

STRATHFIELD COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday 27 February 2024

6:30pm

Council Chambers

65 Homebush Road, Strathfield



Minutes of the Council Meeting of Strathfield Municipal Council held on 27 February 2024, in the Council Chambers, 65 Homebush Road, Strathfield.

COMMENCING: 6:30pm

PRESENT: Mayor Karen Pensabene
Councillor Sandy Reddy
Councillor Benjamin Cai
Councillor Raj Datta
Councillor Nella Hall
Councillor Sharangan Maheswaran

STAFF: Michael Mamo, General Manager
David Vien, Acting Director Corporate and Community
Clare Harley, Director Planning and Environment
Cathy Edwards-Davis, Director Engineering and Operations
Melissa Mallos, General Counsel
Rodney Sanjivi, Chief Financial Officer
Amanda Rutherford, Governance and Procurement Manager
David McQuade, Senior Governance Officer
Xiao Ling, Systems Administrator

1. MOMENT OF REFLECTION

2. RECOGNITION OF TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS: The Recognition was read.

3. APOLOGIES AND APPLICATION FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil.

4. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST (NATURE OF INTEREST TO BE DISCLOSED)

Councillor Cai declared a Pecuniary/Non-Significant conflict of interest for item *PE1 3-5 Bridge Road, Homebush - Voluntary Planning Agreement* and managed the conflict of interest by leaving the meeting for discussion and voting on this item. Councillor Cai declared that he is a resident in the Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy (PRCUTS) location (exempt as the matter is in relation to a strategic planning item).

Councillor Cai declared a Pecuniary/Non-Significant conflict of interest for item *PE4 Strathfield Local Planning Panel – Confirmation of Interim Arrangements* and managed the conflict of interest by remaining in the meeting for discussion and voting on this item. Councillor Cai declared that he is a resident in the Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy (PRCUTS) location (exempt as the matter is in relation to a strategic planning item).

Councillor Cai declared a Pecuniary/Non-Significant conflict of interest for item *PE5 NSW Government Transit Orientated Development Program - Accelerated Precincts – Homebush* and managed the conflict of interest by remaining in the meeting for discussion and voting on this item. Councillor Cai declared that he is a resident in the Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy (PRCUTS) location (exempt as the matter is in relation to a strategic planning item).

Councillor Datta declared a Pecuniary/Non-Significant conflict of interest for item *PE2 Council Submission: Explanation Intended Effect (EIE) Low and Mid Rising Housing* and managed the conflict of interest by remaining in the meeting for discussion and voting on this item. Councillor Datta declared that his residential property may be under the strategic consideration of the item.

Councillor Hall declared a Non-Pecuniary/Significant conflict of interest for items *PE1 3-5 Bridge Road, Homebush – Voluntary Planning Agreement*, *PE2 Council Submission: Explanation of Intended Effect (EIE) Low and Mid Rising Housing* and *PE5 NSW Government Transit Orientated Development Program - Accelerated Precincts – Homebush* and managed the conflict of interest by leaving the meeting for discussion and voting on these items. Councillor Hall declared that she has an affiliation with the lessee of property in close proximity to the subject locations.

Councillor Maheswaran declared a Non-Pecuniary/Non-Significant conflict of interest for item *CCS13 Strathfield Council Small Grants – Third Quarter 2024* and managed the conflict of interest by remaining in the meeting for discussion and voting on this item. Councillor Maheswaran declared that he has been invited to events regularly by a small grant recipient.

Councillor Maheswaran declared a Non-Pecuniary/Significant conflict of interest for item *PE1 3-5 Bridge Road, Homebush – Voluntary Planning Agreement* and managed the conflict of interest by remaining in the meeting for discussion and voting on this item. Councillor Maheswaran declared that he owns land within affected area – place of primary residence.

Councillor Maheswaran declared a Non-Pecuniary/Significant conflict of interest for item *PE5 NSW Government Transit Orientated Development Program - Accelerated Precincts – Homebush* and managed the conflict of interest by leaving the meeting for discussion and voting on this item. Councillor Maheswaran declared that he acts for a charity whose Director owns property that may be affected.

