

Community Think Tank

Session Two Summary Report



Banyule City Council

12.09.24

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Giving every person a voice.

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Capire staff and associates take great care while transcribing participant feedback but unfortunately cannot guarantee the accuracy of all notes. We are however confident that we capture the full range of ideas, concerns and views expressed during our consultation activities.

Unless otherwise noted, the views expressed in our work represent those of the participants and not necessarily those of our consultants or our clients.

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the Banyule Community ThinkTank Session Two, including key questions and discussion topics raised by ThinkTank members. The report has been prepared by Capire Consulting Group.

1.1. Background

Banyule City Council (Council) is working closely with the community to plan for the next four years. As part of this process, under the Local Government Act 2020, deliberative engagement is required to be used to develop the Council Plan, Asset Plan, Financial Plan and to review the Community Vision.

Over 400 eligible Banyule community members expressed their interest in joining Banyule’s deliberative engagement panel, otherwise known as the ThinkTank. A total of 55 people were randomly selected to become ThinkTank members.

Following recruitment of the ThinkTank, broader community engagement was undertaken with the Banyule community between 29 April and 23 June 2024 aimed at harnessing the wisdom of Banyule’s diverse community to help to work out:

- Council's big picture for the next four years (2025 to 2029) - the Council Plan
- what's needed to improve the community's health and wellbeing - Health and Wellbeing Plan
- how to best manage buildings and assets - the Asset Plan
- how to fund Council's work and what to prioritise - the Budget.

The ThinkTank is meeting four times between July and December 2024 to take a deep dive into Banyule’s Community Vision, community priorities, concerns and key Council documents, before providing recommendations to help to develop Council’s key strategic plans.

Capire Consulting Group (Capire) was contracted by Council as an independent consultancy to facilitate the ThinkTank sessions.

1.2. Session overview

Session Two of the Banyule Community Think Tank was held on Saturday 31 August from 9:30am to 4:00pm at McCubbin Room, The Centre Ivanhoe, 275 Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe.

The objectives of the session were to:

- Deepen ThinkTank member's knowledge about what Council’s role is and what they are currently doing to get closer to the Community Vision 2041 through the delivery of its services, assets and projects.
- Enable ThinkTank members to understand current challenges, risks and opportunities.
- Equip ThinkTank members to be able to identify initial priorities (areas of focus) that Council should focus on for the next four years.

The session’s agenda is outlined in Table 1.

A total of 37 ThinkTank members attended Session Two.

Table 1: Session Two agenda

Time	Description
9:30am	Welcome back
	Pulse check at tables: What were your big take-homes from the session on 20 July?
	Outcomes from Session 1
	State of Play: Presentations followed by questions and answer
	• Presentation 1: Local Government What we do and why • Presentation 2: Budget and Finances • Presentation 3: Banyule Futures broad community engagement findings

Time	Description
	Morning tea
	Expert presentations in a Marketplace activity
12:35pm	Lunch
	Reflections and comparing notes
	Priorities
	Wrap up and next steps
4:00pm	Finish

2. Session summary and outcomes

This section provides a summary of the key discussions and presentations during Session Two of the Banyule Community ThinkTank.

2.1. Reflections on Session 1

To begin the session participants were asked to share their reflections or key takeaways from the previous session with their table groups. They were then invited to share what they discussed with the broader group.

Some key reflections included that participants were impressed with how much information they were provided and that they were made to feel welcome and supported through the process.

2.2. Outcomes of Session One

Council presented the key outcomes from Session One and votes that were undertaken between Session One and Two.

2.2.1. Session Four preference vote

Between Sessions One and Two, ThinkTank members were asked to vote on which of the following options they preferred for the new Session Four date:

- **Option one:** Saturday 7 December, 9.30am - 2pm
- **Option two:** Thursday 5 December, 6pm-9pm and nominated ThinkTank members present recommendations at Council Meeting on 9 December
- **Option three:** Saturday 7 December, 9.30am - 12.30pm and nominated ThinkTank members present recommendations at Council Meeting on 9 December

The results are outlined in Table 2. A total of 46 ThinkTank members voted.

Table 2: Session Four preference vote

Options	Votes
Option 1	67% (31 people)
Option 2	63% (29 people)
Option 3	63% (29 people)

The new Session Four date will take place on Saturday 7 December, 9.30am - 2pm. Advice was provided that if some ThinkTank members are not able to attend the final session that efforts will be made to find other ways that members can contribute to the outputs from that session.

2.2.2. Community Vision theme descriptions – Second vote

During Session One, ThinkTank members workshopped ideas to strengthen the Community Vision theme descriptions. All ThinkTank members voted on their level of comfort for all revised Community Vision theme descriptions. ThinkTank members were also given the opportunity to provide any additional comments.

Following Session One all ThinkTank members were invited to vote on whether they could live with the revised Community Vision theme descriptions at that point in time. ThinkTank members were also given the opportunity to provide additional comments. It was noted the revised theme descriptions will be revisited again later in the ThinkTank process.

A total of 39 ThinkTank members participated in the second vote. Table 3 outlines the results of the second vote.

