



Meeting Notes

for the

Councillor Forum

held on Tuesday 26 March 2024 in the Council Chamber

1 Nomination of Chairperson

Cr Harverson was nominated as chairperson, declared the meeting open at 6.00pm and welcomed attendees, elected members and staff.

2 Attendance

Councillors:	Ian Miffling OAM JP	Councillor (Presiding Member)
	Joe Italiano	Councillor (Deputy Member)
	Michelle Smith	Councillor
	Brett Hansen	Councillor
	Paul Moyses	Councillor
	Gary Faries	Councillor
	Elysia Harverson	Councillor
	Leonie Scoffern	Councillor
Staff:	Stuart Devenish	Chief Executive Officer
	Nicole Wasmann	Director Corporate Services
	Matt Young	Director Development Services
	Scott Geere	Director Operations
	Hasreen Mandry	Finance Manager
	Amber Nikola	Executive Assistant

Guests: Jason Mennell, The Chamber of Minerals & Energy of WA

Media: 1 member of the press attended.

Apologies	John Kearney	Councillor
	Dale Hill-Power JP	Councillor

4 Declarations of Interest

Nil

5 Items of Business

5.1 *Presentation by Jason Mennell, The Chamber of Minerals & Energy of WA.*

Mr Mennell presented an overview of the Chamber, including its history, membership and role. The significance of the minerals and energy sector was illustrated in economic terms. A range of matters were discussed including the importance of housing supply, impacts of the shift away from coal and battery power storage.

Cr Harverson thanked Mr Mennell for his presentation and attendance at the meeting.

5.2 *2024/25 Budget Parameters – refer attached discussion paper*

The CEO provided an introduction to the Budget Parameter discussion paper, noting that it steps through the various considerations that will guide the preparation of the 2024/25 budget. The range of matters and associated high-level recommendations include:

- Staff establishment
- Elected member fees
- Operational cost indexation
- Discretionary spend
- Capital budget parameters
- Project priorities
- Requests for consideration
- Financial reserve purposes
- Financial reserve contributions
- Fees and charges indexation
- Rate rise percentage

Each matter was discussed, noting the budget parameters will be subject to a report to Council on 9 April 2024. It is noted that support was indicated to consideration of funding for an additional ranger.

5.3 *Strategic Community Plan/Corporate Business Plan – Annual Review – refer attached discussion paper*

The CEO introduced the item, setting out the context of the Community Plan and the Business Plan. The plan reviews identified opportunities to update priorities and reset actions to reflect changes that have occurred over the first year of operation and tasks that have been finalised. Suggested updates were tabled, noting the matter was subject to a report to Council on 9 April 2024.

5.4 *Corporate Sponsorship*

Feedback was sought from Councillors on whether there was an interest in setting up a policy framework for corporate sponsorship/support. It was noted that there is opportunity for advertising space at Shire facilities including the swimming pool and other Shire areas where sponsor banners, logos etc could be placed for additional exposure and recognition of corporate organisations establishing in Collie. It can also assist with direct subsidy of operating expenditure - eg; the budget deficit caused by the pool. The goal would be to accommodate corporate entities in particular that are making some of the significant investments into Collie.

Support was indicated for a report to come to Council on the matter.

6 Confidential Business

Nil

7. Additonal questions/topics raised

Discussion was held in regard to the River Revitalisation strategy with conversations still ongoing between staff and relevant organisations. The vandalism occurring at the Roberts Rock weir was addressed with it noted that security measures are now in place to help prevent and deter further vandalism and theft. Conversation also took place around the homelessness and displacement of people around Collie leading to some living in the Coolangatta area.

8. Meeting Closure

Cr Harverson thanked everyone for attending the meeting and closed meeting at 7.26pm