

Council

Meeting No 2

Monday 23 March 2026

Notice No 2/1682

Notice Date 19 March 2026

minutes

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Present

The Right Hon Clover Moore AO - Lord Mayor of Sydney (Chair)

Members Deputy Lord Mayor - Councillor Jess Miller, Councillor Olly Arkins, Councillor Sylvie Ellsmore, Councillor Lyndon Gannon, Councillor Robert Kok, Councillor Zann Maxwell, Councillor Matthew Thompson, Councillor Yvonne Weldon AM, and Councillor Adam Worling.

At the commencement of business at 5:00pm, those present were:

The Lord Mayor, and Councillors Arkins, Ellsmore, Gannon, Kok, Miller, Maxwell, Thompson, Weldon and Worling.

The Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer, Executive Director Finance and Procurement, Executive Director City Services, Executive Director City Planning, Development and Transport, Executive Director Legal and Governance, Executive Director City Life, Executive Director People, Performance and Technology and Executive Director Strategic Development and Engagement were also present.

Acknowledgement of Country and Opening Prayer

The Lord Mayor opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country and opening prayer.

Webcasting Statement

The Chair (the Lord Mayor), advised that in accordance with the City of Sydney Code of Meeting Practice, Council meetings are audio visually recorded and webcast live on the City of Sydney website. The Chair (the Lord Mayor) asked that courtesy and respect be observed throughout the meeting and advised those in attendance to refrain from making defamatory statements.

Order of Business

Council agreed that the order of business be altered such that Item 13.1 be brought forward and considered prior to Item 4.

Item 1 Confirmation of Minutes

Moved by the Chair (the Lord Mayor), seconded by Councillor Kok –

That the Minutes of the meeting of Council of Monday, 23 February 2026, as circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

Carried unanimously.

Item 2 Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest

Statement of Ethical Obligations

In accordance with section 233A of the Local Government Act 1993, the Lord Mayor and Councillors are bound by the Oath or Affirmation of Office made at the start of the Council term to undertake their civic duties in the best interests of the people of the City of Sydney and the City of Sydney Council and to faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act, to the best of their ability and judgement.

Disclosures of Interest

Councillor Olly Arkins made the following disclosures:

- a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 3.1 on the agenda, in that she:
 - knows Inner City Legal Centre Board Member Jeremy Moineau, through personal and professional networks;
 - has known Inner City Legal Centre Board Member Jo Tilly for over a decade as a fellow inner-city activist, having met through Jo's partner Penny Sharpe, a senior member of the NSW Labor Government, and through Red Tilly, Jo's son who works in Councillor Arkins' office;
 - has known Inner City Legal Centre Board Member Eden Tollis for over a decade, as he has lived with a close personal friend and more recently through his work at the Sydney Film Festival.

Councillor Arkins considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances as she was not contacted by them on this Item.

- a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 3.1 on the agenda, in that she has a community relationship with Katie Green, CEO of Inner City Legal Centre, since the lead up to the NSW Drug Summit, from her work in music festivals and the Inner City Legal Centre's program for free legal advice to festival goers about our drug laws and police powers. Councillor Arkins considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances as her relationship with Katie Green has been around mutual professional matters.
- a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 13.8 on the agenda, in that she is currently a financial member of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras. Councillor Arkins considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because she was not contacted by them on this matter.

Councillor Zann Maxwell disclosed a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 13.8 on the agenda, in that he is a member of Mardi Gras. Councillor Maxwell considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because his membership does not give rise to any meaningful pecuniary benefit and he has not been advocated to in his capacity as a member.

Councillor Adam Worling disclosed a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 13.8 on the agenda, in that his most recent membership with Mardi Gras has been since 2023. Councillor Worling considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because he has no perceived influence over the daily running of Mardi Gras.

No other Councillors disclosed any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in any matter on the agenda for this meeting of Council.

Item 3 Minutes by the Lord Mayor**Item 3.1 Support for an LGBTIQ+ Services Hub****Minute by the Lord Mayor**

To Council:

The Inner City Legal Centre ('the Centre') is seeking the City's support to establish an LGBTIQ+ Services Hub in the City of Sydney.

Demand for the Centre's LGBTQIA+ and Sex Worker Legal Services has significantly increased in recent years. This has resulted in staffing levels expanding and the organisation has now outgrown its current space in Kings Cross at 50-52 Darlinghurst Road.

This also presents an opportunity for the Centre to explore co-location with some of their partner organisations and creation of a services hub that would enhance existing collaborations between those organisations.

The Inner City Legal Centre

The Centre provides free legal assistance to many within the Sydney community, including marginalised sex workers, people experiencing homelessness and members of the LGBTIQ+ community. It also presents community legal education workshops (39 in the 2024-2025 financial year), advocates for law reform (26 such contributions in the 2024-2025 financial year) and provides outreach services.

The passing of the Equality Legislation Amendment (LGBTIQ+) Act 2024 (NSW), commonly known as the Equality Bill and introduced by Alex Greenwich MP, has increased the demand for legal and other services. For example, the Legal Centre's 2024-2025 annual report notes the increased pressure on its Trans Legal Service, including demand for community education and assistance for people updating the gender on their birth certificates.

The services provided by the Centre include its participation the Newtown-based Pride Centre's Queer Youth Access Zone (QYAZ). A weekly initiative led by Twenty10, the QYAZ provides a support space for young LGBTQIA+ people seeking help with Centrelink, housing, food, employment and other essential services. The Inner City Legal Centre's partnership with QYAZ enables them to reach young people who may otherwise face significant barriers to accessing legal support.

City of Sydney support

The Inner City Legal Centre has leased Council-owned properties since 1997, initially at 94 Oxford Street, under the then South Sydney Council, and then at 66 Oxford Street before moving to their current premises at 50-52 Darlinghurst Road, Kings Cross.

Since 2006, under the Accommodation Grants Program, the City has provided \$947,360 in rent subsidy to Inner City Legal Centre for their tenancies and currently receive a 100% rental subsidy valued at \$85,539 per annum. The Centre's current lease is due to expire on 30 June 2026.

In addition, since 2020, Council has approved five grants totalling \$372,309, awarded under the City's Covid-19 Recovery Grant, Matching Grant, Community Services Grant, Festival and Events Sponsorship and Creative Grant programs to support the Centre's free legal assistance for marginalised sex workers, people experiencing homelessness, and members of the LGBTIQ+ community.

These grants enable the Centre to operate the Trans and Gender Diverse Legal Service, Sex Worker specific Legal Service and LGBTIQ+ specific domestic violence legal service in NSW. In 2024-2025, the Centre helped 137 clients and provided information or referrals for an additional 1200 plus people. It also had significant wins in cases taken to courts and tribunals.

The Centre is seeking a premises of at least 300 sqm in size, preferably located within the Sydney CBD or the inner eastern suburbs of Darlinghurst, Kings Cross and Surry Hills.

Establishing a services hub that provides a single home for the Centre and potentially some of its partner organisations would be consistent with my [Lord Mayoral Minute](#) unanimously adopted by Council following the LGBTIQ+ Safety Summit that I hosted in February 2024. That resolution asked the Chief Executive Officer to investigate how the City can support:

“... the provision of community based legal, social and emotional support for individuals who seek redress for acts of violence, discrimination, vilification, harassment or abuse against them - including funding for local community legal centres that support members of the LGBTIQ+ communities seeking redress for acts of violence, discrimination, vilification, harassment or abuse against them.”

I also acted on Council's request and wrote to the NSW Treasurer and NSW Attorney-General asking them to provide increased funding for Community Legal Centres to enable them to better respond to and assist with complaints of anti-LGBTIQ+ violence, discrimination, vilification, harassment and abuse.

The City's support for a LGBTIQ+ Services Hub is also consistent with my Lord Mayoral Minute unanimously adopted by Council in May 2024 about [Support for Community Legal Centres](#). At Council's request I wrote to the Federal and NSW Governments requesting urgent additional and ongoing funding and support for community legal centres like the Inner City Legal Centre.

I understand that the NSW Government is considering providing funding for a statewide LGBTIQ+ service. Such a service would be significant anchor for an LGBTIQ+ Service Hub. I hope the City can play an active role in making such a hub a reality.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

(A) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:

- (i) investigate options for providing suitable premises to enable the Inner City Legal Centre to establish an LGBTIQ+ Services Hub with partner organisations as set out in the subject Minute;
- (ii) consult with Inner City Legal Centre about their accommodation needs to achieve this goal, including accessibility requirements and potential co-location approaches; and
- (iii) report back to Council on options as soon as practicable via the CEO Update; and

(B) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to:

- (i) the Inner City Legal Centre providing them with a copy of the subject Minute; and
- (ii) relevant NSW Ministers with a copy of the subject Minute, calling on them to provide funding towards establishment of a statewide LGBTIQ+ Legal Service.

THE RT HON CLOVER MOORE AO

Lord Mayor of Sydney

Moved by the Chair (the Lord Mayor), seconded by Councillor Arkins –

That the Minute by the Lord Mayor be endorsed and adopted.

Carried unanimously.

S051491

Item 3.2 City of Sydney's Response to the NSW Government's Draft Share Bike Regulations

Minute by the Lord Mayor

To Council:

Share bikes are now an essential part of Sydney's transport landscape, with almost 4 million trips recorded in our area last year. They provide an affordable and sustainable transport choice, reduce congestion and leverage the investment in safe cycling made by the City of Sydney.

However, with the growth in share bike popularity the City has experienced oversupply. There are too many share bikes cluttering footpaths and restricting access due to minimal regulatory oversight, despite the City repeatedly calling for stronger State regulation since 2017.

I'm pleased the NSW Government has recently released draft regulations to establish a statewide framework for managing e-mobility share schemes including share bikes. But in their current form, the draft regulations do not provide councils with the funding, or tools required to play their part in creating a safe, accessible and orderly share bike system.

City staff are working collaboratively with nearby councils and have many of the same concerns about the draft regulations. This is our chance to get the regulation right for our communities.

Positives in the draft regulations

Parts of the draft regulation and associated documents are encouraging:

- **Mandatory helmets** and visible **IDs on every bike**, improving safety and accountability.
- **Go-slow and no-go zones**, where Councils can dictate where share bike companies are required to program the e-bikes motors to stop or go slower.
- **Better share bike safety standards**, including speeds and power.

Key problems with the draft regulations

The City's analysis of the draft regulations highlights critical gaps and misalignments with the City's expectations. These are as follows:

1. A funding model that does not reimburse Councils

The NSW Government proposes a levy of \$0.80 per trip on share bike companies but only allows councils to directly receive \$0.20 per trip, with the remainder going to Transport for NSW (TfNSW). This leaves councils with not enough funds to deliver bike parking, undertake parking enforcement and monitor schemes.