Table 3: Whether ThinkTank members could live with the revised Community Vision theme descriptions at that point in time

Questions	Votes	Comments provided
How do you feel about including definitions before the Vision Themes?	95% (37 people) 'can live with it', 'like it' or 'love it'.	- Omission in the definition of diversity - no reference to the diversity of socio-economic status - rich versus economical impoverished. - I believe there needs to be separate definitions for Council and officers. Theme 6 refers to a responsive Council which to me means the elected Council. It is the Council that it ultimately responsible for ensuring responsiveness. Officers are the implementers.
How do you feel about changing the Theme 1 name to 'Our Inclusive, Connected and Healthy Community'?	82% (32 people) 'can live with it', 'like it' or 'love it'.	- Key aspects are missing: an empowered collaborative community, a safe community. - The term 'healthy' can be misunderstood, compared to using 'wellbeing' or 'wellness'. - The use of the word 'healthy' is not inclusive. Not everyone is afforded the ability to be healthy if they have been born with genetic conditions or suffer long term health issues. A different phrasing needs to be used. - There were four comments that expressed that they would like to see further consideration of a separate Theme 7 for health.
How do you feel about the revised Theme 1 description?	77% (30 people) 'can live with it', 'like it' or 'love it'.	- Concerned with regards to the line item 'we are a fit and healthy community' etc. The idea of 'fit' implies levels of fitness that may not include everyone or feel inclusive. Maybe use terms such as 'leisure', 'active', 'vibrant' or 'playful'. - There is too much repetition. The items in the dot points need to be grouped by themes and the amount of dot points needs to be reduced. Words like 'fit' and 'healthy' should be removed because not everyone can be 'fit' and 'healthy', nor should they be. - It should note that we value people of all abilities. There is a huge focus on health and fitness but that isn't a choice for many people, and they are just as valued in our community as anyone else.
How do you feel about the revised Theme 2 description – Our Sustainable Environment?	90% (35 people) 'can live with it', 'like it' or 'love it'.	- Firstly, the notion of home-grown food and urban farming being THE norm rather than A norm is a bit odd. While this may be ideal for some, this is just not feasible for everyone. No more species extinction seems to be beyond the remit of local community. - There are way too many dot points making it hard to digest. The dot points need to be synthesised under sub-headings and grouped by themes so that people can understand the broad themes and skim read better while maintaining the detail in the dot points.
How do you feel about the revised Theme 3 description – Our Well-Built City?	85% (33 people) 'can live with it', 'like it' or 'love it'.	- Need to mention something about having a variety of housing types to suit or cater to different people/families' needs. - It doesn't take into account the 86% population increase by 2050 and there's no plan for the Urban Wildlife. Such a proposed plan will cause Environmental Cascading to Catastrophe. With the reliance on property developers instead of Government funding. - The dot point referring to 'our cycling and walking paths are well connected and safe needs to better align with the statement in theme 4 - 'well connected and safe.
How do you feel about the revised Theme 4 description – Valued Assets and Facilities?	87% (34 people) 'can live with it', 'like it' or 'love it'.	- My interest area is art and creative pursuits as a huge area for inclusion of all socio economically diverse groups and sadly there is a lot of improvement needed. For example – it's all very lovely having a cultural /art hub but how do you include diverse groups? - Add 'and leisure' to 'aquatic facilities'.
How do you feel about the revised Theme 5 description – Our Thriving Local Economy?	95% (37 people) 'can live with it', 'like it' or 'love it'.	- The Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) needs to be recognised. - Too long. What are resources to grow, survive and thrive? Businesses are struggling with high costs of doing business with state taxes excessive, and high interest rates etc. Council cannot help with that. I think some of these dot points are fantasy.
How do you feel about the revised Theme 6 – Trusted and Responsive Leadership	85% (33 people) 'can live with it', 'like it' or 'love it'.	- We need to be community-driven, with Council supporting and facilitating. Council is not the expert. - I feel it is very hard for council to include the word 'trust' when they don't advocate to NOT sign 'confidentiality agreements/non-disclosure agreements' with the State Government. Unfortunately, can't fully be 'Our Trusted and Responsive Leaders'. - I would like to see something added about Banyule's leadership and interaction with other councils...so external responsibilities not just internal.

2.3. State of Play presentations

To help participants to understand the state of play, three presentations were delivered to introduce what Council does and why, and overview of the budget and finances, and findings of the broad community engagement.

2.3.1. Presentation 1: Local Government What we do and why

Alison Beckwith, CEO of Banyule City Council and Birgit King Integrated Planning Coordinator, Banyule City Council, delivered a presentation on 'Local Government: What we do and why' introducing:

- Local Government in Victoria
- Our role is to serve the community
- Our challenges – now and future
- The bigger picture – external influences
- When and how we plan, deliver and report

The presentation slides are included in Appendix 1.

2.3.2. Presentation 2: Budget and Finances

Marc Giglio, Director Corporate Services, Banyule City Council presented on the budget and finances, covering:

- Budget at a glance
- Capital works
- Income and expenditure
- Challenges
- Future budget: 2024-2028
- Timelines – Budget development

The presentation slides are included in Appendix 2.

2.3.3. Presentation 3: Banyule Futures broad community engagement findings

Michael Beattie, Community Engagement Coordinator, Banyule City Council presented on the Banyule Futures broad community engagement findings, covering:

- Broad engagement – what we did
- Participation including access and equity
- Precincts and what we asked
- High level findings and outcomes

The presentation slides are included in Appendix 3.

2.4. Marketplace activity

There were six stations around the room, each representing a Community Vision theme. All ThinkTank members visited all six stations for approximately 15-minutes each. At each station Council officers presented the theme including related current strategies and emerging challenges. ThinkTank members were then invited to ask questions and discuss the theme with fellow ThinkTank members and the Council officer. Each participant was provided with a 'Passport' document which provided space for them to note down reflections, learnings and any further questions. These will be brought into future sessions to be used as a reference point.

Appendix 4 displays the posters presented at each Community Vision theme station.

2.5. Reflection activity and Q&A

Following lunch, in table groups, ThinkTank members were invited to reflect on what they heard and discussed during the Marketplace activity. Group reflections are summarised in Table 4.

