would reduce usable open space, particularly at night</p> <p>In addition to the overall reduction in open space at Patterson Sportsground, the proposal would also significantly reduce the lit area where CBS runs its classes and other clubs use the grounds at night. The car park plans impact on approximately 36% of the existing lit space (see Table 3).</p> <p>CBS classes require open space with sufficient distance between dogs, handlers and instructors. The spacing is essential for safety and management of participants to be able to work safely.</p> <p>Current lighting at Patterson Sportsground is already inadequate in some areas, including around the existing clubrooms (particularly the southern side). The existing car park and pathways are poorly lit and a safety concern at night with children being picked up from sports activities and CBS students arriving to classes.</p>																																	

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	<p>Rather than reducing usable open space, Council could invest in additional oval lighting which would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better support the existing clubs using the oval during the evening and increase practical usability of the space; • Create new opportunities for increased community use of the overall sporting precinct, such as the gym for outdoor fitness classes or boot camps as well as other community uses; and • Maximise the use of existing open green space. <p>The above opportunities, including the expansion to other users such as outdoor gym opportunities, has the potential to also create an additional income stream for the Council.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="674 568 1397 730"> <thead> <tr> <th>Description</th> <th>Approx. Area m2</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Open Space available for current sporting activities</td> <td>31,100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Useful lit area for CBS night activities</td> <td>8,100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Approximate car park impact area of lit area</td> <td>2,900</td> </tr> <tr> <td>% of useful lit area impacted by proposed car park</td> <td>35.8%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Table 3 – Open Space Impact – including lit areas of the oval that are used by CBS</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council should provide increased oval and car park lighting, including the use of wildlife-sensitive lighting where possible, instead of reducing usable open green space. <p>3. Additional traffic will increase congestion The existing access road to the clubrooms is already narrow and congested. CBS volunteers regularly observe congestion at the Turner Drive and Patterson Sportsground entry and exit point, where cars cannot easily pass each other. We're concerned additional vehicle traffic generated by a 96-space car park would increase congestion further, create safety risks, and cause delays for vehicles entering and exiting the area. It is unclear what traffic modelling, if any, Council has undertaken to assess the effect an additional 96 car spaces will have during peak periods to traffic travelling on Turner Drive and entering/exiting Patterson Sportsground.</p> <p>4. Impact of car traffic on oval use The proposed car park will inevitably increase vehicle and pedestrian movement throughout the area at all hours, including during CBS class times. Movement and noise from increased cars entering and exiting the car park and headlights glaring onto the oval from the proposed car park will create additional distractions and a greater disturbance for our classes. CBS works hard to provide calm, controlled class environments. Increased traffic and activity will undermine this environment and negatively affect both handlers and dogs, reducing the number of local families and dogs who would otherwise benefit from our services.</p> <p>Recommendation</p>	Description	Approx. Area m2	Open Space available for current sporting activities	31,100	Useful lit area for CBS night activities	8,100	Approximate car park impact area of lit area	2,900	% of useful lit area impacted by proposed car park	35.8%
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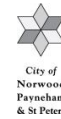
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council to re-engage with the adjoining business to negotiate long-term car park leasing arrangements. This could include car park division and installing security measures to support the adjoining business such as electronic boom gates to restrict public access to certain sections of the car park. <p>5. Impact on CBS programs, volunteers, and students The above issues will limit the range and variety of dogs CBS is able to work with and support. They also impact the safety, wellbeing, and sense of security of the volunteers and students who attend our classes along with others who use the oval.</p> <p>Summary CBS respectfully submits that the proposal to construct a 96-space car park on existing open green space in Patterson Sportsground should not proceed. The proposal is contrary to Council's desire to '<i>maximise use of the City's open space by providing a range of active and passive open space recreation opportunities</i>' (p. 46 <i>NPSP Draft Annual Business Plan Incorporating Long-term Financial Plan Update 2026–2027</i>). The proposal would permanently reduce public green space, remove established tree canopy, reduce the usable area of the oval, and negatively affect existing community users, including CBS. CBS believes Council has an obligation to their community to develop a contemporary Open Space Strategy prior to consideration of any proposal to reduce existing green space. Further, the Council has an obligation to provide a safe and secure environment for all users of Patterson Sportsground. Constructing a 96-space car park primarily to service a 24-hour gym does not appear consistent with protecting open space, enhancing community recreation, or providing a safer and more inclusive environment for all users of Patterson Sportsground.</p>
St Peters Residents Association	Email	<p>The St Peters Residents Association (SPRA) acknowledges that the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters is facing a considerable financial situation and that as a result drastic action must be taken to ensure that it is not exacerbated in the coming years.</p> <p>All actions taken by Council must take into consideration the recent Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA) report into the Council finances which found that the Council's position is 'Potentially Unsustainable' and the "Review of ESCOSA Advice" commissioned by Council which rates risks as high.</p> <p>SPRA has over the past few years, when making budget submissions, stressed that these problems would eventuate if nothing was to be done.</p> <p>The Association makes the following comments.</p>