Transport for NSW propose to return some of their share to councils with a grants process, but there is no detail, no timeline, no guarantee the maximum levy will be charged no commitment to returning funds to the area they were collected from. This approach risks wasting money on grant administration instead of supporting the orderly share bike system our community needs.

Councils need funding to recover the cost of managing share bikes, and fees/fines should come directly from the share bike companies to Council.

2. No real caps on share bike fleet sizes and number of operators

The draft regulations say Councils can set share bike fleet caps and refuse operators, but they allow Transport for NSW to overturn these decisions at any time. This loophole is intended to avoid a patchwork of different operators across Local Government Areas (LGA), but it is an awkward solution and blocks councils from managing the impacts of share bikes in their own areas.

The City believes a cleaner approach is for the NSW Government to take responsibility for the overall system, while councils set the target fleet numbers for their local area, as we are best placed to understand what our streets can safely accommodate. Natural fluctuations will occur as bikes move around, and a coordinated State-led system can manage this, particularly during peaks and major events.

To gain community trust, the NSW Government must also ensure operator numbers and service quality meet expectations. Starting the new system with two high-quality operators is a practical step that supports user choice and encourages healthy competition.

Caps of share bike numbers and operators needs to be overseen by Transport for NSW with advice from councils.

3. The ability to refuse shared e-scooter schemes

Despite well-documented safety concerns and examples of cities, and even whole countries, abandoning shared e-scooter schemes, the NSW Government continues to signal its intention to legalise e-scooters. While it was reassuring to hear Minister Graham state recently that e-scooters will not be legalised until problems with e-bikes are under control, the City remains concerned that the current guidance still anticipates future e-scooter legalisation.

Councils need the explicit power to refuse shared e-scooters from operating in our areas.

4. Inadequate plan for orderly share bike parking and enforcement

Minister Aitchison recently praised the City's approach to installing Designated Bike Parking Areas (DBPAs) on-street, and we continue to identify new opportunities for DBPAs, including some near traffic signals. However, the draft Parking Guidelines released with share bike regulations state that DBPAs near signals are "typically not suitable" and also discourage them on State and some regional roads - directly contradicting the Minister's comments and the successful approach already used by the City.

The Guidelines also do not align with Transport for NSW's existing rules, which gives councils responsibility for these decisions. Councils are well-placed to determine suitable DBPA locations and have multiple channels to seek Transport for NSW input when required.

The draft regulations do not provide workable powers for councils to enforce share bike parking outside DBPAs. Instead, the consultation material implies the Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021 (the PSUP) is the solution to this issue, despite a recent review of the Act showing that it is not an appropriate mechanism to enforce share bike parking.

Given the number of share bikes operating in our area, some high-demand DBPAs may require added infrastructure, such as simple devices that keep parking orderly. We are proposing a universal, docking-style approach. This differs from other cities, where docking systems typically align with a single bike-share provider. As this infrastructure increases costs, it further strengthens the need for councils to receive a fairer share of funding from share bike companies.

The NSW Government needs to align the Parking Guidelines with the Minister's intent, give councils clear authority over installing DBPAs and enforcing share bike parking and ensure funding arrangements allow us to deliver DBPAs, including universal docking-style infrastructure where needed.

5. Weak customer service standards

The draft regulations require operators to report data and complaints, but do not set standards about appropriate complaint handling. Without reviewing these requirements, the City has no way to ensure operators will be required to perform to an acceptable standard or to use complaint handling as a factor when deciding which companies are suitable to operate in the City.

The regulations need to be updated so that share bike companies must meet clear customer service standards, including timely complaint resolution and transparent reporting, so that only share bike companies who provide a reliable, responsive service can operate.

6. Lack of technology specifications - topple detection, noise limits and geofencing

The City continues to see issues with toppled share bikes blocking footpaths, loud audible signals disturbing residents and poorly parked share bikes. These problems particularly affect people walking and using mobility aids and undermine safe and orderly streets.

Share bike company requirements to pinpoint the location of individual share bikes very accurately supports efforts for orderly bike parking (geofencing). It means that councils can create more precise parking areas that show up clearly in the share-bike apps. This helps riders park correctly within designated spaces and prevents bikes from spilling outside the intended area. Riders would also be unable to end or “log off” their trip until their bike is fully inside the approved parking zone, further improving compliance.

This level of accuracy would allow the City to properly enforce bikes that are left outside the required parking areas. In addition, it makes it possible to set up reliable zones where bikes are not allowed to be ridden at all, or where their motors automatically slow down or switch off.

The draft regulations do not adequately address technology requirements. There is no rule requiring operators to detect toppled bikes, despite this technology existing for e-scooters, nor any requirement for timely operator response. There are also no limits on device noise. Without these safeguards, bikes will continue to create access hazards, generate unnecessary noise, and fail to park correctly, leaving councils without the tools needed to manage public space impacts.

The NSW Government needs to update the regulations to require toppled-bike detection with timely operator response, quieter devices, and accurate geofencing so share bikes can be safely, quietly, and responsibly be integrated into our streets.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note the release of the NSW Government's draft share bike regulations and acknowledge both the positive elements and the significant concerns identified in the subject Minute;
- (B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to prepare a formal submission to the NSW Government on the draft regulations, advocating for:
 - (i) a fair funding model that delivers an adequate share of per-trip fees directly to councils to cover the cost of on-the-ground management of share bike schemes including bike parking infrastructure, compliance monitoring, and the installation of universal docking-style parking where needed;
 - (ii) a State led system, with input required from local government and other land managers on:
 - (a) target number of share bikes: with adjustments of fleet for daily/weekly peaks, seasonal variations or events; and
 - (b) maximum number of operators: Two high quality operators across inner Sydney for the first few years, with agreed service and customer service requirements;
 - (iii) clear local decision-making powers and ability to enforce, ensuring councils retain authority over the number, placement and enforcement of Designated Bike Parking Areas and have the ability to refuse shared e-scooter schemes;
 - (iv) modernised bike technology standards, including toppled-bike detection and mandatory operator response times, minimum share bike location accuracy (geofencing is within 2 metres or better);
 - (v) quiet-operation standards to prevent excessive device noise, particularly in residential areas; and
 - (vi) strong customer service requirements, including mandatory reporting on complaint types, locations, response times and resolution outcomes, and clear performance standards so that only operators who meet acceptable service levels can continue to operate;
- (C) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the Mayors of nearby councils, including Woollahra, Inner West, Waverley, Bayside, Randwick and North Sydney, with a copy of the subject Minute and to encourage a unified approach to advocacy on key elements of the draft regulations; and
- (D) the Lord Mayor be requested to seek an urgent meeting with the Minister for Roads and Minister for Transport to outline the City's concerns and the changes required to ensure the regulatory framework for share bikes is safe, effective and aligned with local needs.

THE RT HON CLOVER MOORE AO

Lord Mayor of Sydney

Moved by the Chair (the Lord Mayor), seconded by Councillor Miller –

That the Minute by the Lord Mayor be endorsed and adopted.

Variation. At the request of Councillor Thompson, and by consent, the Minute was varied, such that (B)(vi) read as follows:

(B)

- (vi) strong customer service requirements, including mandatory reporting on complaint types, locations, response times and resolution outcomes, measures to report on and ensure affordability for users and clear performance standards so that only operators who meet acceptable service levels can continue to operate;

The Minute, as varied by consent, was carried unanimously.

S051491

Procedural Motion

At this stage of the meeting, it was moved by the Chair (the Lord Mayor), seconded by Councillor Miller –

That the order of business be altered such that Item 13.1 be brought forward and considered before Item 4.

Carried unanimously.

Item 4 Memoranda by the Chief Executive Officer

There were no Memoranda by the Chief Executive Officer for this meeting of Council.

Item 5 Matters for Tabling**5.1 Disclosures of Interest**

Moved by the Chair (the Lord Mayor), seconded by Councillor Maxwell –

It is resolved that the Disclosures of Interest returns be received and noted.

Carried unanimously.

Item 6 Report of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee

PRESENT

Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Jess Miller

(Chair)

Councillor Robert Kok

(Deputy Chair)

Councillors Olly Arkins, Sylvie Ellsmore, Lyndon Gannon, Zann Maxwell, Matthew Thompson, Yvonne Weldon AM and Adam Worling.

At the commencement of business at 3:00pm those present were -

Councillors Arkins, Ellsmore, Gannon, Kok, Maxwell, Miller, Thompson, Weldon and Worling.

Apologies

The Rt Hon Clover Moore AO – Lord Mayor of Sydney extended her apologies for her inability to attend the meeting of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee.

Moved by the Chair (Deputy Lord Mayor), seconded by Councillor Kok –

That the apology of the Lord Mayor be accepted and leave of absence from the meeting of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee be granted.

Carried unanimously.

The meeting of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee concluded at 3:07pm.

Report of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee

Moved by Councillor Kok, seconded by Councillor Miller –

That the report of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee of its meeting of 16 March 2026 be received, with Items 6.1 and 6.2 being noted, and the recommendations set out below for Items 6.3 to 6.4 inclusive being adopted in globo.

Carried unanimously.

Item 6.1

Confirmation of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Kok, seconded by Councillor Miller –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee of Monday 16 February 2026, as circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

Carried unanimously.

Item 6.2**Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest**

No Councillors disclosed any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in any matters on the agenda for this meeting of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee.

The Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee recommended the following:

Item 6.3**Investments Held as at 28 February 2026**

It is resolved that the Investment Report as at 28 February 2026 be received and noted.

Carried unanimously.

X020701

Item 6.4**Tender - Reject and Negotiate - T-2024-1215 - Property Services Leasing Panel - Work Lots 1 to 3**

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council decline to accept the tender offer/s for the Property Services Leasing Panel – Work Lots 1 to 3, for the reasons set out in the subject report and Confidential Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) Council does not invite fresh tenders, as it is considered that inviting fresh tenders would not attract additional suitable vendors over and above those that have responded to this tender for the reasons set out in the subject report and Confidential Attachment A to the subject report;
- (C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to enter into negotiations with any person with a view to entering into a contract on terms that are appropriate in relation to the subject matter of the tender;
- (D) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise, execute and administer the contracts relating to the tender; and
- (E) Council be informed of the successful vendor/s via the CEO Update.

Carried unanimously.

X120516

Item 7 Report of the Equity and Housing Committee

PRESENT

Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Jess Miller

(Chair)

Councillor Zann Maxwell

(Deputy Chair)

Councillors Olly Arkins, Sylvie Ellsmore, Lyndon Gannon, Robert Kok, Matthew Thompson, Yvonne Weldon AM and Adam Worling.