Councillor Reddy declared a Non-Pecuniary/Non-Significant conflict of interest for item *CCS13 Strathfield Council Small Grants – Third Quarter 2024* and managed the conflict of interest by leaving the meeting for

discussion and voting on this item. Councillor Reddy declared that she has been invited to an event of one of the small grant applicants.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

5.1 Luna New Year - Councillor Cai

Honourable members of the Council, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge and extend my heartfelt wishes to those celebrating the Lunar New Year. May this auspicious occasion bring prosperity, good health, and joy to all. The cultural significance of this celebration highlights the rich traditions and values that contribute to the diversity within our community. Wishing everyone a happy and fulfilling Lunar New Year. The Lunar New Year is celebrated not only in China but also in many countries around the world. It's a testament to the global nature of the festival and the cultural diversity that enriches our communities. As we acknowledge the Lunar New Year, let us embrace the unity in diversity and appreciate the shared joy that transcends borders during this festive season.

5.2 Acknowledgement of the Celebration of Pongol by Members of the Local Tamil and Indian Sub-continental communities led by Strathfield Australians of Indian Subcontinental Heritage (SAISH) and the Sirivinayak Temple, Homebush West on 21 January 2024- Councillor Datta

I would like to acknowledge the celebration of Pongol by members of the Local Tamil and Indian Subcontinental communities led by Strathfield Australians of Indian Subcontinental Heritage (SAISH) and the Srivinayak Temple, Homebush West on 21 January 2024.

This was the 2nd year of the Pongol Festival in the local community.

Pongol is a harvest festival.

This Harvest festival is also celebrated across Indian subcontinent in different names such as:

- Poush Snakranti in Bengal,
- Lohri – in Punjab and Gujarat,
- Makar Sankranti in UP and Rajasthan / Northern India,
- The local communities celebrated all of these events together and
- In fact this celebration is another manifestation of the traditional Indian –subcontinental value of “Unity in Diversity”.

Strathfield Council was the first Council in NSW/Australia to support the Pongol Festival in 2023 and now for the 2nd time in 2024.

May I also acknowledge that Strathfield Council has been the first Council to support the celebration of

Deepavali in 2013, which now has become one of the largest community events in the calendar of NSW.

These celebrations have been possible for the cooperation between Strathfield Council, SAISH and Srivinyak Temple.

I believe through this support Strathfield Council is directly contributing to the transformation of Strathfield into an increasingly more integrated, harmonious and inclusive community.

I would like to thank the Mayor, all Strathfield Councillors and all Council officers and staff for their kind support of the celebrations.

5.3 Acknowledgement of the Celebration of Sarawati Puja by Members of the Local Bengali Community and Indian Subcontinental Community on 17 February 2024 - Councillor Datta

The local Bengali Community and Indian Sub-continental community celebrated Saraswati Puja at the Strathfield Townhall on 17 February 2024.

Goddess Saraswati is the Hindu goddess of learning.

One of the knowledge that the Hindu community learnt from Goddess Saraswati many thousands of years ago was the interlink between the survival of humanity and the environment.

With the leadership and teachings the followers of Hindu faith created:

- God of Rain,
- God of Fire,
- God of Forest,
- God of Sun,
- God of Wealth,
- God of Creation and
- So on, 33 crores of them many thousands of years.

Today we have summarised this values as our “Sustainable environment”.

I would like to thank the community for organising such a big event attended by many hundreds/if not a thousand of local community members who all were given free food and prasadams.

I would also like to thank the Council officers who helped the community celebrate the event so successfully.

5.4 Acknowledgement of the Celebration of Lunar New Year by the Flemington Chamber of

Commerce - Councillor Datta

I would like to acknowledge the celebration of Lunar New Year by the Flemington Chamber of Commerce at the Flemington shopping precinct as well as in this Town Hall.

The unique nature of this year's celebration was that it was celebrated in collaboration with the representatives of broader communities including representatives of Indian Subcontinental communities, Tamil Communities, Nepalese – Australian communities and various temples of Sydney.

This year was also the first time it was celebrated in Strathfield Town Hall.

Such an inclusive celebration in collaboration with all communities represented a fact that the Lunar New Year celebration is now an Australian celebration not just a celebration of the Asian community any more.