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	<p>Rates</p> <p>Council rate revenue will rise by 7.9% next year, following 8.5% in the current year and 7.44% in the previous year. These rate increases are well above inflation, and will continue into the future.</p> <p>ESCOSA in Section 6 Advice on current and projected rate levels, key points included “Affordability risk among the community for the further rate increases appears to be emerging.” including highlighting “doubt about the feasibility of forecast constraint in expense growth, with a risk of further rate increases, and the cost of maintaining the Council’s expanding asset base.”</p> <p>Freezing the Minimum Residential Rate at \$1386 is designed to over time reduce the number of properties on the minimum rate from 32% to 25%. If the average residential rate increase of 5.49% was applied to the minimum rate it would rise by \$75.</p> <p>It is reasonable to assume the majority of properties on the minimum rate will not have their rates increased by \$75 and so those will higher property values will face higher increases. SPRA Response to NPSP Budget (2026-27)</p> <p>SPRA Opinion</p> <p>We share ESCOSA’s concern about ability of some residents and businesses to afford additional rate rises, however this must be balanced with restoring the budget to surplus and reducing debt. We believe that all ratepayers should share in efforts to reduce projected \$2.1 million budget deficit. It is difficult to justify exempting properties from any rate increase when the remainder of ratepayers are facing sizeable rate increases. We believe that the rationale leading to Council to exempt ratepayers on the minimum rate from any rate increase is a flawed budget strategy.</p> <p>We suggest that the rate revenue should rise to 8.4% and that the minimum rate should rise by half the average rise, 4.2%, rounded down to \$58, leading to the minimum rate being set to \$1444. The increase of the minimum rate by \$1.12/week would result in an increase in income for Council of around \$330,000. This modest increase will not detract from the objective of lowering the number of properties eligible for minimum rate.</p> <p>Capital Projects</p> <p>Debt</p> <p>ESCOSA in Section 5.4 Net financial liabilities first key point is that “The Council’s (NFLR) is projected to exceed the suggested target range throughout the Forecast Period, peaking at 166.8 percent in 2028-29 and averaging 145.2 percent.”</p> <p>ESCOSA then goes on to say that “The LGA recommends that the Council’s net financial liabilities do not exceed total income. The Council forecasts that it will exceed that level throughout the Forecast Period to 2034 This might indicate difficulty in servicing its financial liabilities, depending upon its borrowing arrangements.”</p>

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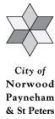
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	<p>SPRA suggest deferring all major capital projects (above \$1 million) to the 2027-28 financial year or later. This suggestion is covered as “Scenario 8 – No Major Capital Projects unless grant funding is achieved” in the “2026-2027 Budget & LTFP Scenarios – Covenant Assessment Matrix” in the Council Meeting – Agenda – 7 April 2026 (page 247). Given the financial state of the Council it may be perilous to proceed with some major projects unless entirely funded by grants, particularly when these assets will depreciate.</p> <p>The “Review of ESCOSA Advice – City of Norwood, Payneham & St Peters” reproduced in the Council Meeting - Agenda – 5 May 2026 (starting page 158), rates the “Debt Servicing Risk” as High. Council should consider reducing this risk by not taking on new debt.</p> <p>Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre</p> <p>In the term of this Council we have seen the Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre (PMSC) blow out from \$20 million to a \$60 million contract and in the past 12 months \$390,000 for opening, another \$3.6 million in cost blowouts approved in November 2025. This budget includes another \$3 million for capital variance. The gym cost is estimated at \$6 million, bring the estimated cost to \$73 million with the risk of further increases.</p> <p>Section 3 “Key Project Risks” (page 12) of the Prudential Report on includes this statement: SPRA Response to NPSP Budget (2026-27)</p> <p>“Large scale developments such as this Project more often than not have high potential for cost blow-outs.”</p> <p>The history of this Council is that large projects do not come in on budget and either require additional funds or de-scoping.</p> <p>The Prudential Report recommends that community consultation occurs. SPRA suggests that any decision on spending \$6 million, and likely more, on adding a gym is deferred until after community consultation occurs. It is not satisfactory to say that there will be adequate consultation via the current budget consultation. This is merely obfuscation.</p> <p>The 11 year payback period increases the risk that future changes could negatively impact the forecasts in the Prudential Report. The replacement of open space by a carpark is detrimental to the community and the environment.</p> <p>It appears that it is common knowledge that swimming pools run at a loss and that gyms can be a way of offsetting those losses. This raises the question: “Why did Council staff not include a gym, or were they aware that the gym would be required, but feared the additional cost would see the project cancelled?” Either way rate payers are now facing additional costs and rate increases.</p> <p>ESCOSA in Section 5.4.3 “Impact of the Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre project on financial liabilities” provides a timeline of the increase in costs, but did not include the \$3.6 million increase in costs approved in November 2025. In Section 5.5 Asset renewals expenditure, ESCOSA commented on the lack of community consultation, pointing out that</p>

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	<p>“The community would benefit from a detailed review and consultation on the financial and service delivery implications of the Council’s capital expenditure plans, what service levels the community wants and is willing to pay for and opportunities for asset rationalisation to support long-term financial sustainability.”</p> <p>In line with ESCOSA, SPRA strongly insist, that this consultation must occur and include impacts of expenditure on reduced services or rate increases and environmental impacts.</p> <p>Payneham Gym Prudential Report SPRA has not been able to reach a conclusive position on the proposed gymnasium because of the absence of information that would allow us to make an informed determination on the merits of this project. On the one hand we support the addition if it can be shown to have a real positive effect in ameliorating the pool costs, but on the other hand we remain to be assured that this can be achieved.</p> <p>We are aware and have noted the high number of risks associated with this venture as clearly documented in the Prudential Review undertaken by Dean Newberry. This understandably makes SPRA wary and anxious about the viability of this venture, given that a lot can go wrong if some of the assumptions that underpin the project prove not to have been correct.</p> <p>We understand the influencing factors that are motivating elected members to support this project but are concerned that they may be driven more by necessity rather than certainty. This may be based on hope that this project will help offset some of the projected losses likely in operating the Swimming Centre in the absence of the gym. SPRA Response to NPSP Budget (2026-27)</p> <p>We are strongly of the view that Council should not be withholding information from the community in respect of assumptions used to undertake financial modelling. Factors such as projected inflation in the next few years, the cost of finance and the anticipated cost of a gym and the take up of membership are all critical assumptions that could impact the project if these are not held to. For reasons previously indicated, we believe there is likely to be a subjective bias for Council to accept the modelling undertaken. In our view what is needed is open and transparent sharing of all pertinent information to allow for independent analysis and assessment by the community.</p> <p>This will allow Council to know either, that their decision making has been soundly based, or alternatively, they could be made aware of any errors in the assumptions or projections used. The benefit of transparency would be to either provide reassurance to Council or to prevent adverse outcomes. Whilst SPRA would be very pleased to endorse soundly made decisions to offset future costs, we also do not want to see a currently bad financial situation made worse if assumptions made prove to be incorrect.</p> <p>We note as well that at the time of undertaking the Prudential Review, the tender process to select a provider to manage the swimming centre had not been completed. It is therefore not possible to say with any certainty whether assumptions in respect of the anticipated management fee have been correct until negotiations in this regard have been completed. The identity and track record of the PMSC manager is also of critical importance, given the number of risks associated with this decision</p>