Table 4: Reflections on Marketplace presentations and discussions

Group one		
Theme one • Loneliness was surprising • So many competing strategies • Many issues without easy answers	Theme two • Need to educate people about the importance of planting trees • Wood burning: lots of environmental harm • Education on wood burning • Need to ensure one solution doesn't impact something else: potential net negative for one answer • Urban forest is very important • Private property: rate relief for canopy	
Theme three • Not much growth population wise	Theme four • Didn't know pools are gas heated • Balance safety with wildlife	Theme five • Like the business concierge • Like social enterprise aspect • Lots of closing shops • Can Council do more for placemaking to support business, help with loneliness and strengthen community?
Group two		
• Seeing lots of plan statements presented without planned out solutions being presented in terms of steps. • What is in the pipeline of these themes being achieved? • Mental health needs to be a priority, it affects us all but particularly our diverse and vulnerable community members • Banyule Council lead by example by having locally grown, low carbon plant-based food as the norm • Financial sustainability is concerning, is the cap on rates sustainable? • We are all passionate about our green spaces • Medium and high-density housing needs green space, community spaces and be family friendly and pet friendly, have green waste and other publicly owned waste management services • What is the time frame for objectives?		
Group three		
Still need to know: • Focus on youth and older citizens, more focus on 30 – 55-year-old support, putting things in place now with aging population • Focus on 24/7 modern technology, but also people who still prefer face to face support, need to have this available • Access to information around planning, specifics please, then where to go next for more information • Other ways to disseminate information and give feedback about queries • Marketing/PR • Flexible in disseminating information, in light of aging population and focus on increased population and incorporating the abilities of new and existing residents • What did you learn from Covid 19 and what would you do differently in preparation for the next one? Resilient and Safe Banyule Framework is on the Shaping Banyule site.		
Group four		
• Still need to know ... where are we now? – How far are we from achieving this already? • Still confusion about the big picture of the actual value we are adding to this vision • To what extent are we achieving (or not achieving) these? • Still need a lead with a moral purpose that puts 'people/community' in the centre of each theme and connects all themes, and then think about needs • Key community issues we need to respond to: – 24% of youth who are disengaged – housing		

- sustainability
- ➔ What are the factors that we can address these issues to bring on change?
- How do you work in partnership with other governments and organisations (e.g. advocacy)
 - E.g. not signing non-disclosure agreements and getting more money from 20%/80%
- Priorities and principles that cut across the themes- people at the core
- Responsibility to link in peoples mind
- Timeframe of what Council wants to achieve?
 - From today- 4-year Council plan- inform 10-year plan – 2041
- Who is responsible and accountable? How do we follow it?
 - Action plan
 - KPI- to show how we are tracking in
- What have Council learnt through Covid-19? What have you got in place for the next crisis?
 - Community resilience
- Create a poster with the snapshot: Everything we do must add value to the Banyule community

Group five

- Pressure from State on Council (“You fix it”)
- Overpopulation putting pressure on all facets – why we keep growing (immigration and children)
- Programs – why are we not finding them and hearing about them – how is the information reaching our community?
- Service navigation – solution to help people search for services
- Is Banyule banner enough to spread local information?
- Housing – where do we put houses?
- Graffiti: Bundoora, Greensborough and Heidelberg
- How Council works with elected officials – how do we educate children on Council operations?
- No maximum term
- Cost of living and rent control
- Where is tax money going? To more services for the community or elsewhere
- How do we create bridges between the six categories to improve all of them?
- What is the ThinkTank’s role? (particularly today)
- How do we engage different age groups? How do we bridge generational gaps?
- How do we educate young people?
- RSL upper Heidelberg: What do we do with this space? Burnt/abandoned land to be utilised
- Families migrating to study a career or PhD/Masters, can only work 24 hours a week.
 - How can they afford a living?
 - How can their kids have a decent life if parents can’t work?
- Words used more than actions – promises made, keeping people happy but no movement
- Immigrant professionals willing to work but no one would sponsor them for a decent VISA that allows them to work more than 24 hours a week
- Communication, Culture, Population, Education, Accountability

Group six

- What is different?
 - Active involvement of the community, encourage more volunteers from the community
- What do we still need to know?
 - Can we incentivise local suburban planning?
 - Visibility of priorities in other suburbs
 - Opportunities to use different forms of engagement

During a time of group questions and answers, the following questions were asked by table groups:

- What is the timeframe that Council has to achieve the objectives that Council hopes to achieve?

- What are the KPIs, who's going to be accountable and what are their names? Is Council going to be held to account?
- What has Council learnt from COVID-19? And what would Council do differently in future times of crisis?
- It would be helpful to have information that tells us how far we have come so far in achieving the objectives. It's difficult to be able to help Council without this information.
- Equity and access across the municipality; is there consideration around how to connect community to existing services? Barrbunin Beek used as an example.
- Why funnel everyone through the internet? Why isn't there a human face to Council services? It would be great if it was possible to deal with queries in person.
- Communication between Council and community; is the Banyule Banner enough? How do we create bridges between the categories and combine them to strengthen them? Are there plans to increase and improve communication with the community?
- Volunteering as a way of having a better relationship with Council; a lot of people only know Council when it comes to paying rates.

2.6. Development of Priorities and Principles

Each table group was given A5 cards to start to document draft priorities under each Community Vision theme. The priorities might be things that Council should start or stop doing or could be an extension of work that has already been started or completed. These draft priorities are outlined in Sections 2.6.2 to 2.6.7.

Section 2.6.1 outlines draft principles that were also drafted during the process.