This was a brilliant manifestation multicultural Australia's value of 'Unity in diversity':

- i. Our diversity is manifested in our look, accent, and heritage.
Our Unity is reflected in our belief in Australia's democratic framework, values of equality, social equity and non-discrimination
- ii. Our diversity is reflected in the names of various Gods / Lords we pray to such as Tian and Shangdi / DI / Lord Buddha, Lord Jesus, Lord Rama, Lord Vishnu,
or the diverse languages we pray in such as Cantonese / Chinese/ Sanskrit, English, Tamil , etc.
Our Unity is reflected in the nature of the prayers we say which is always for the wellbeing of our families, friends and communities.
We are united with our prayers because we all suffer from the same dualities of life, e.g birth and death; joy and sorrow, pleasure and pain
- iii. Our diversity is reflected in the professions we chose to bring up our families as honest hardworking such as doctors, lawyers, business operators, IT professionals small business owners etc .
Our unity is reflected in our unwavering commitment to build an increasingly more integrated, prosperous, and harmonious Australia for all Australians as one people – Australians.

I would like to thank the Flemington Chamber of Commerce and its hardworking President Dr David Tang for his leadership of this celebration for the first ever celebration of Lunar New Year in Strathfield Council for his ongoing support for the celebration in Homebush West over the years.

I would also like to thank the Mayor, all Councillors, the Strathfield Council General Manager, officers and the Council for supporting the celebration.

5.5 Acknowledgement of the Celebration of Lantern Festival - ACCA and its President Mr Robin Hu - Councillor Datta

I would like to acknowledge the celebration of Lantern Festival by ACCA and its President Mr Robin Hu. This

Festival is celebrated to honour ancestors.

Australians of all heritage participated with this celebration at the Strathfield Town Centre.

It was another manifestation of all Australians adopting this Lantern Festival as their own. All my previous comments of “Unity in diversity” applies to this celebration as well.

In this year of the dragon, taking inspiration from the benevolent dragon who stopped to help other racing animals cross a river letting them finish ahead of himself. I hope with this celebration, with the blessing of the dragon - we all will learn to become:

- More loving and caring of each other
- More accepting of each other
- More proactive for building an increasingly more integrated, more equal, more prosperous , more multicultural Australia for Australians

I would like to thank the Council and all Councillors who attended the celebration.

5.6 International Women's Day - Councillor Pensabene

On March 8, 2024 lets celebrate. The theme for this year is Inspire Inclusion and as an organisation and representation of our community commit to:

- Advancing Women’s Economic empowerment
- Focusing on recruiting, retaining, and developing female talent
- Supporting Women’s and girls in leadership, decision-making, business, and STEM fields
- Designing infrastructure that meets the specific needs of women and girls.
- Empowering women to make informed decisions about their health.
- Providing access to quality education and training for women and girls.

We welcome the statistics for Strathfield Council: - in our Executive we have 80% female and across our senior leadership team it is 55.% These are extraordinary statistics. Lets hope Strathfield can be an example to other organisations where women are employed and paid equally.

5.7 Acknowledge and Congratulate New Italian Consul General Mr Gianluca Rubagotti - Councillor Hall

I wish to acknowledge the new Italian Consul General, Mr Gianluca Rubagotti. He took up his post of January this year. A very well educated individual with a degree in international law from Brescia University a ,masters degree in environmental law from the University of Milan, and a PHD in international economic law from the University of Milan. He has been a lecturer, working as a teacher in France, Egypt and Ethiopia and his last post was Consul General of Italy in Kolkata, India.

I'd like to congratulate our new Consul General of Italy. We have a reception soon and look forward to meeting Mr Rubagotti.

5.8 Acknowledgement and Apology: Progress of Strathfield Council on Planning Areas – Councillor Maheswaran

I rise to acknowledge the progress that has been made on Council in this term under its new direction after the sizable electoral swing to Labor in the last election. It is a fact that in its previous term this Chamber was dominated by the NSW Liberal Party and the results were dire.

Large swathes of this area were designated for re-development by the previous Liberal State Government under the promise of infrastructure which never eventuated.