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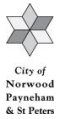
Name	Comments
	<p>We further note from Item 2.1.11 of the Prudential Review that the projected pay back period of 11 years does not include costs of borrowings or depreciation on the asset. This we estimate to be in the vicinity of \$360,000 per year for interest (\$6m @6%pa) and \$180,000 for depreciation (straight-line 40years @ 1.5%).</p> <p>To quote from the Prudential Review (2.1.11)</p> <p>“Borrowings by Council to fund the gymnasium project are expected to be paid back over a larger timeframe and will require active long term debt management beyond the life of the current 10-year financial plan”</p> <p>This is a further source of disquiet for SPRA as the additional borrowings to finance the pool will increase the financial liabilities ratio by a further 9% to 177% in 2029, which is well in excess of the target range of 100%. SPRA does not believe that this ratio can be categorised as “moderate” and that it should be categorised as “high” risk, severely restricting any future borrowings for additional projects.</p> <p>No consideration appears to have been given to the re-purposing parts of the Payneham Library for the use of the gym. This could include minor extensions and use of the meeting rooms for low impact classes such as yoga or movement. SPRA Response to NPSP Budget (2026-27)</p> <p>George St Upgrade</p> <p>George St is an example of poor fiscal control by Council staff. The project was initially budgeted at \$800,000. As many have commented, the streetscape has not changed substantially and while previously it was visually distinctive from The Parade, now it is similar but visually disjointed.</p> <p>SPRA supported Councillor Piggott’s motion to defer the \$4.2 million spend on the upgrade of George St and include it as part of The Parade Master Plan and were disappointed when it was defeated. This is \$4.2 million that could have delivered better value for residents if spent in other ways.</p> <p>The Parade Master Plan</p> <p>“Section 5.3 Operating performance”, listed a key point that “The Council risks further cost increases if it has underestimated the cost of The Parade Masterplan.” The estimate provided to ESCOSA for implementation of “The Parade Masterplan” was \$30 million. Residents will not be surprised to learn that this estimate has blown out to about \$60 million. It is clear from the April Council Meeting that borrowing additional funds to cover the increases would place Council in breach of the debt covenant with the Local Government Finance Authority (LFGA). This indicates how precarious the financial situation of the Council is.</p> <p>Of concern is that the plan of Council to move funding of The Parade Masterplan to the “renewal” budget. Like George St, SPRA questions the need to replace paving that has an estimated 15 years of life left. The “Review of ESCOSA Advice – City of Norwood, Payneham & St Peters” reproduced in the Council Meeting - Agenda – 5 May 2026 (starting page 158), rates the</p>

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Name	Comments
	<p>“Asset Sustainability and Renewal Risk” as Medium / High. Funding possibly unnecessary updates to The Parade out of the renewal budget will put the renewal of other assets at risk, which implies this risk should be moved to high.</p> <p>SPRA supports the suggestion made at the public meeting that work on The Parade is deferred until sufficient funds exist to make a transformational update to The Parade.</p> <p>Asset Rationalisation</p> <p>ESCOSA in “Section 1 Executive summary” states:</p> <p>“The Commission notes with concern that the Council appears to be consciously transitioning from a historically sustainable financial position to one of elevated financial risk, without a clear or compelling rationale. This shift is occurring without demonstrable community support and includes the duplication of assets - such as swimming centres and libraries - at considerable expense. These decisions reflect a departure from prudent financial management, placing a growing burden on ratepayers who have not been adequately consulted or given the opportunity to consent to these cost implications”.</p> <p>SPRA concurs with ESCOSA’s opinion about the lack of consultation by Council over decisions with major financial implications such as the Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre and would go further to suggest that presenting councillors with a cost blowout from \$24 million to \$60 million, and then expecting them to make a decision that same evening, is a breach of good governance and one that residents will be paying for through increased rates and reduced services for the next decade. SPRA Response to NPSP Budget (2026-27)</p> <p>Small Projects</p> <p>A number of small projects were cut from the budget (Option 1 April Agenda), and while SPRA support fiscal responsibility, we are supportive of the inclusion of the Ann St Pedestrian Crossing and the Tree Audit program.</p> <p>SPRA supports the removal of funding for traffic management at the Ninth Avenue Christmas Lights and recommends that Council consult with Department of Infrastructure and Transport to build a median strip to prevent right turns into and out of Ninth Avenue at the Stephen Terrace intersection as a permanent solution and safety measure for cyclists and pedestrians.</p> <p>Lost Opportunities</p> <p>By prioritising expenditure on the Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre (including a gym), George St and The Parade Masterplan, this means that there are a number of other assets in the community that are in need of renewal and listed in the previous Long Term Financial Plan, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norwood Concert Hall • Norwood Library • Norwood Pool