At the commencement of business at 3:08pm those present were -

Councillors Arkins, Ellsmore, Gannon, Kok, Maxwell, Miller, Thompson, Weldon and Worling.

Apologies

The Rt Hon Clover Moore AO – Lord Mayor of Sydney extended her apologies for her inability to attend the meeting of the Equity and Housing Committee.

Moved by the Chair (the Deputy Lord Mayor), seconded by Councillor Kok –

That the apology of the Lord Mayor be accepted and leave of absence from the meeting of the Equity and Housing Committee be granted.

Carried unanimously.

The meeting of the Equity and Housing Committee concluded at 3:24pm.

Report of the Equity and Housing Committee

Moved by Councillor Maxwell, seconded by Councillor Gannon –

That the report of the Equity and Housing Committee of its meeting of 16 March 2026 be received, with Items 7.1 and 7.2 being noted, and Item 7.3 being dealt with as shown immediately following that item.

Carried unanimously.

Item 7.1

Confirmation of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Maxwell, seconded by Councillor Worling –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Equity and Housing Committee of Monday 15 September 2025, as circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

Carried unanimously.

Item 7.2

Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest

No Councillors disclosed any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in any matter on the agenda for this meeting of the Equity and Housing Committee.

Item 7.3

Public Exhibition - Housing for All Discussion Paper

Note - the Equity and Housing Committee decided that consideration of this matter shall be deferred to the meeting of Council on 23 March 2026.

At the meeting of Council, the following alternative recommendation (as contained in the Information Relevant To Memorandum dated 23 March 2026 from the Chief Planner / Executive Director City Planning, Development and Transport, circulated prior to the meeting) was moved by Councillor Maxwell, seconded by the Chair (the Lord Mayor) -

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve the Housing for All Discussion Paper, as shown at Attachment A to the subject report, for public exhibition, subject to the following amendments:

- (i) On page 24, insert the bold text and delete the strike through bold text as follows:

We estimate that up to 7,800 homes could be delivered on NSW Government owned land under current planning controls and a further 6,500 homes on sites that require additional planning (Figure 4). ***Renewal of public housing must deliver more social and affordable housing, as a priority over market housing, and ensure existing tenants are not displaced against their wishes and their wellbeing and safety is protected. We encourage the NSW Government to retain public ownership of public land and investigate the sustainable renovation of existing housing with sensitive additional capacity in consultation with tenants.***

~~***We have also identified opportunities where infrastructure***~~ Investment could enable up to 11,000 new homes and deliver lasting public benefits. Key opportunities include a metro station or light rail to serve Rosebery and light rail along Parramatta Road.

- (ii) On page 34 insert the bold text as follows:

Social housing is reducing as a proportion of housing stock in our area.

Addressing the housing needs of all, including very low income earners and vulnerable people, is necessary for a socially just, inclusive and diverse city. Social housing is critical social infrastructure for a diverse and well-functioning city.

- (iii) On page 25, on Figure 4, renumber sites 17 and 18 in the top right quadrant of the map to 24 and 25 respectively; and

- (iv) On page 14, replace the current image for Ultimo and Pyrmont with the following image:



- (B) Council note the public exhibition will be carried out in accordance with the Engagement Approach, as shown at Attachment B to the subject report;
- (C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make minor amendments to the Housing for All Discussion Paper prior to public exhibition to correct any drafting errors;
- (D) Council note the Lord Mayor has written to the NSW Premier and the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces requesting that the NSW Government does not declare any residential development as State Significant Development in areas the City is investigating for additional housing; and
- (E) Council note the Lord Mayor has written to the NSW Premier and the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces requesting that the NSW Government investigates their own sites in the local government area for more social, affordable and diverse housing.

Variation. At the request of Councillor Ellsmore, and by consent, the motion was varied, such that clause (B) read as follows:

- (B) Council note the public exhibition will be carried out in accordance with the Engagement Approach, as shown at Attachment B to the subject report, subject to the inclusion of tailored engagement or consultation with public housing tenants;

The motion, as varied by consent, was carried unanimously.

X124612

Speaker at Public Forum

Gabrielle Peters (Uncommon Housing) addressed the public forum on Item 7.3 of the Equity and Housing Committee.

Item 8 Report of the Community Services and Facilities Committee**PRESENT**

Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Jess Miller

(Chair)

Councillor Sylvie Ellsmore

(Deputy Chair)

Councillors Olly Arkins, Lyndon Gannon, Robert Kok, Zann Maxwell, Matthew Thompson, Yvonne Weldon AM and Adam Worling.

At the commencement of business at 3:25pm those present were -

Councillors Arkins, Ellsmore, Gannon, Kok, Maxwell, Miller, Thompson, Weldon and Worling.

Apologies

The Rt Hon Clover Moore AO – Lord Mayor of Sydney, extended her apologies for her inability to attend the meeting of the Community Services and Facilities Committee.

Moved by the Chair (the Deputy Lord Mayor), seconded by Councillor Kok –

That the apology of the Lord Mayor be accepted and leave of absence from the meeting of the Community Services and Facilities Committee be granted.

Carried unanimously.

The meeting of the Community Services and Facilities Committee concluded at 3:27pm.

Report of the Community Services and Facilities Committee

Moved by Councillor Ellsmore, seconded by Councillor Gannon –

That the report of the Community Services and Facilities Committee of its meeting of 16 March 2026 be received, with Items 8.1 and 8.2 being noted, and the recommendation set out below for Item 8.3 being adopted in globo.

Carried unanimously.

Item 8.1**Confirmation of Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Ellsmore, seconded by Councillor Thompson –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Services and Facilities Committee of Monday 10 November 2025, as circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

Carried unanimously.

Item 8.2

Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest

No Councillors disclosed any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in any matter on the agenda for this meeting of the Community Services and Facilities Committee.

The Community Services and Facilities Committee recommended the following:

Item 8.3

Memorandum of Understanding - Anzac Day 2026-2027

It is resolved that:

- (A) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to enter into and finalise a Memorandum of Understanding with the State of New South Wales and The Returned and Services League of Australia (NSW Branch); and
- (B) Council approve for the 2026 and 2027 Anzac Day events:
- (C) annual funding of one third of actual costs up to a maximum of \$77,000 (excluding GST) payable to the State for Hostile Vehicle Mitigation measures;
- (D) annual funding of \$10,000 (excluding GST) payable to The Returned and Services League of Australia (NSW Branch) to assist in the implementation and delivery of the event; and
- (E) annual value-in-kind support for 150 veteran's themed banners for up to 2 weeks.

Carried unanimously.

S112015

Item 9 Report of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee

PRESENT

Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Jess Miller

(Chair)

Councillors Olly Arkins, Sylvie Ellsmore, Lyndon Gannon, Robert Kok, Zann Maxwell, Matthew Thompson, Yvonne Weldon AM and Adam Worling.

At the commencement of business at 3:28pm those present were -

Councillors Arkins, Ellsmore, Gannon, Kok, Maxwell, Miller, Thompson, Weldon and Worling.

Apologies

The Rt Hon Clover Moore AO – Lord Mayor of Sydney, extended her apologies for her inability to attend the meeting of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee.

Moved by the Chair (the Deputy Lord Mayor), seconded by Councillor Kok –

That the apology of the Lord Mayor be accepted and leave of absence from the meeting of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee be granted.

Carried unanimously.

The meeting of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee concluded at 4:32pm.

Report of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee

Moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Kok –

That the report of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee of its meeting of 16 March 2026 be received, with Items 9.1 and 9.2 being noted, the recommendations set out below for Items 9.4 and 9.5 being adopted in globo, and Item 9.3 being dealt with as shown immediately following that item.

Carried unanimously.

Item 9.1**Confirmation of Minutes**

Moved by the Chair (the Deputy Lord Mayor), seconded by Councillor Worling –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee of Monday 16 February 2026, as circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

Carried unanimously.

Item 9.2**Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest**

No Councillors disclosed any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in any matter on the agenda for this meeting of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee.

Item 9.3**Public Exhibition - Planning Proposal - Special Entertainment Precincts - Sydney Local Environment Plan 2012, Sydney Development Control Plan 2012 Amendment and Precincts Management Plan**

Note - the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee decided that consideration of this matter shall be deferred to the meeting of Council on 23 March 2026.

At the meeting of Council, the staff recommendation was moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Worling -

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve Planning Proposal – Special Entertainment Precincts, shown at Attachment A to the subject report, for submission to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure with a request for Gateway Determination;
- (B) Council approve Planning Proposal – Special Entertainment Precincts, for public authority consultation and public exhibition in accordance with any conditions imposed under the Gateway Determination;
- (C) Council approve Draft Sydney Development Control Plan 2012 – Special Entertainment Precincts – shown at Attachment B to the subject report, for public authority consultation and public exhibition with the Planning Proposal;
- (D) Council approve Draft Special Entertainment Precincts Management Plan – Special Entertainment Precincts – shown at Attachment C to the subject report, for public authority consultation and public exhibition with the Planning Proposal;
- (E) Council seek authority from the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces to exercise the delegation of all the functions under section 3.36 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to make the local environmental plan and to put into effect the Planning Proposal – Special Entertainment Precincts; and
- (F) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make any minor variations to the draft Special Entertainment Precincts Planning Proposal, Sydney Development Control Plan 2012 or Precincts Management Plan, to correct any drafting errors, inconsistencies, or omissions, or to ensure consistency with any condition of the Gateway Determination.

Amendment. Moved by Councillor Arkins, seconded by Councillor Weldon –

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve Planning Proposal – Special Entertainment Precincts, shown at Attachment A to the subject report, for submission to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure with a request for Gateway Determination;
- (B) Council approve Planning Proposal – Special Entertainment Precincts, for public authority consultation and public exhibition in accordance with any conditions imposed under the Gateway Determination;

- (C) Council approve Draft Sydney Development Control Plan 2012 – Special Entertainment Precincts – shown at Attachment B to the subject report, for public authority consultation and public exhibition with the Planning Proposal;
- (D) Council approve Draft Special Entertainment Precincts Management Plan – Special Entertainment Precincts – shown at Attachment C to the subject report, for public authority consultation and public exhibition with the Planning Proposal, subject to the amendments (deletions shown in ~~striketrough~~ and deletions shown in underline) shown at Attachment A to the Information Relevant To Memorandum dated 19 March 2026 from the Chief Planner / Executive Director City Planning, Development and Transport, circulated prior to the meeting;
- (E) Council seek authority from the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces to exercise the delegation of all the functions under section 3.36 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to make the local environmental plan and to put into effect the Planning Proposal – Special Entertainment Precincts; and
- (F) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make any minor variations to the draft Special Entertainment Precincts Planning Proposal, Sydney Development Control Plan 2012 or Precincts Management Plan, to correct any drafting errors, inconsistencies, or omissions, or to ensure consistency with any condition of the Gateway Determination.