Despite the rapid pace of development – Council did not have a special contribution plan to tax this development to provide for social and community infrastructure. Council did not respond by strategically rezoning the area to provide for these needs either. It did not respond by strategically rezoning the area to provide for these needs either. It did not articulate a vision for the Strathfield Town Square – the centre of our community.

Rather – it approved on an ad hoc basis a mismatched and disjointed set of development which has left a great part of this area scarred and underserved for a generation. This damage cannot be undone.

Today – the story is very different. Council is embarking on a strategic exercise in co-ordination with the State Government for a master plan – that is a strategic vision, to provide for housing, jobs and commercial opportunities in the obviously appropriate places nearby to our transport nodes, while protecting our residential communities from over development.

The Strathfield Town Centre Working Group – described as “highly conflicted” by Council’s own review has been binned, and there is a transparent and community focused process being undertaken.

During the previous term of Council, there was no prohibition on informal lobbying. That is, a Councillor could be lobbied by people of influence, including for example former Mayors or local political power brokers, without having to declare that occurred. The dangers of this have been made all too clear.

At my behest, Council now has the most stringent disclosure rules in the state, disclosure rules which other Councils have adopted, and that the Office of Local Government proposes to roll out across the state. We are, for the first time, ahead of the curve.

Compare this to when, in the last term of Council, Council advanced a proposal to rezone swathes of the industrial land in Strathfield South to high density residential development – in a place with very limited transport, under the pretense of widespread public support. In truth, this move was uniformly opposed by the residents of that area.

This discussion may seem ephemeral – and Councillors should stick to promising to repave people’s driveways, but in truth, it is the most long-lasting and impactful decisions Council will make.

All of these changes have come, at some point from my initiative and with the overwhelming support of the people of this area who support the NSW Labor Party and an agenda of reform. There are those that had the opportunity to do something, and did nothing – or worse yet, went along with a broken system.

Done right – we will have vibrant and well-planned communities with opportunity for all. We do not need to look far to see what it looks like when it is done wrong – and when it goes wrong – people's lives are affected in ways we cannot fathom.

I have spoken at length previously about the mental distress and hardship created by Council advancing the entirely inappropriate high density rezoning of the industrial area at Water Street.

But one only needs to turn to Centenary Park residential community to see planning failure. Forget, that this development was approved in a way that has led to an open air garbage pit in the middle of one of our suburbs. Forget that it was built with no ready plan for pedestrian access to nearby stations.

In the middle of this place, built with no concern for public space, there is land that has been chain linked for decades. It looks and feels like an oval, or a football field. But, it is a former waste dump that a residential community has sprung up around. The Sydney Morning Herald has said that it is suspected chemicals could have spread from that dumping ground into the surrounding community and the site is now subject to continual monitoring.

Is this an acceptable risk for some 2,000 residents that live around this former toxic dumping site? I have only one question – whose idea was it to build a residential community around a toxic dump and why didn't anyone stop it? The risk of this happening again is now so utterly low.

I believe it is undeniable that the way that planning is done now in Strathfield Council is strategic, accountable and transparent. This not only benefits residents, but this who wish to do business in this area. That is the job I was elected to do, and that is what I have done.

In implementing these changes and advancing this agenda, my behaviour has been criticised and particularly, I have been informed that a certain person or people may have been made to feel uncomfortable, bullied or intimidated. I am sorry if any such person felt that way. Sincerely sorry.

5.9 Councillor Reddy Joined the Liberal Party of Australia (NSW Division)

I am proud to announce that I have formally joined the Liberal Party of Australia (NSW Division) and hereby am to be considered as a Liberal Councillor on Strathfield Council.

I part ways with Strathfield Independents Party, with all due respect I thank Councillor Blackmore for being a good mentor and a good friend.

I wish to work along with all my fellow Councillors, for the betterment of local residents. PEACE.

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1/24

RESOLVED: (Reddy / Hall)

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 5 December 2023, a copy of which has been furnished to each Councillor, be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting and that the Chairperson and General Manager be authorised to sign such Minutes.

Voting on this item was unanimous

2/24

RESOLVED: (Maheswaran / Datta)

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 15 December 2023, a copy of which has been furnished to each Councillor, be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting and that the Chairperson and General Manager be authorised to sign such Minutes.