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Name	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="636 341 1099 368">Ninth Avenue (Richmond St) Bikeway <p data-bbox="636 384 1890 459">SPRA are concerned that the Norwood Concert Hall requires significant upgrades to make it more attractive to visiting artists, and to increase potential income. Deferment of the Norwood Library refurbishment places this vital community asset at risk of further decline and closure.</p> <p data-bbox="636 483 1928 558">Refurbishment of the Norwood Pool is not included in the Long-Term Financial Plan. SPRA see this as admission by Council that it simply cannot fund the necessary upgrade. Based on this it is challenging to see how the Council has any option except to close the pool unless significant additional savings can be found.</p> <p data-bbox="636 582 1917 657">Recently there was a serious traffic incident on Torrens St close to the corner of Richmond St. For several years, SPRA has shared the concerns of residents about safety along this narrow stretch and while reluctant to suggest additional expenditure to Council, we are deeply concerned about the safety of road users, particularly families visiting the Twelftree Reserve Playground.</p> <p data-bbox="636 681 1901 782">In addition, there are countless other projects that many in the community would place a higher value on, including the Council run St Peters Childcare Centre which was recently subject to mandatory closure, and the subject of several newspaper reports damaging the reputation of Council. A senior staff member reportedly told parents just before the breaches were revealed that Council was not in the financial position to provide additional funding.</p> <p data-bbox="636 805 891 826">Environmental Projects</p> <p data-bbox="636 850 1928 924">SPRA share the environmental concerns of many residents. Street trees are under increased stress. As is well known to Council, our tree canopy is critical to our wellbeing, to our environment as a whole (including to its biodiversity), and also to our property values. Largely due the fact that SPRA Response to NPSP Budget (2026-27)</p> <p data-bbox="636 948 1917 1123">Council’s development policies have resulted in a drastic reduction of privately-owned trees over the past several years, our street and parkland trees now comprise the substantial part of our tree canopy. By late 2025, it was evident that our public trees were under a great deal of stress due to last summer’s heat and lack of rainfall. Compounding this, larger houses on smaller blocks means that many trees are disappearing from backyards increasing the importance of street trees and public green spaces. It is increasingly certain that the 2026-27 year would likely be a Super El Nino year. As such, it is with dismay that we note the lack of attention to the environment in the 2026-27 budget, particularly as it is now official that the coming year will be super hot, super dry, and super storm intensive.</p> <p data-bbox="636 1147 1890 1248">Climate-wise, tree-and-general-flora wise, and fauna-wise, these are extraordinary times. Beyond the highly commendable planting of 500 new street trees, beyond \$20k for a partial street tree audit, and beyond \$10k for a biodiversity report, there is nothing extraordinary in the 26-27 budget allocated to the environment. On the environment, it is far too conservative and represents many missed opportunities, ones that are going to deliver to us untold costs.</p> <p data-bbox="636 1272 1879 1318">As far as the \$10k for the biodiversity report goes, our Council area comprises 15.1 square kilometres that include important reserves and parklands: a full-time biodiversity officer to write the report would have been a better investment.</p>

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Name	Comments
	<p>As far as the \$20k for the tree audit goes, if we estimate that 1/3 of our some 30,000 Council trees are mature trees to be valued at \$28k each, and the remaining 2/3 (as either young or dying) to be valued at only \$2k each, the total value of our inventory is \$320m. Fair investment in an asset of that much value stands, at the very least, at 6 figures per annum if not into the millions. In addition to the street tree audit, this budget should have included tree inlets in the hundreds if not thousands, ground swales and berms and other water catchment solutions, the replacement of mature trees with semi-mature trees, and a considerably larger team of permanent full-time arborists. It should have also included a significant amount for citizen education: sadly, many of our residents are unaware of how important their concern for our trees is to the ongoing flourishing of our community. Finally, in addition to more expenditure lines, the budget should have included a significant income line: where are the levies, penalties and other disincentives against developers who strip blocks and parch our street trees to death?</p> <p>Operating Expenditure</p> <p>In the first budget after the ESCOSA report, the Council is anticipated to have a \$2.2 million deficit in 2026-27.</p> <p>In “Section 5.3 Operating Performance”, ESCOSA raised this key point as a risk:</p> <p>“The Council risks further rate increases if it cannot limit expense growth in line with its forecast.”. ESCOSA notes further in “Section 5.3.2.2 Over the Forecast Period” that The Council projects an average OSR of 4.4 percent, with annual OSRs ranging from 0.5 percent to 9.4 percent, which is dependent upon a rate of growth in operating expenses that is lower than the Council has achieved historically, while increasing rate revenue at nearly twice the projected average inflation rate.”</p> <p>The “Review of ESCOSA Advice – City of Norwood, Payneham & St Peters” reproduced in the Council Meeting - Agenda – 5 May 2026 (starting page 158), rates the “Operating Performance and SPRA Response to NPSP Budget (2026-27) Cost Control Risk” as High. The fact that the budget will be in deficit this year should be seen as the materialisation of this risk.</p> <p>Financial Ratios</p> <p>It is unsurprising that the Operating Surplus Ratio, Rate Revenue Increase, Net Financial Liabilities Ratio and Debt Servicing Ratio are all outside the target range in a negative way. The exception to this is the Renewal Funding Asset Ratio which ESCOSA in “Section 5.5 Asset renewals expenditure” highlighted in key points that “Over the Forecast Period the cost of asset renewal and replacement is double that of the Historical Period.”</p> <p>The Annual Business Plan should be updated to highlight more clearly that Council is outside the financial ratios and explain the risks that this presents.</p> <p>Long Term Financial Plan</p> <p>The first two recommendations by ESCOSA were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopt a more comprehensive and transparent Long-Term Financial Plan annual review process to ensure ongoing financial sustainability and accountability.