2.6.1. Principles: rules, beliefs and ideas to guide Council

- Community engagement + empowerment + collaboration at the local level
- Caring for Country
- Equity
- To possibly simplify each theme and connect them through one core moral purpose in the centre
 - To think about where this is going to be published. It needs to be visual for Banyule
 - Who is the audience?
- Involvement in schools, visiting and educating, spreading information¹
- Sustainability and balance- comprehensive approach: Environment and equity around housing²
- Make accountability a part of Council choices³

2.6.2. Theme 1 – Our Inclusive and Connected Community

Subthemes	Priorities
Education	Risks around social media • Council to advocate to Government (regarding controls and regulation) and work in partnership (with schools, sporting groups etc) to shine a light on this issue – provide information and support to kids and parents.
	Education and communication • Target engagement • Diverse forms of communication to reach diverse population. • Include information that also educates (i.e. urban tree canopy initiatives → what can the individuals do as well).

¹ Was included as a principle under Theme 1

² Was included as a principle under Theme 3

³ Was included as a principle under Theme 6

Subthemes	Priorities
	- Utilise 'early adopters' to share information across networks (friends and neighbours) (e.g. to act as champions for change, updates, success and progress across Banyule). Varied and relevant community methods to connect and engage with community and educate community members on ways to become engaged with and interact with Council. - Council doing visits like emergency services. - Build discussions with general youth about what Council does. - Introduce Council and politics to local schools. - Explaining how Council serves schools. - Teaching young people civil responsibility.
Mental health	On mental health, what's the point of rent affordability with food and utility bills; as it pushes homelessness as a factor. Might as well look forward to homelessness instead at least you don't have to pay rent and utility bills on a sarcastic view, specifically of planning to be homeless. Aging well in place. We want people to age and live in the community. To feel engaged. Liveable community so people can live, shop, grow, connect in their own communities → not have to travel to be able to get to key services. For Council to prioritise that people age well in place. - Loneliness as a major issue to the Banyule community - Lack of affordable mental health services in Banyule - Banyule community health has a 6-month waitlist for counselling and recently had layoffs and funding cuts. - PARC is experiencing a high demand - Banyule Council has some services for youth, elderly and PGBT social support but more general services are needed.
Connecting community	Volunteering - Increase awareness of opportunities for volunteering. - Including variable days and times. Accessibility - Challenge staff to try getting around their facilities and municipality in a wheelchair. - Ensure all community members have true equal access to spaces. - Language accessibility. The community in each suburb develop a simple, broad based list of community priorities to inform Council planning every two years (note: 21 suburbs not precincts) Support for dis-connected youth (i.e. 24% w. Heidelberg/Belfield) - Address this as urgent – perhaps through sporting activities, engage with schools to partner for 'impact on educational progress'. - Facilities- creating a hub (dance, art, song, food) - Opportunity to celebrate culture - Multidisciplinary offering to break down barriers - Remove stigma (we are all categorised)

2.6.3. Theme 2 – Our sustainable environment

Priorities
Rubbish - More communications on using the FOGO bins and separating recyclables - Great job on the 40% reduction in landfill. - Multistorey developments link planning/building permit with rubbish removal (i.e. private contractors need to implement recycling and FOGO system) Does Council recycle soft plastics, or does it go to the landfill? What is being done to address this issue?
Urban forest strategy - Implementation- Do it. - Incentivise private tree planting (tree surveys/rate rebate).
Waste - Food waste is a worldwide issue, and we are behind the times compared to the rest of the world. - Encouraging businesses to be more sustainable (e.g. recycling/composting waste, re-usable containers and cups).
Waste management - Soft plastics recycling - Encouraging plastic free shopping options - Waste in amenities - Plastic chairs and playground from recycled materials - Upcycled as a priority.

2.6.4. Theme 3 – Our well-built city

Subthemes	Priorities
Affordability and equity	Access and equity in housing Ensure housing meets expectations of the community and ensure the housing can meet growth in population Some solutions may include: - Granny flats - Developing and exploring social housing
	Housing affordability Homelessness services are overstretched and underfunded - Have to travel to Preston for services and you are turned away unless you are rough sleeping - Banyule Council should do its own research instead of relying on the census or statistics from outside homelessness services
	Equity – needs based Council contributes directly towards solving the housing crisis by partnering with community housing organisations to utilise Council land and/or assets for new social and affordable housing or other creative, market led ideas
Housing standards	Think about developer contribution plans. How will developers contribute back into the community? Build it into the scheme. What can Council do to manage the environment and housing?

Subthemes	Priorities
	Continue the growth but strengthen the assets that the community values.
	Managing higher density living • Eco-friendly/environmentally sustainable access to green space and garden beds • Community connection • Waste management in apartment living – Compost and green waste inaccessible – Should be managed by Council (i.e. Council should have resources to manage green waste etc) • Sustainable building materials • Sunlight and well insulated.
	Develop strategies for high density housing development areas to ensure that neighbourhood infrastructure is in place to handle influx of population before the commencement of these building projects.

2.6.5. Theme 4 – Our valued community assets and facilities

Priorities
Safety around public transport Advocate for sustainable, accessible and equitable transport • Provide a responsive community bus. • Advocate for better connected and serviced public transport (e.g. bus services for schools; do buses take people where they need to go?) • Clear and defined bike routes. • Location of services allow for equity of access.
Planning for an aging population⁴ • Aged care and housing • Mobility access • Housing standards for elderly people • Services and support for vulnerable elderly • Accessible public transport (e.g. overpass at Ivanhoe)
Bring existing buildings into the 21st century in regard to accessibility in a considered heritage way

2.6.6. Theme 5 – Our thriving local economy

Priorities
Placemaking in activity centres- third places⁵ → using what we have for community opportunities Many communities are not equipped with spaces to exist without spending money that enable community connection, especially in the locations we expect the most growth. We have also noticed an uptake in vacant shopfronts. If we acquire some shop fronts and open them up with seating and tables and encourage socialisation, we will end up with a more connected community, more active streets and safer areas. In areas that are expecting more growth, the dwellings will be smaller as well. These spaces can allow people to host groups close to home and stimulate nearby business. This will also help address issues like loneliness and safety. As an asset it will

⁴ Linked to Theme 1

⁵ Also fits into Theme 3

Priorities

create a more attractive location for new development. This space could function similar to a library and neighbourhood house but should be in central locations in areas which will absorb substantial population growth. This will supplement the role of pubs and religion to connect people.