Voting on this item was unanimous

7. MAYORAL MINUTE(S) IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL'S CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE

7.1 Mayoral Minute 01-24 - Cost Shifting onto Local Government

3/24

RESOLVED: (Pensabene)

That:

1. Council receive and note the findings of the LGNSW Cost Shifting report for the 2021/2022 financial year;
2. A copy of the cost shifting report be placed on Council's website so that our communities can access it; and
3. Council writes to the Premier, the NSW Treasurer and the NSW Minister for Local Government seeking that they urgently seek to address these costs through a combination of regulatory reform, budgetary provision and appropriate funding.

For the Motion: Councillors Pensabene, Cai, Datta, Hall, Maheswaran and Reddy

Against the Motion: Nil

8. ITEMS BY EXCEPTION

Items by Exception

4/24

RESOLVED: (Hall / Cai)

That in accordance with Section 13 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice the items below be dealt with by exception and that they be adopted as recommended by a single Motion:

- 10.1 Pickleball Court in Strathfield - Councillor Benjamin Cai
- 10.2 Australian Constitution Amendment - Local Government Funding and Council Election - Councillor Raj Datta
- 10.3 Private Certification - Planning and Development - Councillor Raj Datta
- GMU2 Strathfield Business Summit
- CCS1 Tenders Advertised and Awarded November 2023, December 2023 and January 2024
- CCS2 Current Status of Council Resolutions
- CCS3 Councillor Workshop 11 December 2023
- CCS4 Councillor Workshop 6 February 202
- CCS5 Councillor Workshop 13 February 2024
- CCS6 OLG Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit
- CCS7 Adoption of the Graffiti Management Policy
- CCS8 Dissolution of Strathfield Libraries and Museum Trust
- CCS9 Investment Report - November 2023, December 2023 and January 2024
- CCS10 Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRs) - Financial Year 2023/2024 - Quarter 2 (December 2023)
- CCS12 Finance Related Policies
- PE3 Infrastructure Contributions Review
- EO2 Draft Procurement Policy
- 12.1 Report from Traffic Committee Meeting on 19 December 2023
- 12.2 Report from Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting on 14 December 2023
- 12.3 Report from Multicultural and Diversity Advisory Committee Meeting on 7 February 2024
- CCS1 CONFIDENTIAL Update on Potential Property Acquisition

For the Motion: Councillors Pensabene, Cai, Datta, Hall, Maheswaran and Reddy

Against the Motion: Nil

10.1 Pickleball Court in Strathfield – Councillor Benjamin Cai

5/24

RESOLVED ON THE NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR BENJAMIN CAI

Moved by: (Cai / Hall)

That Council consider the inclusion of pickleball court/s in Strathfield Park, as part of the Strathfield Park WestInvest Project.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

**10.2 Australian Constitution Amendment - Local Government Funding and Council Election –
Councillor Raj Datta**

6/24

RESOLVED ON THE NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR RAJ DATTA

Moved by: (Cai / Hall)

That Strathfield Council writes to the Federal Government, with copies to the Federal Member for Reid and State Member for Strathfield; *“That the Federal Government considers appropriate steps including a referendum, to amend the Australian constitution to give the Australian Federal Government the power to fund Local Governments and to enshrine people’s rights to democratically elect their Council”.*

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

10.3 Private Certification - Planning and Development – Councillor Raj Datta

7/24

RESOLVED ON THE NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR RAJ DATTA

Moved by: (Cai / Hall)

1. That Strathfield Council writes to the State Government, asking it to review its policy on private certification of residential developments and stops the practice as private certification has been causing great distress and financial sufferings to many residents across New South Wales.
2. That the Council officers prepare a report for the Strathfield Council proposing better alternatives including the pros and cons of Strathfield Council itself providing and promoting its certification services to local residents and prepare a roadmap for introduction and promotion of its private certification

services to local residents.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

GMU2 Strathfield Business Summit

8/24

RESOLVED: (Cai / Hall)

Council to liaise with the office for the Member for Strathfield, Mr Jason Yat-sen Li's to organise a Small Business Forum on Wednesday 27 March 2024, from 6pm – 8pm, at the Gleeson Auditorium in ACU (Strathfield Campus).