The amendment was lost on the following show of hands:

Ayes (3) Councillors Arkins, Maxwell and Weldon

Noes (7) The Chair, (the Lord Mayor), Councillors Ellsmore, Gannon, Kok, Miller, Thompson and Worling.

Amendment lost.

Amendment. Moved by Councillor Ellsmore, seconded by Councillor Thompson –

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve Planning Proposal – Special Entertainment Precincts, shown at Attachment A to the subject report, for submission to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure with a request for Gateway Determination;
- (B) Council approve Planning Proposal – Special Entertainment Precincts, for public authority consultation and public exhibition in accordance with any conditions imposed under the Gateway Determination;
- (C) Council approve Draft Sydney Development Control Plan 2012 – Special Entertainment Precincts – shown at Attachment B to the subject report, for public authority consultation and public exhibition with the Planning Proposal;
- (D) Council approve Draft Special Entertainment Precincts Management Plan – Special Entertainment Precincts – shown at Attachment C to the subject report, for public authority consultation and public exhibition with the Planning Proposal;
- (E) noting submissions received in relation to the proposed creation of Special Entertainment Precincts in Meagher Street Chippendale and a section of Vine Street Darlington, Council agrees to:
 - (i) hold specific, targeted consultations with residents, businesses and other interested groups, for those locations; and
 - (ii) implement a tailored community engagement with the Aboriginal Housing Company and tenants living in the Block, in relation to the proposed Darlington changes;

- (F) Council note that the proposal includes a one-year trial, which would begin after the finalisation of the Local Environmental Plan and Development Control Plan post-exhibition and the Special Entertainment Precincts are established and in place. There may be delayed uptake of the new policy settings as businesses are gradually made aware. To ensure the trial captures substantial changes to late night trading, the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:
- (i) consider and provide advice to Council about potential amendments to the trial provisions, including possible extensions to the trial period to ensure staff can properly assess changes and impacts on residents; and
 - (ii) provide this advice in the report back to Council, post-exhibition;
- (G) Council seek authority from the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces to exercise the delegation of all the functions under section 3.36 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to make the local environmental plan and to put into effect the Planning Proposal – Special Entertainment Precincts; and
- (H) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make any minor variations to the draft Special Entertainment Precincts Planning Proposal, Sydney Development Control Plan 2012 or Precincts Management Plan, to correct any drafting errors, inconsistencies, or omissions, or to ensure consistency with any condition of the Gateway Determination.

Carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

X119331

Speakers at Public Forum

Michael Gibb (Night Time Industries Association), Michael Langenheim, and Jeanette Brokman (Chippendale Residents Interest Group), addressed the public forum on Item 9.3 of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee.

Item 9.4

Local Planning Panel - Appointment of Members

Note - the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee decided that consideration of this matter shall be deferred to the meeting of Council on 23 March 2026.

At the meeting of Council, the staff recommendation was moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Kok, as part of an in globo motion -

It is resolved that Council:

- (A) approve the appointment of 3 additional expert members to the City of Sydney Local Planning Panel, being Rodney Paesler, Alison McCabe and Ian Armstrong for a period of 3 years from the date of appointment; and
- (B) approve the appointment of 4 additional community representatives to the City of Sydney Local Planning Panel, being Nicholas Sanderson, Terry Mooney, Julie Waters and Gary Pogson as for a period of 3 years from the date of appointment, noting that the appointments are subject to probity checks.

Carried unanimously.

X129914

The Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee recommended the following:

Item 9.5

Fire Safety Reports

It is resolved that Council:

- (A) note the contents of the Fire Safety Reports Summary Sheet, as shown at Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) note the inspection reports by Fire and Rescue NSW, as shown at Attachments B to G to the subject report;
- (C) note the contents of Attachment B and exercise its power under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to issue a Fire Safety Order at 2 Foster Street, Surry Hills;
- (D) note the contents of Attachment C and not exercise its power under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to issue a Fire Safety Order at 187-189 Thomas Street, Haymarket at this time;
- (E) note the contents of Attachment D and not exercise its power under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to issue a Fire Safety Order at 10-24 Flinders Street, Darlinghurst at this time;
- (F) note the contents of Attachment E and not exercise its power under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to issue a Fire Safety Order at 42 Darlinghurst Road, Potts Point at this time;
- (G) note the contents of Attachment F and not exercise its power under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to issue a Fire Safety Order at 28 Zetland Avenue, 77-93 Portman Street and 32 Ebsworth Street, Zetland at this time; and
- (H) note the contents of Attachment G and not exercise its power under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to issue a Fire Safety Order at 6-18 Poplar Street, Surry Hills at this time.

Carried unanimously.

S105001.002

Adjournment

At this stage of the meeting, at 6:26pm, it was moved by the Chair (the Lord Mayor), seconded by Councillor Kok –

That the meeting be adjourned for approximately 15 minutes.

Carried unanimously.

All Councillors were present at the resumption of the meeting of Council at 6:46pm.

Item 10 Report on International Travel - C40 World Mayors Summit 2025 - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Worling -

It is resolved that the Report on International Travel - C40 World Mayors Summit 2025 - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, as shown at Attachment A to the subject report, be received and noted.

Carried unanimously.

X014468

Item 11 Questions on Notice**1. Status of Public Housing Redevelopment in the City of Sydney - March 2026**

By Councillor Ellsmore

Question

1. What Homes NSW sites is Council aware are currently proposed or under development in the Local Government Area (LGA)?

 (Please list addresses of sites)
2. For each of these individual sites, what is their development status?

 (For example, please specify if there is a development application under assessment, development approved, rezoning approved but no development application, pre-DA inquiries, construction underway, or construction complete)
3. Is the Council aware of any additional public housing sites with the NSW Government has investigated or has considered redeveloping, in the LGA?

 (Please list addresses)
4. Following on from question 3, how did Council become aware that additional public housing sites are being considered for development, by the NSW Government?

 (Please specify if the NSW Government has advised council of its intention through correspondence or a meeting, or has made pre -DA inquiries, has made a public announcement or through some other method)
5. Has Council undertaken any assessment to identify or suggest public housing sites to Homes NSW or the NSW Government, which could be subject of potential redevelopment?
6. If Council has undertaken an assessment of further public housing sites, why has it done this?
7. If yes, which sites?
8. If yes, was it at the request of the NSW Government, or initiated by Council?
9. If yes, what engagement or consultation did Council undertake with public housing tenants, who live on those estates?
10. If yes, what criteria did Council consider in its an assessment of further public housing sites?

X113783

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. No further developments since the similar Questions on Notice - 15 December 2025:
 - (a) D/2023/21: 82 Wentworth Park Road, Glebe. Landowner is Homes NSW. Approved development comprises 43 social housing units.
 - (b) SSD-51274973: 600-660 Elizabeth Street, Redfern. Landowner is Homes NSW. Development comprises 4 new buildings for market housing, social (147 units), affordable (197 units) and specialist disability accommodation (11 including 1 carers unit), a community facility and commercial uses. The State Significant Development Application (SSDA) was approved by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) in October 2025.
 - (c) SSD-93222706: Rezoning and concept SSDA for Waterloo Estate (South). Landowner is Homes NSW. The draft proposal to include at least 30% social housing. The applicant is currently preparing the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposal and has undertaken consultation with the City.
2.
 - (a) Onsite work has commenced; all buildings have been demolished.
 - (b) No onsite work has started. Bridge Housing NSW is reapplying for funding from the Housing Australia Future Fund.
 - (c) No onsite work has started. Stockland is nearing lodgement of an SSDA to modify the concept approval.
3. 13-21 Nicholson Street, 56-66 Nicholson Street, and 20-26 Forbes Street, Woolloomooloo.
4. Through the submission of 2 pre-Development Application requests.
5. Other than what is said in the Housing For All Discussion paper, no.
6. Not applicable.
7. Not applicable.
8. Not applicable.
9. Not applicable.
10. Not applicable.

2. Discount and Free Childcare Sessions

By Councillor Ellsmore

Question

The 2025/26 Quarter 2 Review – Delivery Program 2025-2029 was reported to the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee, on 16 February 2026. The Delivery Report provides an update to Council on a range of targets and measures on Council action and services, including discounted or free child care sessions.

1. Who can access Council's discounted or free childcare sessions?
2. How many discounted or free childcare sessions did Council offer in 2024/5?
3. How many discounted or free childcare sessions did Council provide in total, in 2024/5?
4. At which sites does Council offer discounted or free childcare sessions?
(Please list addresses of sites)
5. At which sites is Council offering discounted or free childcare sessions in 2025/6 (i.e. the current financial year)?
(Please list addresses of sites)
6. What childcare centres - at which Council offers discounted or free childcare sessions - have closed in 2025/6?
(Please provide addresses and close dates)
7. What were the reasons for the closures?
8. What is the target for the number of discounted and free childcare sessions Council will provide in 2025/6?
9. As of December 2025, how many discounted or free childcare sessions were provided?
10. The numbers are lower than projected for the year so far. Was this as a result of the centres closing, or another reason?
(Please provide details)

X113783

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. Families who meet set criteria can access discounted or free childcare sessions at all 10 of the City of Sydney's operated education and care services. Families can access discounted or free sessions through:
 - the Federal Government's Child Care Subsidy (CCS) program. These subsidies include factors such as residency, the amount of care provided, family income, and the child meeting immunisation and age requirements. Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS) may cover most or all fees for families experiencing hardship, supporting child wellbeing, or caring as grandparents.