Using empty retail spaces for the Arts

Council to advocate with trades associations and encourage community engagement and support the arts community (e.g. Bell Street Mall. Maybe another community hub.)

2.6.7. Theme 6 – Our trusted and responsive leadership

Subthemes	Priorities
Education	Education on Council • Earlier engagement at schools to educate the younger generation on what Council does, the importance to the community and where to find more information. • This will help improve engagement and help inform whether the current communication strategy is working.
	Communicate and educate community of why certain funding gets cut or reduced (e.g. it is often out of Council/State Government hands).
	To educate
Communication and partnering	Forging closer ties between community and Council Community being more involved
	Communication between Community and Council (advertising and marketing) • Expanding out from written word and formal communication. • Incursions and excursions at schools for education purposes.
	Council public documents easy to read – one page summary targeted for community reading
Planning communication clearly	Making clear and concise plans for how we approach and search goals, acknowledging current challenges and how we fix them. After this if people want more information on plans and strategies, they can be referred to the online booklets or more information.
	Council connecting to the community via the local Facebook groups Community may not go to Council website for information, instead ask in local Facebook groups. Could a staff member be in some main groups and answer queries with information on the Council website. Drives traffic back to the Council site, consistent accurate information shared with the community.
	Reduced expectations of residents Increased state and federal government grants
	• Disconnect between words of the Council and their actions • Holding Council members to SMART goals • Incentives that ensure Council act on their words

3. Parking lot and questions on notice

The following questions and comments were raised as questions on notice or topics not related to the Panel's remit:

- Tree and vegetation loss through development → planning controls
- Can Council/does Council mandate FOGO for body corporate companies?
- Why have Council chosen the deaf symbol to represent the disability community in its infographic?
- Is there help for children who can not afford activities? Especially around sporting clubs.
- What are we doing to address the inequity where people who want to run for Council, however don't have the funds to run? Especially around minorities with lived experience.
- Can we have someone from the youth development attend the next session? We talk a lot about young people but not many workers from Council are able to talk specifics.
- Very difficult theme to uphold due to the fact that Council/Council officers sign NDAs/ confidentiality agreements with State Government or organisations (e.g. LXP)
 - o What is being done in this space?
 - o Do you advocate/take a stance and not sign?
- Every election cycle there is a family in Ivanhoe that tries to jack Council elections. This needs to be made public knowledge to protect integrity of local democracy
- North East Link- Information sharing to ThinkTank
- Waste management for high density
- Population increase versus residential population increase projections?

4. Next steps

The next steps in the Banyule Community ThinkTank process is:

- Council will continue to provide additional information in preparation for t ThinkTank session 3.
- ThinkTank members are encouraged to continue to ask questions on the online ThinkTank member page. Council will provide answers to questions raised where answers are known.
- In the next session on 30 November the ThinkTank will continue to refine and develop the priorities and principles.

Appendices

A.1. Presentation One slides

Local Government What we do and why

Allison Beckwith – CEO
Birgit King – Integrated Planning and Performance Coordinator



Local Government in Victoria



- **79 councils** in Victoria
- Spend **\$8 billion** annually
- Provide over **100 services**
- Responsible for **85% of Victoria's road network**, and many other community facilities
- More than **100 Victorian Acts and regulations** govern our roles and responsibilities
- We comply with many Commonwealth Acts and regulations, Ministerial Directions, Codes of Practice, Australian Standards and other guidelines to discharge their legal duties under state and federal laws.

Our role is to serve the community

Children and families	Health and wellbeing	Your home	Sport and leisure	Roads and safety	Community
Childcare	Disability services	Planning permits	Sportsgrounds	Roads and footpaths	Libraries
Kindergartens	Home maintenance	Building permits	Swimming pools	Car parks	Volunteering
Maternal and child health	Home and community care	Pest registrations	Leisure centres	Street lighting	Theatre and the arts
Pregnancy	Motels on wheels	Publish and recycling	Parks and gardens	School crossing supervision	Grants
Immunisation	Food safety	Graffiti removal	Festivals and events	Emergency management	Community centres