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Name		Comments
		<p>2. Improve the transparency of assumptions and explicitly state the basis of preparation of Annual Business Plans, budgets and the Long-Term Financial Plan.</p> <p>The 12 pages provided in the draft Annual Business Plan do not appear to address these recommendations. In the recent and current uncertain economic climate, applying a 0.1% sensitivity to CPI / Inflation is inadequate.</p> <p>One would reasonably expect that a responsible plan would include several forecasts based on varying assumptions for CPI / Inflation and that residents could better use this to understand the sensitivity of the plan to changing economic conditions.</p> <p>SPRA looks forward to the opportunity to comment further on the Long-Term Financial Plan later in the year.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>The St Peters Residents Association thanks Council for this opportunity to comment on the 2026-2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget.</p>
<p>Norwood Residents Association</p>	<p>Email</p>	<p>The NRA, along with some other resident groups and individuals, have expressed deep concerns about the financial direction of our Council for the past 2-3 years. We feel these concerns have not been taken seriously until the Essential Services Commission undertook their work and issued their report reaching similar conclusions.</p> <p>That said, we note Council has undertaken a number of reviews to address the ESCOSA report including the Rating Strategy Review, consideration of an added gym facility into the Payneham pool complex and associated prudential review, revising the LTFP and adjusting/reducing the capital works program etc. We commend the Council for taking these actions as part of its strategy to improve the financial position over the next 10 years and making them publicly available for community consultation.</p> <p>However, it must be said the forecasts in the LTFP look good on paper, but rely on the heroic assumption that there will be little to no new capital expenditure over the next 10 years. It is not realistic!</p> <p>In considering the current Budget and LTFP we submit the following:</p> <p><u>Budget 2026/27</u> Expenditure has increased by 10%, while income has increased by 6%. This imbalance is unacceptable. The Employee Expense category shows the highest cost increase (average of 10.5% per annum since 2022-23). Materials and Contracts also continue to rise about \$1M per annum. The result is an Operating Deficit of \$2.12m which is too high and should be reduced significantly prior to setting rates for 2026/27. Deficits of this order and a further \$1.0m in 2027/28 weigh considerably on future budgets and ratepayers. Relying on the positive forecasts in the outer years of the LTFP is notoriously unreliable.</p> <p>Some suggestions include:</p>

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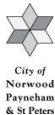
Name	Comments
	<p>Recurrent Budget Expenses Cost Cutting</p> <p>Review Employee Expenses and Materials and Contracts line items to deliver significant savings of at least 1%, or some \$450,000. In private enterprise, contracts are frequently renegotiated, so council need to do similar. “No” is not an acceptable response from the CEO & Administration.</p> <p>A further review of all operating budgets should be undertaken to find further savings.</p> <p>Operating Projects Cost Cutting</p> <p>Consider the real benefits to the City’s broad ratepayer base of holding the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour Down Under - \$60,000 (other Councils have questioned the value) • Gather Round - \$100,000 (it is unclear whether this is football related activities or the Food and Wine Festival or both?) <p>It could be argued these activities have short term benefits lasting days as opposed to investing in expanding tree canopy, improving/expanding open space or beautifying the Parade that have benefits lasting decades for the community.</p> <p><u>Rates</u></p> <p>We generally support the proposals contained in the Rating Strategy Review, however we have some comments/suggestions on the rating proposals for 2026/27.</p> <p><i>Average Residential Rate Increase – Tale of Two Cities</i></p> <p>Total Residential rate revenue is budgeted to increase by 7%.</p> <p>However, we are told (ABP p23) the average residential increase is only 5.45%. The reason for this lower figure is because the calculation includes the 27% of minimum properties that subject to no increase in their rates. Consequently, the average rate increase for the other 73% will be significantly higher than 5.45%, it must be over 7%+. The suggestion that the average rate increase is 5.45% maybe technically correct but is misleading to 73% of residential ratepayers. We believe this distinction should be made transparent to ratepayers in its publicity, unless Council endorses in some form our proposal (below) to phase-in the reduction in the proportion of minimum rated properties.</p>

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Name	Comments
	<p><u>Minimum Rate</u> One of the key changes proposed is to reduce the percentage of ratepayers on the minimum rate to 25%. Legislation requires the number of properties minimum rated to no more than 35% - NPSP is around 32%.</p> <p>We recommend a more phased approach while the Council is facing large deficits over the next 2 years. If the minimum rate was increased by 3% or \$42(lower than the average increase for the bulk of ratepayers and less than current CPI) it would generate approximately \$214,000 more rate revenue to contribute to a reduction of the deficit and would still lower the number of ratepayers on the minimum.</p> <p>This mirrors the phase in approach to the changes in the differential rates for commercial and other non-residential ratepayers.</p> <p><u>General Rates</u> No one wants to increase rates but the consequences of suggesting the deficit will fix itself sometime in the future is not desirable with ongoing higher debt servicing costs.</p> <p>We therefore propose that all rate categories have an additional 0.5% added to the current proposed rates in the Annual Plan. It is estimated an additional \$360,000 rate revenue would result.</p> <p><u>Borrowing Levels</u> We note the very high borrowing levels at \$86.3m in 2026/27 and with the Net Financial Liability level at 153.5% which is well beyond the LGA's maximum guidance level of 100%, noting that all metropolitan Councils are below, and most well below, 100%.</p> <p>This constrains Council from being able to respond to important needs in the community and will cause further disappointment for ratepayers.</p> <p>The Long-Term Financial Plan has pushed out improvement plans for almost 10 years, which is clearly unrealistic and undesirable. not a desired outcome. It should include improvements to valued community assets such as the Norwood Pool and Library.</p> <p><u>Gymnasium addition to Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre</u> Council has proposed to add a gymnasium facility to the Payneham Pool (including expanded car park provision) at a capital cost of \$5.9m based on concept plans. The aim is to generate operating surpluses from the gym that will partially offset the operating deficits from the swimming facility.</p>