- The NSW Government's Start Strong program, which can also reduce preschool costs for 3–5-year-olds, providing annual fee relief on top of CCS for up to 600 hours per year of early childhood education. Some children qualify for higher fee relief amounts if they are of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background, from a low-income family, or have disability or additional needs.
 - The City of Sydney's Relief and Fee programs, which enable families to access fee discounts or free places. Criteria include:
 - children who are trans and gender diverse
 - someone who lives with the child accessing the service, and is a person who is trans and gender diverse
 - children with a disability, developmental delay and/or behavioural challenges
 - someone who lives with the child accessing the service, and is a person with disability, including temporary disabilities from injuries, a chronic health issue, a mental health condition (can be either ongoing or episodic)
 - Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background
 - children in Temporary Care Arrangement
 - family requiring support with parenting skills
 - low-income families not eligible for CCS or families living in social housing
 - families experiencing social isolation and requiring assistance in accessing service and resources
 - primary carer eligible for 85% CCS or above with only 24 hours per fortnight of care requirement
 - referral from a support agency, medical or allied health professional
 - at risk of serious abuse or neglect
 - families on refugee or humanitarian visas.
2. As reported in the Delivery program 2025-2029 annual progress report 2024/25, we offered 16,951 discounted or free childcare sessions in 2024/25.
 3. As reported in the Delivery program 2025-2029 annual progress report 2024/25, we provided 16,951 discounted or free childcare sessions in 2024/25.
 4. The City of Sydney provides discounted or free childcare sessions at all 10 of our education and care services. These are Woolloomooloo Outside School Hours Care (OSHC), Redfern OSHC, Ultimo OSHC, Pyrmont OSHC, King George V OSHC, Surry Hills OSHC, Hilda Booler Kindergarten, Broughton Street Kindergarten, Redfern Occasional Care Centre and Eveleigh Early Learning and Preschool. Address details can be found on our website.
 5. In 2025/26 we continue to provide discounted or free childcare sessions at all 10 of our education and care services.
 6. No City of Sydney operated childcare centres closed in 2025/26 or prior.
 7. No City of Sydney operated childcare centres closed in 2025/26 or prior.

8. There is no target for the number of discounted and free childcare sessions we will provide in 2025/26, as take up depends on the individual eligibility of each family for the relevant schemes.
9. As reported in the Delivery program 2025-2029 December 2025 progress report, we provided 7,218 discounted and free childcare sessions to December 2025.
10. This represents an 8.9% decrease compared with the same period last year (7,923). As outlined in the delivery plan, this reflects the recent change to Woolloomooloo Children's Program becoming a Child Care Subsidy (CCS) registered service in addition to offering free care for eligible families. Some families now receive CCS funding to cover the cost of sessions of care in place of the City offering discounted or free sessions for that family. This enables more families to access free and subsidised care through the service but does reduce the number of sessions of care being offered free directly by the City, in addition to those through the Commonwealth CCS program. This change was previously reported to Councillors via the CEO Update of 7 March 2025.

3. Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Support

By Councillor Ellsmore

Question

There are increasing numbers of people sleeping rough in the Local Government Area (LGA). The 2025/26 Quarter 2 Review – Delivery Program 2025-2029 provided an update to the number of people exiting rough sleeping.

1. How many people is Council aiming to support, to exit rough sleeping and into housing, in 2025/6?
2. How many people has council been able to support, to exit rough sleeping:
 - (a) in 2023/4?
 - (b) in 2024/5?
 - (c) to December 2025 (i.e. the first half of 2025/6)?
3. What are the key reasons or barriers that Council is seeing, which are preventing people being supported to move from rough sleeping and into housing?

X113783

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. The City of Sydney provides support to all people sleeping rough in our local area through direct support, advocacy and the programs we fund.
2. As reported in the Delivery program annual progress reports:
 - (a) 211 people were supported to exit rough sleeping as a result of a program supported by the City of Sydney in 2023/24.
 - (b) 230 people were supported to exit rough sleeping as a result of a program supported by the City of Sydney in 2024/25.
 - (c) 59 people were supported to exit rough sleeping as a result of a program supported by the City of Sydney to December 2025.

3. As reported in the Delivery program annual progress report and 20 February 2026 CEO Update provided to Councillors, reasons and barriers are explained that are preventing people being supported to move from rough sleeping and into housing.

4. Interest on Council's Cash Investments 2025/26

By Councillor Ellsmore

Question

1. What was the Council's cash investment position (i.e. total amount of cash reserves), at the start of the 2025/6 financial year?
2. In the City of Sydney's current Long Term Financial Plan and annual budget, how much interest on its cash investments did Council estimate it would receive over the financial year 2025/26?
3. In the City of Sydney's current Long Term Financial Plan and annual budget, how much interest on its cash investments did Council estimate it would receive by February 2026?
4. How much did Council estimate it would have in unrestricted cash reserves, by February 2026?
5. Council's cash investments held as at 28 February 2026 were reported to council at the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee on Monday 16 March 2026.
 - (a) What is the amount of Council's cash reserves as of February 2026?
 - (b) What is the amount of Council's unrestricted cash reserves as of February 2026?
6. Are there updated estimates for the amount of Council's cash reserves, projected to the end of 2025/26? Is yes, please provide details.

X113783

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. The City held cash and investments of \$765.0M.
2. The City has budgeted to receive \$30.4M for 2025/26, as shown in the Long Term Financial Plan.
3. The City budgeted to receive \$20.3M to the end of February 2026.
4. Restrictions are calculated on a quarterly basis and shown in the Quarterly Reports to Council. At the end of Quarter 2, restricted cash amounted to \$373.2M. As noted in the Quarter 2 Report the annual forecast as at 30 June 2026 was \$338.7M for restricted cash and \$365.1M for unrestricted cash.

5.

- (a) The City held cash and investments of \$706.5M at the end of February 2026, as noted in the February Investment Report.
- (b) The City held unrestricted cash and investments of \$333.3M at the end of February 2026, as noted in the February Investment Report.

The unrestricted balance of cash and investments represents working capital, and funding required for the City's operating and capital expenditure commitments, including much of the City's forward capital works program as outlined in the Long Term Financial Plan.

- 6. The current projection for cash and investments at the end of June 2026 is \$703.8M.

Item 12 Supplementary Answers to Previous Questions

There are no Supplementary Answers to Previous Questions on Notice for this meeting of Council.

Item 13 Notices of Motion

Item 13.1 Vale Maxi Shield

Moved by Councillor Worling, seconded by the Chair (the Lord Mayor) -

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) on 23 February 2026, Maxi Shield - born Kristopher Elliot in Ballina, NSW -passed away at the age of 51, following a battle with cancer;
- (ii) Maxi Shield was an acclaimed and widely beloved figure in the Australian drag community, with a performance career spanning more than 25 years, particularly across Sydney's Oxford Street and queer venues citywide;
- (iii) she publicly documented her cancer treatment, having undergone radiation and chemotherapy since August 2025, and had only recently returned to performing at Palms on Oxford in early February 2026 after completing her final round of radiation in January;
- (iv) Maxi Shield achieved global visibility as a contestant on Season 1 of RuPaul's Drag Race Down Under (2021), bringing her distinctive humour, honesty and warmth to audiences across Australia and internationally;
- (v) her career included major milestone performances, including appearances at the Sydney Olympic Games Closing Ceremony in 2000 and the Gay Games Opening Ceremony in 2002, cementing her status as a trailblazer in Australian drag;
- (vi) Maxi was celebrated for her advocacy, inclusivity, and commitment to community, speaking openly about being a proud plus-sized older queen and championing drag as an artform for all bodies, ages and identities;
- (vii) she was deeply embedded in Sydney's LGBTQIA+ community, regularly hosting, performing, mentoring younger performers and contributing to festivals, fundraisers, and long-standing queer cultural events across the city;
- (viii) tributes have poured in from across Sydney and around the world, including from fellow drag performers Courtney Act, Jacqui St Hyde, Vanity, Tora Hymen, and venue operators such as Universal Sydney licensee Dillon Shaw and Stonewall's Glenn Hansen, all describing her as a beloved icon, a brilliant performer, and a person of immense humour, generosity, and spirit;
- (ix) her passing came just days before the 2026 Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, a profound loss for the community she helped shape, with Mardi Gras leadership acknowledging her as an icon, a pillar of the community, and a cherished presence whose absence was deeply felt during this year's celebrations; and
- (x) Maxi Shield leaves behind a remarkable legacy of artistry, authenticity, mentorship and joy. She was a vibrant and enduring presence within Sydney's cultural landscape, and her contributions to drag performance, LGBTQIA+ representation, and community life will continue to resonate for decades to come;

- (B) Council expresses its condolences to Maxi Shield's mother, Sharon, and partner of 15 years, David, alongside other family, her friends and fans from all over the world;
- (C) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to Maxi Shield's family to convey Council's condolences; and
- (D) all present at the meeting observe a minute's silence to commemorate the life of Maxi Shield and her contribution to LGBTQIA+ communities in Sydney, across Australia and internationally.

Carried unanimously.

X113756

Note – All Councillors, staff and members of the public present stood in silence for one minute as a mark of respect to Maxi Shield.

Item 13.2 A New Home for LGBTQIA+ and Sex Worker Services in the City**Procedural Motion**

At this stage of the meeting, it was moved by Councillor Arkins, seconded by Councillor Miller –

That Item 13.2 be withdrawn as the matter had already been dealt with at Item 3.1.

Carried unanimously.

Item 13.3 Change the Codes SEPP to Allow Council to Approve Extended Trading during Special Events

Moed by Councillor Arkins, seconded by Councillor Miller -

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) councils across NSW can declare a special event under the definition in 2.132A of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008 ('Codes SEPP');
- (ii) currently councils can only approve extended trading for non-licenced premises until midnight during these special events;
- (iii) the City of Sydney recently declared a special event and allowed extended trading until midnight during Sydney Mardi Gras on Friday 27 February, Saturday 28 February and Sunday 1 March 2026; and
- (iv) the NSW Government also allowed extended trading during Mardi Gras for licenced premises until 6am;

(B) Council call on the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure to make the necessary changes to the Codes SEPP to allow councils to set any hours for extended trading during special events, rather than limiting it until midnight;

(C) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to write to the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure with a copy of this motion to request they make the necessary changes to the Codes SEPP to allow councils to set any hours for extended trading during special events, rather than limiting it until midnight; and

(D) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to Paul Scully MP, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, stating Council's request and with a copy of this motion.

Carried unanimously.