Our Challenges - now

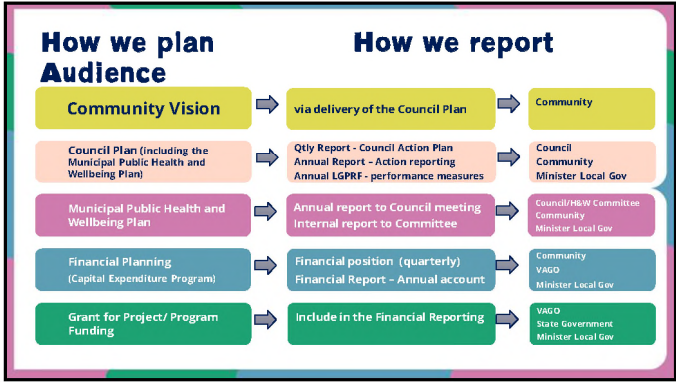
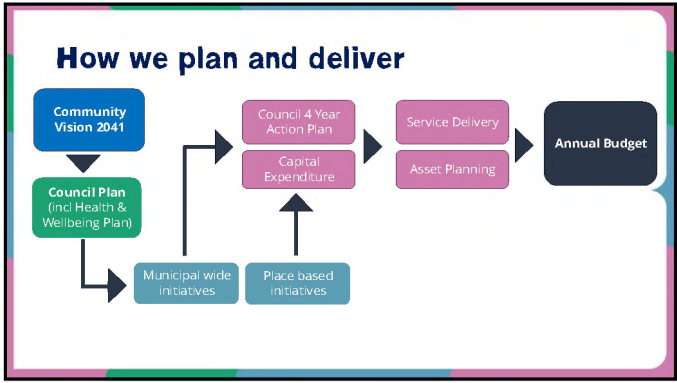
- **Aging population** - putting pressure on service delivery
- **Diversity** – ensuring we are inclusive and cater for all
 - eg making facilities, services, programs accessible.
 - eg information in different formats and languages
- **Technological advancement** – cost of keeping up to date
 - Eg modes of communication
 - Eg community expectations to access anywhere, anytime

Our Challenges - future

- **Climate change** – the impact on people/place/
 - Rising cost of utilities
 - Food supply
 - Health impact on global warming
- **Covid 2.0** – next pandemic or natural disaster
 - They say **when** not **if**...
- **What is the role of LG** into the future
 - Deliver 100+ services or facilitate service delivery

The bigger picture – external influences

- **Rate capping** – governed by State Government
 - Lower than CPI not in line with rising cost of materials and utilities
- **External funding** - required for community project delivery
 - Sports Pavilions
- **Cost shifting** of current and future service delivery
 - E.g. Age Care Reform
- **State & Federal Government** shift in focus
 - Not always aligned to community need

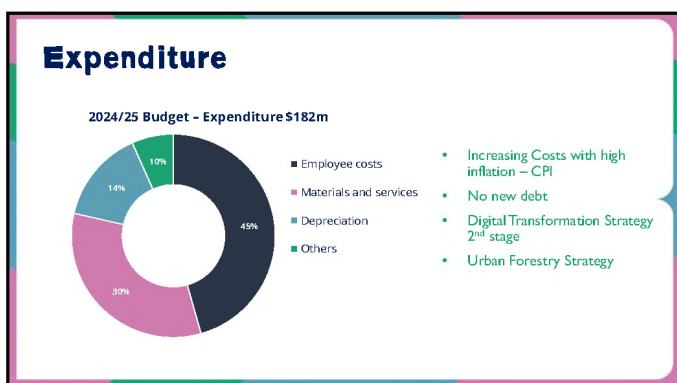
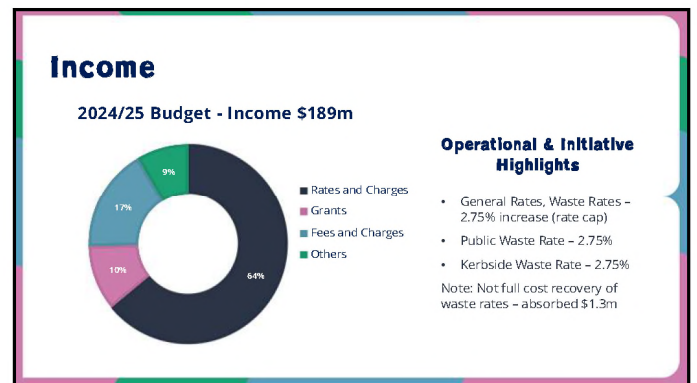
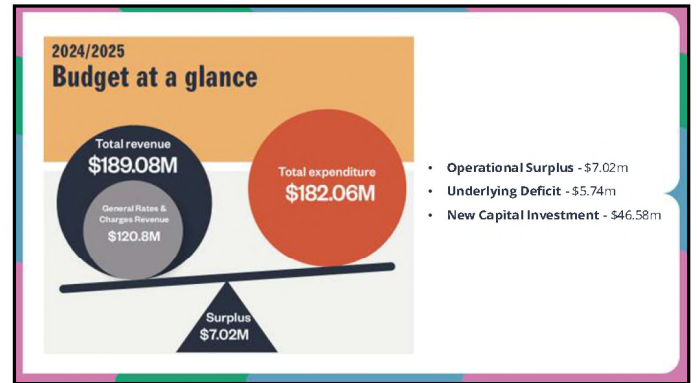


A.2. Presentation Two slides



Budget and Finances

Marc Giglio – Director Corporate Services



Future Budget 2024-2028



	Actual 2023/24 \$'000	Budget 2024/25 \$'000	Budget 2025/26 \$'000	Budget 2026/27 \$'000	Budget 2027/28 \$'000
Total Income	180,925	189,082	194,308	193,705	200,061
Total Expenditure	171,131	182,060	187,175	189,859	194,049
Operating Surplus	9,794	7,022	7,133	3,846	6,012
Capital Grant and Contribution	(15,121)	(12,763)	(13,667)	(7,633)	(7,804)
Underlying (Deficit)	(5,327)	(5,741)	(6,534)	(3,787)	(1,792)

Timelines – Budget Development



A.3. Presentation Three slides



Banyule Futures community engagement

Michael Beattie, Community Engagement Coordinator

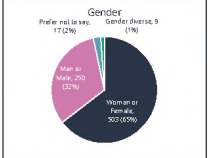
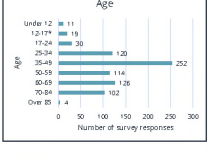
Broad engagement - what we did

29 April
➔
23 June

-  Surveys - online and hardcopy
-  Pop-ups x 10
-  Communications

Participation

- Over 880 people
 - 590 surveys
 - 290+ pop-up participants
- Woman or female, 65% (503)
- Young people, 8% (60)
- Over 60 years, 30% (272)

Access and equity

- Surveys only (n=590)
 -  **13%** (77) said they live with disability, inclusive of mental illness.
 -  **9%** (54) from an LGBTQIA+ community.
 -  **10%** (60) identified as carers.
 -  **8%** (47) speak English as a second or other language.
 -  **1%** (7) are from an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island background.

