

Special Council Meeting Minutes

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.*

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City of
Norwood
Payneham
& St Peters

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The Mayor declared the meeting open at 7.00pm.

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

Staff

Mario Barone (Chief Executive Officer)
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)
Marina Fischetti (Governance Officer)

APOLOGIES Cr Christel Mex

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

Cr Sims moved:

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

Seconded by Cr McFarlane and carried.

2 ELECTED MEMBER DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil

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.

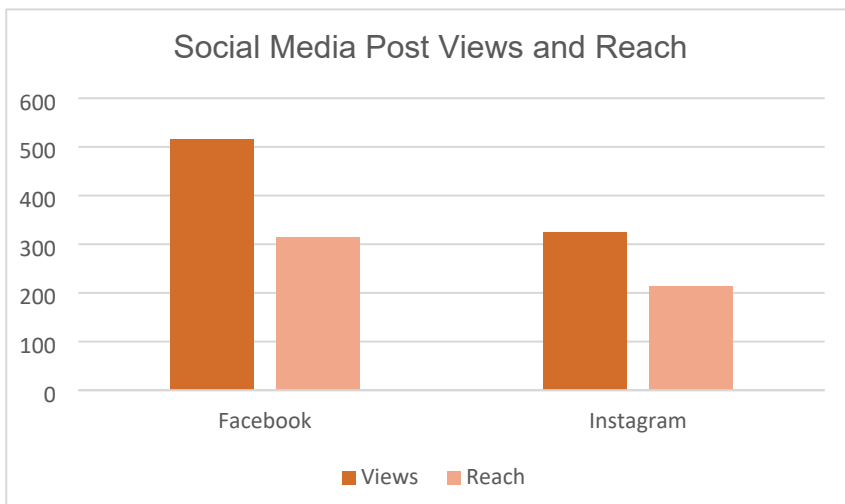
Consultation Reach and Participation

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).

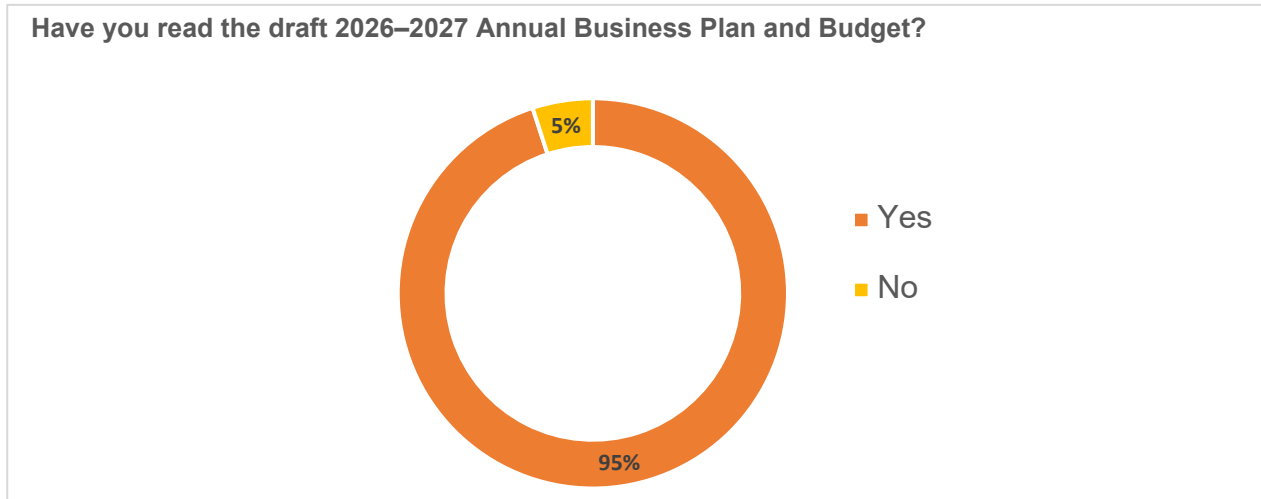
Written Submissions received on the draft 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget

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

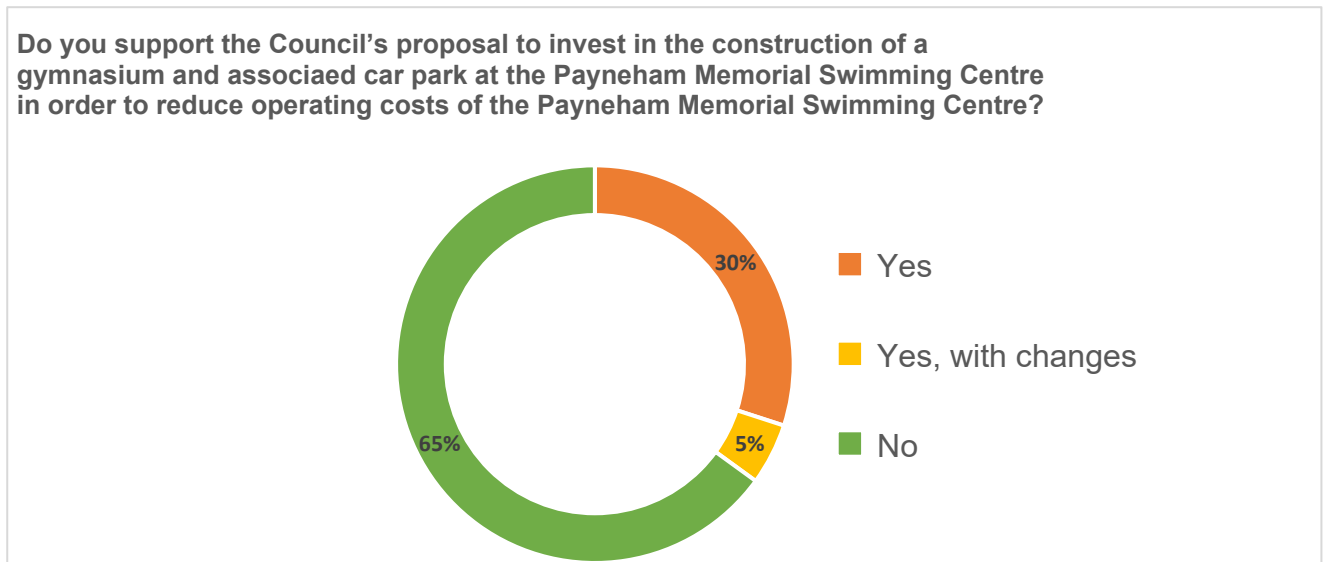
A copy of the feedback form is contained in **Attachment B**.

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.*
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Cr Sims moved:

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.*

Seconded by Cr Granozio and carried unanimously.

4 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7.11pm.

Mayor Robert Bria

Minutes Confirmed on _____
(date)