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

CCS1 Tenders Advertised and Awarded November 2023, December 2023 and January 2024

9/24

RESOLVED: (Cai / Hall)

That Council note the tenders awarded in November 2023, December 2023 and January 2024 and currently under assessment.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

CCS2 Current Status of Council Resolutions

10/24

RESOLVED: (Cai / Hall)

That the report on the status of Council resolutions be noted.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

CCS3 Councillor Workshop 11 December 2023

11/24

RESOLVED: (Cai / Hall)

That the report be received and noted.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

CCS4 Councillor Workshop 6 February 2024

12/24

RESOLVED: (Cai / Hall)

That the report be received and noted.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

CCS5 Councillor Workshop 13 February 2024

13/24

RESOLVED: (Cai / Hall)

That the report be received and noted.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

CCS6 OLG Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit

14/24

RESOLVED: (Cai / Hall)

That in relation to the membership of Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC), Council:

1. Approves the transition plan set out in this report to maintain vital knowledge and experience in the ARIC by retaining the long-standing chair until 30 June 2025 noting this will mean Council is non-compliant with the Guidelines.
2. Endorse appointing 2 new independent members to the ARIC to commence 1 July 2024 and the requirement for additional funding of a fourth independent member for up to 12 months.
3. Endorse the plan to achieve compliance with the new Guidelines by 1 July 2025.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

CCS7 Adoption of the Graffiti Management Policy

15/24

RESOLVED: (Cai / Hall)

Council to receive and note the report and adopt the Graffiti Management Policy noting the attached policy excludes the addition of removal of graffiti from private property.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

CCS8 Dissolution of Strathfield Libraries and Museum Trust

16/24

RESOLVED: (Cai / Hall)

1. Council receive and note the report.
2. Council write to the Trustees to thank them for their donations to Strathfield Library and Innovation Hub.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

CCS9 Investment Report - November 2023, December 2023 and January 2024

17/24

RESOLVED: (Cai / Hall)

That the record of cash investments as at 30 November 2023, 31 December 2023 and 31 January 2024 be received and noted.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

CCS10 Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRs) - Financial Year 2023/2024 - Quarter 2 (December 2023)

18/24

RESOLVED: (Cai / Hall)

That the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the quarter ending 31 December 2023 be received and adopted.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

CCS12 Finance Related Policies

19/24

RESOLVED: (Cai / Hall)

That Council adopts the Pricing Policy and the Financial Reserves Policy.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

PE3 Infrastructure Contributions Review

20/24

RESOLVED: (Cai / Hall)

That Council endorse the recommendations contained within this report to:

1. Commence the preparation of an Infrastructure Contributions Scheme based upon Section 7.12 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*,
2. Prepare an infrastructure works schedule to support the contributions scheme,
3. Engage with the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure to seek a contribution rate greater than 1%, and
4. Provide a further briefing at a Councillor Workshop and report to Council seeking endorsement to place a draft infrastructure contributions scheme on public exhibition.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

12.1 Report from Traffic Committee Meeting on 19 December 2023

21/24

RESOLVED: (Cai / Hall)

That the Minutes of the Traffic Committee Meeting held on 19 December 2024 be noted and the recommendations be adopted.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

12.2 Report from Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting on 14 December 2023

22/24

RESOLVED: (Cai / Hall)

That the Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held on 14 December 2023 be noted and the recommendations be adopted.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

12.3 Report from Multicultural and Diversity Advisory Committee Meeting on 7 February 2024

23/24

RESOLVED: (Cai / Hall)

That the Minutes of the Multicultural and Diversity Advisory Committee Meeting held on 7 February 2024 be noted.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

CCS14 CONFIDENTIAL - Update on Potential Property Acquisition

24/24

RESOLVED: (Cai / Hall)

That the Confidential report be received and noted.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

EO2 Draft Procurement Policy

25/24

RESOLVED: (Cai / Hall)

1. That Council place the draft Procurement Policy on public exhibition.
2. That should Council receive negligible feedback, that Council delegate for the General Manager to finalise the Procurement Policy.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

9. PUBLIC FORUM

Nil.