Precincts

- 7 precincts
- Suburbs align



What we asked

- What do you love?**
- Priorities** (Living in Place data)
- Concerns** (Living in Place data)
- Health and Wellbeing** (Living in Place data)
- Projects** (Advocacy, Capital Works and Community Infrastructure)

Inclusion

- Involve community in decision-making
- Address local concerns
- Tailor strategies to local needs

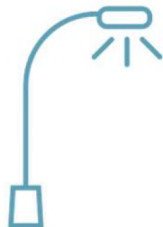


Green spaces



- Prioritise policies/projects to preserve and enhance green space
- Relationship between green space and health and wellbeing outcomes
- Concerns with overdevelopment and loss of green space

Safety



- Street and path lighting
- Police presence
- Drug and alcohol use
- Balance with environmental concerns

Public transport and connectivity

- Improve reliability, frequency and accessibility
- Strengthen connectivity
- Integrate buses, trains and cycling and walking paths better



Sustainable development

- Manage overdevelopment
- Preserve neighbourhood character
- Balance new housing with infrastructure capacity + environmental sustainability
- Diverse affordable housing needed



Health and wellbeing



- Prioritise accessible mental health services
- Programs for physical and mental health
- Enhance infrastructure for active living – recreation, paths, facilities

Local solutions



- Adopt a flexible precinct-approach to planning and resourcing
- Address specific precinct priorities
- Not always one size fits all

Community services and connection

- Deliver programs and infrastructure that foster community interaction
- Provide essential services, particularly for older residents and people with disability
- Strengthen the role of libraries, community spaces and local events



Balanced resource allocation

- Distribute resources fairly across all precincts
- Perceived neglect
- Balance short term need with long term sustainability



A.4. Marketplace Community Theme posters

Theme 1 – Our Inclusive and Connected Community



Strategic Objective (nutshell statement)

A safe, healthy, vibrant and connected community where everyone loves to live, work and stay; diversity and inclusion are valued and encouraged.

Current strategies

1. Promote active and connected living through a range of accessible and inclusive opportunities for all people of all ages through sport and recreation.
2. Provide a range of services and programs, and work with relevant partners, to enhance health and wellbeing outcomes and social cohesion.
3. Provide and promote arts and cultural experiences to enhance community connectedness, engagement and a sense of wellbeing.
4. Actively support and facilitate infrastructure, services and programs that address community safety.
5. Enhance our relationship and work in respectful partnership with the Traditional Custodians of Banyule, the Wurundjeri people, identified Elders and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.
6. Promote community awareness and support a diverse, connected, and inclusive community that respects and celebrates different cultures, beliefs, abilities, bodies, ages, sexualities, genders and identities.
7. Provide a range of services and programs that support the development of children, young people and families.
8. Strengthen community preparedness and resilience for emergency events.
9. Provide for and facilitate specific programs and respond to current and emerging preventable disease, outbreaks, and public health risks.
10. Deliver a range of accessible services and programs for older people that support social connections and independent living.
11. Deliver a range of services and programs to become the leading Council in supporting and empowering people with disabilities.
12. Enable and empower philanthropic and business partners to support our community through the establishment of the Banyule Community Fund.

Banyule Futures - What the community told us



Feeling safe

- Feeling safe is a key priority
- Concerns with crime, vandalism
- Need better lighting, policing



Valuing diversity and inclusion

- People value cultural diversity
- Celebrate more through festivals, programs
- Support housing, mental health, access



Theme 2 - Our Sustainable Environment



Strategic Objective (nutshell statement)

A progressive and innovative leader in protecting, enhancing and increasing the health and diversity of our natural environment, where we all commit to playing an active role in achieving environmental sustainability, waste and carbon emissions reduction.

Current strategies

1. Protect and enhance our natural environment, providing connected habitat for diverse flora and fauna.
2. Minimise stormwater pollution and the impacts of flooding and maximise Council's water conservation to transition to a water sensitive City.
3. Demonstrate leadership in addressing climate change and take action to become a carbon neutral Council by 2028 and City by 2040.
4. Empower and educate the community and businesses to take actions to achieve positive environmental and climate change outcomes.
5. Avoid waste generation and encourage and support the community to achieve zero waste to landfill by 2030.
6. Engage and work with the community and partners to protect, enhance and experience the environment.
7. Protect, increase and maintain Banyule's urban forest population to provide a greener City for enhanced liveability.
8. Explore and support opportunities for urban farming and community gardens.

Banyule Futures - What the community told us



Environment as a priority

- Preserve and increase green spaces
- Linked to health benefits



Concerns with overdevelopment

- Encroachment on green spaces
- Call for sustainable practices
- Preserve through planning controls



Commitment to environmental initiatives

- More green projects and infrastructure
- Focus on carbon reduction
- Importance of active community involvement

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Theme 3 - Our Well-Built City



Strategic Objective (nutshell statement)

A well-planned, sustainable and liveable place that caters for current and emerging communities, where our local character and environment is protected and enhanced.