X113758

Item 13.4 Ultimo Village Voice Community Safety Forum

By Councillor Thompson

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note that Ultimo Village Voice held a public Community Safety Forum on 17 February 2026 to discuss issues residents have been facing locally;
- (B) Council note that residents' concerns included:
 - (i) an increase in the dumping of nitrous oxide cannisters and a lack of clear reporting processes, particularly given the need for these items to be collected by specialist teams;
 - (ii) proliferation of share bikes on footpaths blocking accessibility and a desire for Council to take more proactive steps, acknowledging City's long-term advocacy for additional regulation and funding on this issue;
 - (iii) a rise in antisocial behaviour associated with tourists, observed to be driven by a concentrated increase of short-term rental listings in the area; and
 - (iv) an increase in illegal parking, dangerous driving and a perceived lack of coordination between the City, the NSW Government and local police to address this and other safety issues in the neighbourhood;
- (C) Council note the commitment from the Councillors and NSW Police Officers present to work together proactively to address the problems raised;
- (D) Council further note that as a result of the Community Safety Forum, staff have updated the City of Sydney website with information about safe disposal and recycling options for nitrous oxide canisters across all relevant service pages. This includes the illegal dumping reporting page, the 'Recycling Help' tool and on the accepted items lists on our doorstep recycling service, the Ultimo recycling pop up, and Recycle It Saturday event webpages; and
- (E) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:
 - (i) investigate any additional information the City could provide to residents or potential changes the City could implement, to ensure the safe, and accessible, disposal of nitrous oxide cannisters, and report back on next steps via the CEO Update;
 - (ii) investigate the current forums the City of Sydney maintains and engages with, to promote community safety, and what additional programming options are available to increase City involvement in building community safety, including in collaboration with other relevant government and non-government organisations, and report back via the CEO Update; and
 - (iii) refer the issue of illegal parking and other related issues, raised at the forum, to the City of Sydney's Local Pedestrian, Cycling, Traffic Calming and Transport Forum.

Note – at the meeting of Council, the content of the original Notice of Motion was varied by Councillor Thompson. Subsequently, it was –

Moved by Councillor Thompson, seconded by Councillor Miller –

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note that Ultimo Village Voice held a public Community Safety Forum on 17 February 2026 to discuss issues residents have been facing locally;
- (B) Council note that residents' concerns included:
 - (i) an increase in the dumping of nitrous oxide cannisters and a lack of clear reporting processes, particularly given the need for these items to be collected by specialist teams;
 - (ii) proliferation of share bikes on footpaths blocking accessibility and a desire for Council to take more proactive steps, acknowledging City's long-term advocacy to the NSW Government for additional regulation and funding on this issue;
 - (iii) a rise in antisocial and illegal behaviour associated with tourists. Residents say they have been yelled at and insulted, and one was physically assaulted. They report drug dealing, people using nitrous oxide, urinating in public, and littering. Residents believe this is driven by a concentrated increase of short-term rental listings in the area; and
 - (iv) an increase in illegal parking, dangerous driving and a perceived lack of coordination between the City, the NSW Government and local police to address this and other safety issues in the neighbourhood;
- (C) Council note:
 - (i) that while the City of Sydney has previously increased Ranger patrols in the area to monitor and respond to illegal parking, residents say the behaviour appears to be linked to summer visitors, and that parking infringement notices have not deterred the illegal behaviour;
 - (ii) that residents requested increased proactive NSW Police patrols to monitor and respond to illegal behaviour;
 - (iii) that the Lord Mayor has written to the NSW Minister for Police and Counterterrorism asking her to ensure Sydney City Police Area Command is adequately resourced to effectively monitor and patrol illegal and antisocial behaviour in the Ultimo area next summer and continue to work with residents and the City on a coordinated response, in so far as possible; and
 - (iv) the commitment from the Councillors and NSW Police Officers present to work together proactively to address the problems raised;
- (D) Council further note that as a result of the Community Safety Forum, staff have updated the City of Sydney website with information about safe disposal and recycling options for nitrous oxide canisters across all relevant service pages. This includes the illegal dumping reporting page, the 'Recycling Help' tool and on the accepted items lists on our doorstep recycling service, the Ultimo recycling pop up, and Recycle It Saturday event webpages; and

(E) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:

- (i) investigate any additional information the City could provide to residents or potential changes the City could implement, to ensure the safe, and accessible, disposal of nitrous oxide cannisters, and report back on next steps via the CEO Update;
- (ii) investigate the current forums the City of Sydney maintains and engages with, to promote community safety, and what additional programming options are available to increase City involvement in building community safety, including in collaboration with other relevant government and non-government organisations, and report back via the CEO Update; and
- (iii) refer the issue of illegal parking and other related issues, raised at the Community Safety Forum, to the City of Sydney's Local Pedestrian, Cycling, Traffic Calming and Transport Forum for discussion.

Carried unanimously.

X113760

Item 13.5 Glebe Island Bridge and Bays West Housing

Moved by Councillor Thompson, seconded by Councillor Miller -

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) the NSW Government recently announced the large-scale redevelopment proposal for the Bays West precinct which includes plans to renovate and re-open the Glebe Island Bridge;
- (ii) the City of Sydney, alongside neighbouring Councils, have long advocated for the re-opening of the Glebe Island Bridge as an active transport and pedestrian connection between the Balmain Peninsula and the CBD;
- (iii) in recent years, this has involved consistent community campaigning alongside considerable advocacy from the MP for Balmain, Kobi Shetty, and her predecessor Jamie Parker;
- (iv) as such, Council welcomes the inclusion of a renovated and publicly accessible Glebe Island Bridge in the recent Bays West announcement by the NSW Government; and
- (v) the plans to re-open the Glebe Island Bridge could, and should, be brought forward. There is no valid reason to delay this part of the plan until the homes are delivered in Bays West in the 2030s;

(B) Council further note:

- (i) the Bays West Precinct includes plans for the development of 8,500 homes to be built around the future metro station, alongside new ferry services, open space, cultural venues and active transport infrastructure;
- (ii) while the transformation of this under-utilised and well-positioned site is welcome, the deeply inadequate allocation of just 10% affordable essential worker housing must be urgently addressed by the NSW Government to avoid Bays West becoming another enclave for Sydney's wealthiest; and
- (iii) the NSW Government must increase this allocation to at least 30% public, social and affordable housing, in perpetuity, in line with election commitments and community expectations; and

- (C) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the NSW Minister for Transport, John Graham MLC, to request plans for the renovation and re-opening of the Glebe Island Bridge be brought forward and to take place prior to the redevelopment of the Bays West Precinct.

Variation. At the request of Councillor Miller, and by consent, the motion was varied, such that it read as follows:

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) the NSW Government recently announced the large-scale redevelopment proposal for the Bays West precinct which includes plans to renovate and re-open the Glebe Island Bridge;

- (ii) the City of Sydney, alongside neighbouring Councils, have long advocated for the re-opening of the Glebe Island Bridge as an active transport and pedestrian connection between the Balmain Peninsula and the CBD, and the Lord Mayor's advocacy to NSW Government ministers dates back to 2009;
- (iii) in recent years, this has involved consistent community campaigning alongside considerable advocacy from the MP for Balmain, Kobi Shetty, and her predecessor Jamie Parker;
- (iv) as such, Council welcomes the inclusion of a renovated and publicly accessible Glebe Island Bridge in the recent Bays West announcement by the NSW Government; and
- (v) the plans to re-open the Glebe Island Bridge could, and should, be brought forward. There is no valid reason to delay this part of the plan until the homes are delivered in Bays West in the 2030s;

(B) Council further note:

- (i) the Bays West Precinct includes plans for the development of 8,500 homes to be built around the future metro station, alongside new ferry services, open space, cultural venues and active transport infrastructure;
- (ii) while the transformation of this under-utilised and well-positioned site is welcome, the deeply inadequate allocation of just 10% affordable and essential worker housing must be urgently addressed by the NSW Government to avoid Bays West becoming another enclave for Sydney's wealthiest;
- (iii) the NSW Government must increase this allocation to at least 30% public, social and affordable housing and a percentage dedicated to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households, in perpetuity, in line with election commitments and community expectations;
- (iv) Glebe Island's port functions play a key role in supplying construction materials, with one of the few sites in Sydney Harbour where goods can move easily between ships and land, and close to major development areas; and
- (v) in November 2025, Sydney's Working Port Coalition met with the Lord Mayor about the importance of maintaining a working harbour at Glebe Island alongside any new housing development; and

- (C) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the NSW Premier, Minister for Transport, John Graham MLC, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, Paul Scully MP and Minister for Lands and Property, Stephen Kamper MP, to request plans for the renovation and re-opening of the Glebe Island Bridge be brought forward and to take place prior to the redevelopment of the Bays West Precinct.

The motion, as varied by consent, was carried unanimously.

X113760

Item 13.6 Unlocking Our Public Spaces

Moved by Councillor Worling, seconded by the Chair (the Lord Mayor) -

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) a growing number of Short Term Rental Accommodation (STRA) hosts are relying on external lockboxes or key safes to facilitate guest access, and many of these devices are being attached to public infrastructure such as street signs, poles, fences, railings, bike racks, trees as well as on heritage items within the City of Sydney area;
- (ii) the City of Sydney is a predominantly high-density municipality, with 97% of all dwellings being medium or high-density. This intensifies pressure on the public domain and increases the importance of keeping shared spaces uncluttered, navigable, and safe;
- (iii) lockboxes on public assets can obstruct pedestrian paths when being accessed, compromise mobility, interfere with maintenance operations, create visual clutter, and contribute to safety concerns when visitors access devices at unusual hours;
- (iv) publicly located lockboxes are vulnerable to theft and code-sharing, increasing risks of unauthorised entry to rental STRA properties, apartment buildings in which STRA is located and compromising neighbourhood safety;
- (v) there is no reliable way of determining how many of the lockboxes attached to public infrastructure are actively being used for short-term rental access, as opposed to those that have been abandoned or left behind by previous operators; and
- (vi) the City's Public Domain Policies aim to ensure public spaces remain safe, accessible, uncluttered and equitable, yet there is no explicit provision addressing lockboxes attached to City-owned or managed infrastructure;

(B) Council also note that:

- (i) similar practices have been prohibited in Melbourne, where councils have taken decisive action to ban lockboxes on public infrastructure due to safety, access, and misuse of public assets for private gain;
- (ii) other global cities have adopted alternative key-handover models that avoid placing lockboxes on public assets, such as private providers who offer secure, shop-based or 24-hour locker-based key exchange points used extensively by Airbnb hosts and property managers; and
- (iii) in Madrid, STRA hosts commonly use key-exchange points such as convenience stores, petrol stations, cafés, or staffed retail outlets to facilitate guest access, avoiding the need for public-domain lockboxes;

(C) Council's position is that STRA lock boxes should not be placed on council property including, but not limited to, trees, tree guards and council fences due to issues of public safety and impact on and damage to council property; and

(D) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:

- (i) investigate options, in line with Council's stated position, for removal of these items, including allocation of enforcement resources and a public education campaign prior to the undertaking of any enforcement action; and
- (ii) report back to Council detailing the recommended approach.

Carried unanimously.