**City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters
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Name		Comments
		<p>We are very concerned about the financial risks associated with this project for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is 100% funded by significant additional borrowings; • Cost estimates are based on concept designs, not detailed design estimates risking cost escalation; • On current estimates the capital investment will have a payback period of 11 years, excluding finance costs and depreciation – these costs need to be factored into the LTFP and their inclusion further illustrates the questionable viability of this project. • The prudential report on the project was very cautionary and highlighted many risks, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Potential insolvency of the PMSC operator; ○ High potential for capital cost blow-outs, noting recent inflation due to Iran war; ○ Insolvency of the builder or key contractors; ○ Potential operating losses greater than projected due to escalating costs such as staffing, energy, utilities etc; ○ Increased borrowing costs due to higher interest rates; ○ Membership demand and revenue may be lower than projected; ○ potential limited ability to increase gym fees due to user affordability or market competition; ○ competition from other private gyms, existing or new, or changing fitness trends may impact patronage. <p>We advocate further public consultation (pause point) (also recommended by ESCOSA) once detailed design costs and borrowing impacts are known so the community can be assured the project won't replicate the history of the Swim Centre Development.</p> <p>Finally, thank you for the opportunity to put our views and hope there will be opportunities to improve Council's financial position in the future to provide for the betterment of the City.</p>
<p>Kensington Residents Association Roger Bryson Andrew Dyson</p>	<p>Email</p>	<p>The Kensington Residents' Association appreciates the opportunity to make a submission regarding the 2026 – 2027 budget. These comments will elaborate on the matters raised by our President Roger Bryson at the public meeting on Tuesday 26th May.</p> <p>Borthwick Park and Biodiversity</p> <p>Our Association would like to thank your staff at the Depot and Volunteer support for their continuing assistance in the Park and to the volunteers. We also appreciate the staff who installed a remembrance bench plaque dedicated to volunteers who have passed away.</p> <p>Like many concerned citizens across our country and across the world, our membership is concerned about loss of biodiversity and the ever-increasing impacts of climate change. Since 2010, our Association has planted over 8500 locally indigenous plants in Borthwick Park and some hundreds in Pioneer Park. This successful partnership with Council, working as Council volunteers, is restoring an urban ecosystem and creating a cool natural space. We have won many awards, grants and plaudits for this work and we greatly appreciate Council's ongoing support.</p> <p>While this project brings great credit to NPSP there is so much more we can do. We refer specifically to City Plan 2030 and to Objectives under Environmental Sustainability; in particular (p40):</p>

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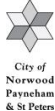
Name	Comments
	<p><i>Objective 4.3 Thriving and healthy habitats for native flora and fauna, and</i></p> <p><i>Objective 4.4 Mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change.</i></p> <p>These objectives aim to implement city-wide initiatives to enhance habitat quality for native species as well as reducing our ecological footprint and mitigating against climate change. While our joint initiatives in Kensington are laudable, much more can and must be done if our City Plan's objectives are to be more than aspirational. To that end we support the review of Council's Biodiversity Strategy and advocate for future investment in its implementation.</p> <p>There is an ongoing need for more biodiversity expertise within Council. Weed control and native plant management could be greatly improved.</p> <p>Our Association strongly supports the need for a Biodiversity Officer to be engaged by the City to work at a senior level to help achieve the environmental strategies in City Plan 2030. This position would provide input into planning and strategic decision-making as well as guiding practices in Council parks and gardens, and importantly Torrens Linear Park, to protect existing native vegetation and to enhance habitat quality as called for under the City Plan 2030.</p> <p>Borthwick Park Public Toilet & Playgrounds</p> <p>This Park is very popular in our community, and we would like to know if and when a toilet will be installed in the Park and when the two playgrounds will be reviewed.</p> <p>Pioneer Park</p> <p>Pioneer Park is the site of the first Congregational Church cemetery in NPSP and our first settlers are still interred there. It is a modest but popular Park, and we hope that the paving of the access ramp and installation of handrails will be completed this financial year. The Park is located near to St Matthews Homes and used by many people with a disability who find access difficult or impossible.</p> <p>Norwood Library</p> <p>Members of our Association are frequent users of the Norwood Library and support Council's funding of library services. We would welcome further investment in this heritage building and extended opening hours.</p> <p>With increased urban infill, our population will need library services more than ever, including its popular public programs and the quiet and safe space it provides.</p> <p>When refurbished, the Norwood Library can be extended to be a vibrant community space. When renovated it can fully open its three levels to provide meeting spaces, public talks and events and perhaps a small business hub like the facility in Prospect. We call on Council to keep investigating opportunities for this Library.</p>