Current strategies

1. Deliver well designed places and spaces that enable stronger connections and liveability to meet the diverse needs of our current and future community.
2. Develop and maintain best practice integrated strategic plans that impact positively on the quality and design of our places and built environment.
3. Prioritise a series of localised plans for twenty-minute neighbourhoods across Banyule that are well connected and meet community needs closer to home.
4. Promote, design and deliver assets that provide spaces for the community to connect.
5. Manage Council's commercial assets, leases and contracts to deliver sustainable, accessible and inclusive outcomes for the community.
6. Actively seek partnerships and collaborate with other organisations to build and utilise community infrastructure.

Banyule Futures - What the community told us



Public transport

- Improve bus/train infrastructure
- Integrate transport modes
- Connect with walking and cycling
- Enhance station accessibility



Convenience and amenities

- Value proximity to services
- Appreciate recreational amenities
- Crucial for sustainable infrastructure



Housing

- Concern over housing costs
- Need affordable housing options
- Worry about impact of development

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Theme 4 - Our Valued Community Assets and Facilities



Strategic Objective (nutshell statement)

Our community assets, facilities and services, are affordable, sustainable, evenly distributed, safe, accessible for everyone and designed to provide meaningful experiences and connections.

Current strategies

1. Strategically plan, build and renew community assets and facilities that meet current and future service needs and instill a sense of civic pride.
2. Develop community assets and facilities that are environmentally sustainable, innovative, safe and continue to be of appropriate standard.
3. Design and build facilities that are multipurpose and encourage community connections.
4. Plan for greater diversity of housing and commercial activity in the most accessible locations to balance sustainable growth and enable ageing in place.
5. Provide and facilitate for achieving environmentally sustainable designs and outcomes and deliver urban centres that are resilient to the impacts of climate change.
6. Preserve and enhance Banyule's valued heritage, local character, and its significant trees.
7. Provide and maintain public parks and open spaces for a range of uses for all ages and abilities.
8. Lead on the use of sustainable modes of transport, and encourage walking, cycling and use of public transport.

Banyule Futures - What the community told us



Footpaths and bike paths

- Prioritise safe, accessible paths
- Desire better connection of paths



Public amenities

- Value playgrounds, sports facilities
- Need more public toilets
- Suggest more regular maintenance



Lighting and safety

- Improve street/path lighting
- Enhance night safety
- Address vulnerable areas



Roads and parking

- Maintain roads for safety
- Reduce congestion
- Improve traffic management

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Theme 5 - Our Thriving Local Economy



Strategic Objective (nutshell statement)

Our community assets, facilities and services, are affordable, sustainable, evenly distributed, safe, accessible for everyone and designed to provide meaningful experiences and connections.

Current strategies

1. Stimulate and support a vibrant and resilient local economy to encourage business, employment and investment opportunities.
2. Encourage, assist and connect businesses with the tools, information and opportunities to succeed and be sustainable.
3. Support innovation, business start-ups and the development of micro, disability, Aboriginal and creative enterprises across Banyule.
4. Build strong regional partnerships to leverage growth corridors and stimulate ongoing economic prosperity.
5. Partner with local employers, agencies and other organisations to create inclusive jobs.
6. Provide and facilitate job readiness programs and pathways to employment.
7. Encourage and support volunteerism within Banyule as an important contributor to the local economy and involvement in community life.
8. Create distinctive, appealing and thriving shopping centres and industrial precincts that have a local identity and contribute to a strong sense of place.
9. Create inclusive employment opportunities within Banyule Council workforce for people facing barriers to employment.
10. Lead as a social enterprise capital of Victoria by encouraging innovative social enterprises to set-up their operations and offices within the City of Banyule.

Banyule Futures - What the community told us



Local economy and investment

- Appreciate local businesses
- Support local investment
- Value unique village character
- Concerned with overdevelopment



Resilience and cost of living

- Worry about cost of living
- Underlying anxiety regarding economic resilience
- Investing local = building resilience
- Importance of social infrastructure

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Theme 6 - Our Trusted and Responsive Leadership



Strategic Objective (nutshell statement)

Our community assets, facilities and services, are affordable, sustainable, evenly distributed, safe, accessible for everyone and designed to provide meaningful experiences and connections.

Current strategies

1. Provide good governance, be accountable and make informed decisions based on sound evidence.
2. Provide outstanding customer service and a great customer experience for all.
3. Provide responsible management of resources to ensure the financial sustainability of Banyule Council.
4. Provide an integrated approach to planning and community reporting aligned to the Banyule Community Vision 2041.
5. Build an empowered, engaged and diverse workforce with a values-based culture*.
6. Proactively manage Council's risks and provide a safe workplace.
7. Invest in new technology and innovative digital solutions to deliver seamless and responsive services.
8. Engage meaningfully with our diverse community, encourage participation, and be proactive and responsive to current and emerging needs.
9. Improve the reach, transparency, impact and responsiveness of our communications.
10. Advocate for community priorities and aspirations to improve service, infrastructure, land use, environmental and social outcomes
11. Continually improve, innovate and review our services to ensure they are effective, efficient and represent value for money.
12. Provide responsible management of procurement activity in a way that enhances social, economic and environmental outcomes.

Banyule Futures - What the community told us



Council responsiveness & governance

- General positive sentiment towards Council
- Concern with overdevelopment
- Need to balance growth with sustainability



Trust and advocacy

- Support infrastructure and community projects
- Mixed feedback on all projects meeting local need
- Improve communication and advocacy



Financial sustainability and equity

- Concern with cost of living
- Improve maintenance to benefit all
- Call for equitable use of resources

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Capire acknowledges
and deeply respects the Wurundjeri
people and
the Traditional Owners
of the Victorian land.



capire