X113756

Item 13.7 Congratulating Alex Johnston on becoming the NRL's All-Time Highest Try-Scorer from the City of Sydney

Moved by Councillor Arkins, seconded by Councillor Gannon -

It is resolved that:

(A) Council reaffirm:

- (i) the South Sydney Rabbitohs' historical significance as the oldest club to still be competing in first grade rugby league;
- (ii) the Rabbitohs' strong community connection, through its active involvement in the Souths Juniors rugby league competitions, and the critical local programs delivered by Souths Cares;
- (iii) that Sydney Football Stadium, currently known as Allianz Stadium, situated within the City of Sydney Local Government Area at Moore Park, should be the home ground for the South Sydney Rabbitohs; and
- (iv) the South Sydney Rabbitohs Football Club's longstanding history with the Sydney Football Stadium, having played home games at Moore Park from 1908 to 1948, and then again from 1988 to 2005;

(B) Council note:

- (i) on Friday 13 March 2026, at a match between the South Sydney Rabbitohs and the Eastern Suburbs District Rugby League Football Club, Alex Johnston, a local South Sydney junior, scored his 213th career try to become the highest try scorer in Australian rugby league history;
- (ii) the storming of the field which took place will go on to be a historic moment in Sydney's collective memory;
- (iii) the cultural resonance of Johnston's try is felt across the passionate supporter base of the South Sydney Rabbitohs, especially those who reside within the City of Sydney; and
- (iv) it is fitting that Johnston is immortalised through the erection of a statue in his honour at the Rabbitohs' club facility since his achievement; and

(C) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to:

- (i) Rabbitohs winger Alex Johnston to formally express the Council's congratulations for his historic achievement;
- (ii) the South Sydney Rabbitohs' number one ticket holder and Prime Minister of Australia, Anthony Albanese MP:
 - (a) to advise him of Council's support for Alex Johnston's achievement, and joining fans on the field during the match to celebrate; and
 - (b) to reaffirm Council's strong belief that the Rabbitohs be brought home to Moore Park, acknowledging his long-term support for this outcome;

- (iii) the Premier of New South Wales, The Hon. Chris Minns MP; the Minister for Sport, The Hon. Stephen Kamper MP; and Kerrie Mather, CEO of Venues NSW:
 - (a) to formally express the City of Sydney's strong support for the South Sydney Rabbitohs and Alex Johnston; and
 - (b) to insist that the cultural significance of this event furthers the case for the return of the South Sydney Rabbitohs to Moore Park; and
- (iv) the CEO of the South Sydney Football Club, Blake Solly:
 - (a) to congratulate the club on this historic achievement; and
 - (b) to remind him of our continued support for the club to return home to its traditional heartland in the City of Sydney.

Carried unanimously.

X113758

Item 13.8 Concerns Regarding Governance and Political Censorship by Mardi Gras Board

By Councillor Thompson

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) the Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras is one of the world's most longstanding celebrations of pride, grounded in a rich history as a political protest for queer rights;
- (ii) Mardi Gras originated in 1978 when, following a march for queer civil rights, NSW police descended upon rally-goers, violently arresting and beating dozens of people. The following year, thousands of people marched in solidarity, a tradition since memorialised each year;
- (iii) the City of Sydney has a long history of supporting Mardi Gras as a principal funder, recognising the political, cultural and historical significance of the parade; and
- (iv) this is in line with the City's longstanding position of standing in solidarity with the queer community and protecting the right to protest;

(B) Council further note:

- (i) on the eve of this year's march, Mardi Gras leadership gave notice to Pride in Protest, a queer activist collective campaigning for trans rights and against the continuing genocide in Palestine, prohibiting the participation of their float in this year's parade after finding that comments by Pride in Protest in relation to the genocide and zionism breached the Mardi Gras terms and conditions;
- (ii) that no other float was prohibited from marching based on this policy, including the NSW Police, an organisation with a long history of violence and harassment against the queer community;
- (iii) during the march, a number of queer activists carrying Palestinian flags, marching as part of the Sydney Drag Kings float, were subjected to police brutality, suffering physical injuries and being forcibly removed from the parade by NSW Police, some armed with long-arm rifles; and
- (iv) following the conclusion of the parade, the Mardi Gras board met to stand down both Pride in Protest Directors, Damien Nguyen and Luna Choo;

(C) Council note concerns about recent governance decisions, particularly in relation to the perceived political censorship of an activist group and the standing down of their 2 democratically elected board directors; and

(D) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to write to the board of Mardi Gras to note these concerns as a principal funder and request that mediation be undertaken to resolve this situation urgently, with the ultimate goal to reinstating both board directors and ensuring that there is no perception of political censorship of community at future Mardi Gras events.

Note – at the meeting of Council, the content of the original Notice of Motion was varied by Councillor Thompson. Subsequently it was –

Moved by Councillor Thompson, seconded by Councillor Ellsmore -

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) the Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras is one of the world's most longstanding celebrations of pride, grounded in a rich history as a political protest for queer rights;
- (ii) the first Mardi Gras in 1978 began as a street festival with the aim of attracting non-politically engaged lesbians and gay men and with participants being encouraged to dress colourfully in fancy dress, "the more outrageous the better";
- (iii) this festival commenced at Taylor Square at around 10pm on Saturday 24 June 1978 and proceeded peacefully down Oxford Street with people in bars being encouraged to join the procession and several people doing so;
- (iv) when this street festival arrived at Whitlam Square, police refused to allow participants to enter Hyde Park, where organisers planned to hold a rally before people peacefully dispersed;
- (v) at this point many participants proceeded down College Street, up William Street into Kings Cross, with some participants describing this as taking on the character of a protest march;
- (vi) once in Kings Cross, Mardi Gras originated in 1978 when, following a march for queer civil rights, NSW police descended upon rally-goers, hemmed in marchers, violently arresting 53 people, and beating some of them, dozens of people with the names of those arrested being published prominently on page 3 of the Sydney Morning Herald on 26 June, 1978, effectively outing many of them;
- (vii) the following year, thousands of people took part in a second Mardi Gras; marched in solidarity, a tradition since memorialised each year;
- (viii) in 1980, following three well attended community meetings and extensive and robust debate, lesbians and gay men voted to move Mardi Gras to the end of summer as a "celebration of gay lifestyles", with one aim being to broaden participation in the Parade from all sections of an emerging community;
- (ix) in the years that followed, Mardi Gras grew in size and support, successfully combining celebration with advocacy for significant reform, include repeal of anti-gay laws and marriage equality;
- (x) during the AIDS crisis of the 1980s and 1990s, Mardi Gras played a major role in the community's response, including inspiring resilience, resolve, hope and optimism;
- (xi) however, throughout the decades since 1978 tensions between NSW Police and the LGBTIQ+ community have persisted through a series of homicides, homophobic and transphobic attacks, often at gay cruising spots and on queer and trans sex workers, and the NSW Police's inadequate response. Many of these crimes remain unsolved to this day;

- (xii) Police handling of these crimes was exposed in 2022 Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ Hate Crime by Justice John Sackar which found that "...the magnitude of the historical problem, and the harm it has done to the LGBTIQ community, has not been adequately understood and acknowledged by the NSWPF..." Justice Sackar also noted that Police participation in the Inquiry was "adversarial and unnecessarily defensive". This reaffirms the continued need for Mardi Gras as a platform for both protest and dialogue;
 - (xiii) in 1994, the then Mardi Gras president said of the annual Mardi Gras Parade and Festival "It's ours, we own it and we use it to celebrate who we are";
 - (xiv) the City of Sydney has a long history of supporting Mardi Gras as a principal funder, as a friend and supporter of the LGBTIQ+ community recognising the political, cultural and historical significance of the parade;
 - (xv) this is in line with the City's longstanding position of standing in solidarity with the queer community and protecting the right to protest;
 - (xvi) in 2026 a float in the parade, Pride In Protest, was banned from marching under the parade participants terms and conditions. They were the only float banned under this policy, resulting in a dispute within Mardi Gras;
 - (xvii) in 2013, an 18 year old parade participant was recorded being punched, thrown to the ground and stepped on by police; and
 - (xviii) in 2026, at least 5 parade participants, including some in the Sydney Drag Kings float, were reported being assaulted by police, with one being choked and thrown on the ground and another flung against a fence;
- (B) Council further note:
- (i) on the eve of this year's march, Mardi Gras leadership gave notice to Pride in Protest, a queer activist collective campaigning for trans rights and against the continuing genocide in Palestine, prohibiting the participation of their float in this year's parade after finding that comments by Pride in Protest in relation to the genocide and zionism breached the Mardi Gras terms and conditions;
 - (ii) that no other float was prohibited from marching based on this policy, including the NSW Police, an organisation with a long history of violence and harassment against the queer community;
 - (iii) during the march, a number of queer activists carrying Palestinian flags, marching as part of the Sydney Drag Kings float, were subjected to police brutality, suffering physical injuries and being forcibly removed from the parade by NSW Police, some armed with long-arm rifles; and
 - (iv) following the conclusion of the parade, the Mardi Gras board met to stand down both Pride in Protest Directors, Damien Nguyen and Luna Choo;
- (C) Council note concerns about recent governance decisions, particularly in relation to the perceived political censorship of an activist group and the standing down of their two democratically elected board directors; and

(D) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:

- (i) write to the NSW Police outlining the concerns of the City in relation to police violence against parade participants in this years parade and requesting that steps be taken to ensure this never happens again; and
- (ii) write to the board and CEO of Mardi Gras, noting the City's concerns in relation to police brutality and perceived political censorship of parade participants by members of our community, and requesting they outline the steps they will take to ensure this doesn't happen at future Mardi Gras events.