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Name	Comments
	<p>Kensington and Norwood Swimming Centre</p> <p>We trust that planning work is continuing for the refurbishment of the Kensington & Norwood Pool. It will be celebrating its 70th anniversary in 2027 and is a much loved and treasured asset of our community. Members of our Association greatly enjoyed the movie night at the pool and other events, and we would support continuation of these initiatives. Other initiatives to be considered would be free Friday nights at the pool to encourage more teenagers to use the pool which would also give them a social opportunity away from their computers. We have advocated for this low-cost initiative before and are puzzled as to why it has not yet been tried.</p> <p>Kerbside Charging for Electric Vehicles</p> <p>Some of our residents without off-street parking are buying electric vehicles to deal with the financial crisis and climate change mitigation. These residents cannot install charging stations on their properties. Port Phillip Bay Council in Victoria is trialling gutter charging which is widely used in the UK. Footpath licenses with cable covers are also being trialled in Australia. Our Association calls on Council to consider conducting a similar trial and we volunteer to be the test suburb!</p> <p>Parade Master Plan</p> <p>Our Association supports investment in upgrades to The Parade. The central thoroughfare is looking tired, and it is important that this major retail precinct is supported. We applaud the George Street upgrade and future outdoor dining as the trees mature. It is important that any upgrades to The Parade should retain the historic character of The Parade and remain predominately single storey.</p> <p>On-street Parking Controls</p> <p>Many of our residents continue to have problems finding any on street parking anywhere on their street. This causes extreme access problems for visitors and tradespersons and greatly impacts on people with mobility problems. We thank Council for prioritising Kensington for implementing the parking controls but would like to know when they will be implemented.</p> <p>Waste and Recycling</p> <p>Our <i>Association</i> supports the continued investment in waste and recycling programs, including community education. Anything we can do to support this would be welcome including articles in our newsletters and pop-up stalls at our events. Illegal dumping continues in our suburb. Waiting time for collection is now one month. We applaud the Council's 'rapid response' waste collection and trust that this will be continued.</p> <p>Community Concerts and Events</p>

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Name	Comments
	<p>Our Association would welcome a partnership with Council to provide our residents with free concerts as happens in other wards in the Council area.</p> <p>Whilst our volunteers regularly put on events and we pay for our own insurance (like Neighbour Day, Winter Solstice and Pizza in the Park), we note that Council pays for traffic management for the St Peters Christmas lights and free concerts in other suburbs. These are excellent initiatives.</p> <p>We considered a street party but the barriers to obtaining a permit were too onerous, including having to pay for traffic management. Our Association calls on Council to consider sharing its investment in community events with our suburb as well, so that residents of Heathpool, Marryatville and Kensington do not have to travel so far to enjoy Council events.</p> <p>40km/h Speed Limit</p> <p>Our Association thanks Council for its commitment to this initiative but is disappointed that the implementation of a 40km/h speed limit in Kensington has been delayed. As you are aware we have five schools in our narrow streeted suburb and two more on the other side of the perimeter roads. This initiative is of high importance to Kensington residents and parents.</p> <p>Cultural Heritage Significance to be Considered in Demolition Applications</p> <p>The demolition of 69 High Street, the first schoolhouse in NPSP built in the 1840s, was approved for demolition by the CAP following an appeal. We were disappointed that no reference to the buildings cultural significance was mentioned in the staff report to the CAP and that the age of the building was incorrectly stated as being built in 1912 over 60 years after it was built! We call on Council to improve this in the future and to initiate a Code Amendment so that Council Assessment Panels are required to consider cultural heritage significance of buildings in demolition applications.</p>

Have your say: Draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget

The Council is seeking feedback on the draft Annual Business Plan and Budget for 2026–2027.

All residents, ratepayers and business owners in the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters are encouraged to provide comments.

To be effective a submission should:

- Clearly state your opinion and reasons for or against components of the draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget.
- State how your concerns could be addressed or outline any suggestions for resolving a problem or issue (if possible).
- List any references or provide evidence, relevant material, or specific examples to help demonstrate your views or suggestions.
- Include the section, recommendation and page number of the proposal to which your comments refer (if relevant).
- To ensure accurate interpretation of your comments into the Schedule of Submissions, please keep your comments concise and number all matters you wish to address.

The draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget is available to:

- View and download online from www.npsp.sa.gov.au/consultation
- View at Norwood Town Hall, 175 The Parade, Norwood
- View at our three libraries in Norwood, Payneham and St Peters.

Your details (please complete all sections)

Name (first/last) _____

Postal address _____

Suburb _____

Phone number _____

Email address _____

City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters
175 The Parade, Norwood SA 5067

Telephone 8366 4555
Email townhall@npsp.sa.gov.au
Website www.npsp.sa.gov.au
Socials  /cityofnpsp  @cityofnpsp



City of
Norwood
Payneham
& St Peters

Have you read the Council's draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget? *

- Yes
- No

Do you support the Council's proposal to invest in construction of a gymnasium and associated car park at the Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre in order to reduce operating costs of the Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre?*

- Yes
- Yes, with changes to the proposal (please provide comments below)
- No

Please provide relevant comments in relation to your response:

Please provide comments on the Council's draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget



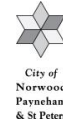
**Draft 2026-2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget
Public Meeting
Public Submissions**