Amendment. Moved by Councillor Worling, seconded by Councillor Miller –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) the Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras is one of the world's most longstanding celebrations of pride, grounded in a rich history as a political protest for queer rights;
- (ii) the first Mardi Gras in 1978 began as a street festival with the aim of attracting non-politically engaged lesbians and gay men and with participants being encouraged to dress colourfully in fancy dress, "the more outrageous the better";
- (iii) this festival commenced at Taylor Square at around 10pm on Saturday 24 June 1978 and proceeded peacefully down Oxford Street with people in bars being encouraged to join the procession and several people doing so;
- (iv) when this street festival arrived at Whitlam Square, police refused to allow participants to enter Hyde Park, where organisers planned to hold a rally before people peacefully dispersed;
- (v) at this point many participants proceeded down College Street, up William Street into Kings Cross, with some participants describing this as taking on the character of a protest march;
- (vi) once in Kings Cross, following a march for queer civil rights, NSW police descended upon rally-goers, hemmed in marchers, violently arresting 53 people, and beating some of them, dozens of people with the names of those arrested being published prominently on page 3 of the Sydney Morning Herald on 26 June, 1978, effectively outing many of them;
- (vii) the following year, thousands of people took part in a second Mardi Gras; marched in solidarity, a tradition since memorialised each year;
- (viii) in 1980, following three well attended community meetings and extensive and robust debate, lesbians and gay men voted to move Mardi Gras to the end of summer as a "celebration of gay lifestyles", with one aim being to broaden participation in the Parade from all sections of an emerging community;
- (ix) in the years that followed, Mardi Gras grew in size and support, successfully combining celebration with advocacy for significant reform, include repeal of anti-gay laws and marriage equality;
- (x) during the AIDS crisis of the 1980s and 1990s, Mardi Gras played a major role in the community's response, including inspiring resilience, resolve, hope and optimism;

- (xi) however, throughout the decades since 1978 tensions between NSW Police and the LGBTIQ+ community have persisted through a series of homicides, homophobic and transphobic attacks, often at gay cruising spots and on queer and trans sex workers, and the NSW Police's inadequate response. Many of these crimes remain unsolved to this day;
- (xii) Police handling of these crimes was exposed in 2022 Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ Hate Crime by Justice John Sackar which found that "...the magnitude of the historical problem, and the harm it has done to the LGBTIQ community, has not been adequately understood and acknowledged by the NSWPF..." Justice Sackar also noted that Police participation in the Inquiry was "adversarial and unnecessarily defensive". This reaffirms the continued need for Mardi Gras as a platform for both protest and dialogue;
- (xiii) in 1994, the then Mardi Gras president said of the annual Mardi Gras Parade and Festival "It's ours, we own it and we use it to celebrate who we are."
- (xiv) the City of Sydney has a long history of supporting Mardi Gras as a principal funder, as a friend and supporter of the LGBTIQ+ community recognising the political, cultural and historical significance of the parade; and
- (xv) this is in line with the City's longstanding position of standing in solidarity with the queer community and protecting the right to protest;
- (xvi) in 2026 a float in the parade, Pride In Protest, was banned from marching under the parade participants terms and conditions. They were the only float banned under this policy, resulting in a dispute within Mardi Gras;
- (xvii) in providing support, the City has long respected the LGBTIQ+ community's autonomy and recognised that the community should govern its own affairs, set its own priorities and resolve its internal debates, and that this respect for its autonomy extends to the community's organisations;
- (xviii) the City also understands that there are varying views within the LGBTIQ+ community about its governance and priorities and that these varying views have long been the subject of robust and sometimes heated debate; and
- (xix) in keeping with the City and Council being a friend and supporter of the LGBTIQ+ community, rather than being of the LGBTIQ+ community, Council should not take sides in these debates or support a particular view about the community's governance and priorities.

The amendment was carried on the following show of hands:

Ayes (7) The Chair (the Lord Mayor), Councillors Arkins, Gannon, Kok, Maxwell, Miller and Worling

Noes (3) Councillors Ellsmore, Thompson and Weldon*.

*Note – Councillor Weldon abstained from voting on this matter. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 11.4 of the Code of Meeting Practice, Councillor Weldon is taken to have voted against the amendment.

Amendment carried.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

X113760

Item 13.9 NSW Local Government and Affordable Housing Forum - Examples, Pathways, and Opportunities

By Councillor Ellsmore

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) on Friday 13 March 2026, the Henry Halloran Urban and Regional Research Initiative (HHURRI) at the University of Sydney hosted a forum for local councillors and staff in the Sydney CBD about local councils and affordable housing;
- (ii) the forum was co-hosted by Councillor Sylvie Ellsmore and Dr Greta Werner. It was organised with support from the Office of Councillor Sylvie Ellsmore, and Mayors and Councillors from Forbes Shire Council, Willoughby City Council, Newcastle City Council and Byron Shire Council. Other councils presenting included Randwick Council, Ryde Council and North Sydney Council;
- (iii) the Office of the CEO, Resilient Sydney and City staff provided support and advice, including sharing insights and resources from previous Lord Mayoral Affordable Housing Forums;
- (iv) the forum included presentations and case studies from councils and leading housing researchers, about how different councils:
 - (a) have established and are implemented affordable housing programs and policies;
 - (b) have funded, delivered, manage, own or co-own public, social and/or affordable housing;
 - (c) are delivering or supporting different kinds of housing, including for key workers, older women, women experiencing domestic violence, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and people with a disability;
 - (d) have developed or have leveraged a wide range of partnerships and funding arrangements to deliver public, social and affordable housing, including with the NSW Government and Community Housing Providers;
 - (e) are implementing strategies to protect housing supply including managing short term rentals; and
 - (f) are trialling innovative new affordable housing projects, such as Community Land Trusts; and more; and
- (v) representatives from 41 councils attended;

(B) Council note that the forum demonstrated that:

- (i) local councils across NSW are playing a leading role in the delivery of social (including public), affordable and diverse housing in their local communities. They are doing this despite constrained budgets and other pressures;
- (ii) many urban and regional councils across NSW have been developing and implementing a wide range of affordable housing strategies, some for decades;

- (iii) a small but increasing number of councils have implemented affordable housing levy schemes from development;
- (iv) councils are frustrated and concerned about NSW Government planning reforms, where these are undermining or bypassing councils' affordable housing strategies; and
- (v) the Housing Delivery Authority, State Significant development pathway, and "infill affordable housing" pathways in particular were highlighted with concern in a number of presentations. These pathways were reported to facilitate the replacing of councils' stronger local affordable housing provisions, with no affordable housing, or less affordable housing. Where these pathways included some affordable housing requirements, these pathways were also reported to replace councils' requirements for high quality, permanent and genuinely affordable housing, with temporary and more expensive "affordable" housing. This reflects the City of Sydney's experience;

(C) Council note that:

- (i) stories of housing affordability being achieved by local councils on the ground are not well known, even within the local council network;
- (ii) there is strong expertise amongst the council network, about opportunities and lessons for the protection and delivery of affordable housing for local communities;
- (iii) there is a strong demand amongst the council network for more skill sharing forums and resources to facilitate council information sharing. Affordable housing levy schemes and how to sustainably fund or resource social (including council owned) and affordable housing are two key areas of interest to the network; and
- (iv) the presentations from the forum were recorded, and will be distributed to the network and the public by HHURRI; and

(D) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to provide advice to Council about opportunities to support further information sharing and capacity building within the local council network, for the protection and delivery of social (including public) and affordable housing by local councils.

Note – at the meeting of Council, the content of the original Notice of Motion was varied by Councillor Ellsmore. Subsequently it was –

Moved by Councillor Ellsmore, seconded by Councillor Miller –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) on Friday 13 March 2026, the Henry Halloran Urban and Regional Research Initiative (HHURRI) at the University of Sydney hosted a forum for local councillors and staff in the Sydney CBD about local councils and affordable housing;
- (ii) the forum was co-hosted by Councillor Sylvie Ellsmore and Dr Greta Werner. It was organised with support from the Office of Councillor Sylvie Ellsmore, and Mayors and Councillors from Forbes Shire Council, Willoughby City Council, Newcastle City Council and Byron Shire Council. Other councils presenting included Randwick Council, Ryde Council and North Sydney Council;
- (iii) the Office of the CEO, Resilient Sydney and City staff provided support and advice, including sharing insights and resources from previous Lord Mayoral Affordable Housing Forums;

- (iv) the City of Sydney's Chief Executive Officer presented at the forum on innovations in protecting and expanding local affordable housing and social housing;
- (v) the forum included presentations and case studies from councils and leading housing researchers, about how different councils:
 - (a) have established and are implemented affordable housing programs and policies;
 - (b) have funded, delivered, manage, own or co-own public, social and/or affordable housing;
 - (c) are delivering or supporting different kinds of housing, including for key workers, older women, women experiencing domestic violence, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and people with a disability;
 - (d) have developed or have leveraged a wide range of partnerships and funding arrangements to deliver public, social and affordable housing, including with the NSW Government and Community Housing Providers;
 - (e) are implementing strategies to protect housing supply including managing short term rentals; and
 - (f) are trialling innovative new affordable housing projects, such as Community Land Trusts; and more; and
 - (g) representatives from 41 councils attended;

(B) Council note that the forum demonstrated that:

- (i) local councils across NSW are playing a leading role in the delivery of social (including public), affordable and diverse housing in their local communities. They are doing this despite constrained budgets and other pressures;
- (ii) many urban and regional councils across NSW have been developing and implementing a wide range of affordable housing strategies, some for decades;
- (iii) a small but increasing number of councils have implemented affordable housing levy schemes from development;
- (iv) councils are frustrated and concerned about NSW Government planning reforms, where these are undermining or bypassing councils' affordable housing strategies; and
- (v) the Housing Delivery Authority, State Significant development pathway, and "infill affordable housing" pathways in particular were highlighted with concern in a number of presentations. These pathways were reported to facilitate the replacing of councils' stronger local affordable housing provisions, with no affordable housing, or less affordable housing. Where these pathways included some affordable housing requirements, these pathways were also reported to replace councils' requirements for high quality, permanent and genuinely affordable housing, with temporary and more expensive "affordable" housing. This reflects the City of Sydney's experience and advocacy;

(C) Council note that:

- (i) stories of housing affordability being achieved by local councils on the ground are not well known, even within the local council network;
- (ii) there is strong expertise amongst the council network, about opportunities and lessons for the protection and delivery of affordable housing for local communities;

- (iii) there is a strong demand amongst the council network for more skill sharing forums and resources to facilitate council information sharing. Affordable housing levy schemes and how to sustainably fund or resource social (including council owned) and affordable housing are two key areas of interest to the network;
 - (iv) the presentations from the forum were recorded, and will be distributed to the network and the public by HHURRI;
 - (v) the City of Sydney is leading the way in the delivery of affordable housing in Sydney. This has been achieved through over \$495 million raised in levies, sale of \$31.6 million of City land at a discounted rate, through more than \$16 million in cash grants to not-for-profit housing providers from our Affordable and Diverse Housing Fund and through Voluntary Planning Agreements and our planning controls;
 - (vi) the City of Sydney is on track to support the delivery of over 6,000 new affordable rental homes by 2036;
 - (vii) the City of Sydney hosts Resilient Sydney, a network of all the 33 Sydney Metropolitan Councils;
 - (viii) in 2021, the City of Sydney led the Resilient Sydney Affordable and Diverse Housing Project to help councils develop their own affordable rental housing schemes. This work has led to the draft Regional Affordable Rental Housing Contribution Scheme for Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury, Camden and Wollondilly Councils which the Lord Mayor has supported; and
- (D) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to provide advice to Council about opportunities to support further information sharing and capacity building within the local council network, for the protection and delivery of social (including public) and affordable housing by local councils.

Carried unanimously.

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At 7.43 pm the meeting concluded.

Chair of a meeting of the Council of the City
of Sydney held on Tuesday 28 April 2026 at which
meeting the signature herein was subscribed.