Name	Summary of Submission
Paul Ensor, St Peters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In regard to the Rating Strategy, requests that the number of ratepayers who pay the minimum rate based on the principle of equity. Savings could be used to offset the proposed 2026–2027 deficit. Increase of 2.5% on the minimum rate.
Joan Sedsman, Stepney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for the Ann St pedestrian crossing Something urgent be done about pedestrian safety in Ann Street.
Marishia Marchant, Hackney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Petitioning for traffic calming measures for Richmond Street, Hackney since 2022. Claims that the reduced 40km/h speed limit has not resolved the traffic management issues. Referred to Prospect and Charles Sturt Councils that have installed speed humps for similar environments with success. Vegetation overgrown onto footpaths, so pedestrians forced onto roadway in way of vehicles No safe crossing onto Twelftree Reserve Requesting Council to prioritise funding for Richmond St improvements in the 2026-2027 Budget.
Peter Fairlie-Jones, Norwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representing the Norwood Residents Association. Has expressed concerns about the Council’s financial direction in the past but feels that concerns haven’t been taken seriously Since ESCOSA report, acknowledges the Council has undertaken various reviews to address the ESCOSA report, including a review of the LTFP. Commends Council for undertaking these and making information available through the ABP consultation. Concerns about assumptions of no new capital expenditure over the next 10 years in LTFP. Budget deficit is too high and should be reduced significantly Council should consider further cost cutting (eg. TDU and Gather Round), questions the real value to broad ratepayer base. Minimum rate should be increased more gradually to help reduce deficit. Increase general rates by an additional 0.5% across the board Borrowing levels too high and constrain council to make other improvements for the community Gym - difficult to understand how repayment was calculated and seeks clarification if interest and depreciation were used to calculate the figures?



**Draft 2026-2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget
Public Meeting
Public Submissions**

Name	Summary of Submission
Andrew Killey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the business case for the gym at PMSC? • Prudential Report presents a grim picture.
Matthew Pole, St Peters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President of St Peters Residents Association. • Debt concerns — quoted ESCOSA advice. • Duplication of Council assets comes at a considerable expense. • Urged council to Consider the ESCOSA report as a conservative statement of risks facing council and engage in further consultation. • 7.9% rate rise. • Focused on deficit. • Questioned costs of PMSC redevelopment and its financial risk on council's long term financial stability. • Stated that the gym is a risk and that budget will blow out or the project will get descoped. Was it an oversight of staff not to include in PMSC? • Applauded The Parade Masterplan being withdrawn from the LTFP, but thinks it is only because the Council had to reduce debt. • Criticised the George St Upgrade as unnecessary expenditure and criticised councillors for their failure to support Cr Piggot's motion to defer the project. • Claims the George Street Upgrade budget would have covered 2/3 cost of the gym. • Investment in George Street and The Parade Masterplan renewal mean that other capital projects/renewals have been removed/deleted from the ABP. • Believes there is there a link between the deferral and the ESCOSA recommendation of selling assets.
Roger Bryson, Kensington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kensington Residents Association. • Thanked the Council and staff for various contributions and projects including the Volunteers week celebrations, Cultural Heritage research area at St Peter's Town Hall Complex, cutting lawns for a community-led neighbour event and providing easier access to Pioneer Park. • Small things in the big plan do make a difference. • Indicated support for the PMSC — observed every major project in Adelaide has had budget increases. Believes that there are too many gyms in the area. • Has confidence in the Council to manage its business/finances. • Urged Council to have stronger focus on built heritage. • Requests that a toilet be provided in Borthwick Park.



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Name	Summary of Submission
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council needs a Biodiversity Officer so as not to forget the importance of a person that can continue to make our City green. • Support the 40kmh speed limits in Kensington. • Safe crossing needed for Thornton Street near McKeller Stewart Kindergarten. • Does not support Norwood Swimming Centre Pool and Norwood Library assets being sold.
Maggie Faceth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phonographic society meets in Druids Hall, Beulah Road. • Claims hirers are being relocated, venue being renovated as hall for hire. • Where do community groups meet now? • Mentioned the Margaret Ives Kindy walkway behind and associated rent.
Antonia Cardoni, Norwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norwood Residents Association Committee Member. • The Parade Masterplan — Delay any work on The Parade until the Council is in a financial position to do it properly. Do a world class upgrade to our beloved main street. • Essential footpath projects will be delayed to accommodate The Parade Masterplan renewal. • Disappointed in recent cost blowouts, claims Council were not proactive and only responded to the ESCOSA Advice. • Use the money now to minimise debt.
David Cree, St Peters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believes this budget is a hard decision for Council and that the budget must be framed by the ESCOSA Advice. • Congratulates Council on rescoping The Parade Masterplan. • Notes that the gym is the one major project in the ABP. • Concerns about Prudential Report in relation to the gym, in particular the estimated returns and payback period. • Referred to risks associated with project — Table 9.1.1.0 in Prudential Report. This table shows first positive return to be in 2030. Table does not show when the payback occurs. • Concerns that figures in table have been prepared on an EBITA basis (ie do not include interest costs). • Suggest the Council needs more detail to confirm the real situation.



City of
Norwood
Payneham
& St Peters

**Draft 2026-2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget
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Name	Summary of Submission
Madeleine St Johnstone Romano	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanked Council for including the Street Tree Audit in the draft Budget. • Request that all trees be watered — community messaging for people to water trees, advocate to State Government assistance.
Ian Radbone	<p>Questions on notice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost v justification of drainage works at Brown St and Theresa Street, Norwood. • Questioned if tree net inlets have been considered as a cheaper alternative to stormwater works, and if it has been rejected, why? • The Parade Masterplan — understandable that it has been removed at this time. • Request to implement the 40kmh speed limits for Norwood. • Adoption of Donald Shoup style parking — popularized the theory that an 85% occupancy rate of on-street parking spaces would be the most efficient use of public parking, 'Pay as you park'. • Consider alternative means of raising money as part of the Smart City Strategy.
Tim O'Loughlin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned about the Prudential Report for the proposed gym. • Leaves important issues untouched (eg. nature of the operator, lease agreement). • Questions if ratepayers will be underwriting the business. • Cost of depreciation.
Leon Watkins, Norwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about accessibility to the Norwood Swimming Centre. • Would like to see the Norwood Swimming Centre retained.

4 CLOSURE