10. MOTIONS PURSUANT TO NOTICE

10.4 Strategies to Increase Tree Canopy Annually in Strathfield – Councillor Matthew Blackmore

26/24

RESOLVED: (Hall / Reddy)

That a report be presented to the June Council Meeting that provides strategies to increase tree canopy annually in the Strathfield Local Government Area from 16.73% (a decrease of 0.15% in 2019) recorded in 2022 by data compiled by ArborCarbon for the State Government.

For the Motion: Councillors Pensabene, Cai, Datta, Hall, Maheswaran and Reddy

Against the Motion: Nil

11. REPORTS TO COUNCIL

GMU1 Delivery Program Progress Report - July to December 2023

27/24

RESOLVED: (Datta / Reddy)

That the Delivery Program Progress Report for 1 July to 30 December 2023 be received and adopted.

For the Motion: Councillors Pensabene, Cai, Datta, Hall, Maheswaran and Reddy

Against the Motion: Nil

GMU3 Sister City Gapyeong Visit 2024 and Proposed Plan for a Strathfield Korean Memorial

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council welcome and provide support for the Sister City visit by Gapeyong County officials in May 2024.
2. That Council endorse the proposal to erect the Strathfield Korean Memorial.
3. That Council prepare a Strathfield Korean Memorial project plan including consultation plan and budget

for presentation at a future Council Meeting.

MOTION: (Datta / Reddy)

1. That Council welcome and provide support for the Sister City visit by Gapeyong County officials in May 2024.
2. That Council endorse a proposal to erect the Strathfield Korean Memorial.
3. That Council prepare a Strathfield Korean Memorial project plan including consultation plan and budget for presentation at a future Councillor Workshop.

28/24

RESOLVED: (Datta / Reddy)

1. That Council welcome and provide support for the Sister City visit by Gapeyong County officials in May 2024.
2. That Council endorse a proposal to erect the Strathfield Korean Memorial.
3. That Council prepare a Strathfield Korean Memorial project plan including consultation plan and budget for presentation at a future Councillor Workshop.

For the Motion: Councillors Pensabene, Cai, Datta, Hall, Maheswaran and Reddy

Against the Motion: Nil

CCS11 Draft Annual Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2023

29/24

RESOLVED: (Cai / Reddy)

That the Mayor Councillor Pensabene, Deputy Mayor Councillor Reddy, General Manager Michael Mamo and Responsible Accounting Officer Rodney Sanjivi sign the Statement by Councillors and Management on the General Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023.

For the Motion: Councillors Pensabene, Cai, Datta, Hall, Maheswaran and Reddy

Against the Motion: Nil

CCS13 Strathfield Council Small Grants - Third Quarter 2024

Councillor Maheswaran declared a Non-Pecuniary/Non-Significant conflict of interest for item *CCS13 Strathfield Council Small Grants – Third Quarter 2024* and managed the conflict of interest by remaining in the meeting for discussion and voting on this item. Councillor Maheswaran declared that he has been invited to events regularly by a small grant recipient.

Councillor Reddy declared a Non-Pecuniary/Non-Significant conflict of interest for item *CCS13 Strathfield Council Small Grants – Third Quarter 2024* and managed the conflict of interest by leaving the meeting for discussion and voting on this item. Councillor Reddy declared that she has been invited to an event by a small grant recipient.

Councillor Reddy left the room, the time being 7:34pm.

30/24

RESOLVED: (Cai / Hall)

1. To award Tamil Seniors \$2,000 as per the Small Grants application for the third quarter round.
2. To award Chitkala Centre \$1,573 as per the Small Grants application for the third quarter round.

For the Motion: Councillors Pensabene, Cai, Datta, Hall and Maheswaran

Against the Motion: Nil

Councillor Reddy returned to the meeting, the time being 7:36pm.

PE1 3-5 Bridge Rd, Homebush - Voluntary Planning Agreement

Councillor Cai declared a Pecuniary/Non-Significant conflict of interest for items *PE1 3-5 Bridge Road, Homebush - Voluntary Planning Agreement* and managed the conflict of interest by leaving the meeting for discussion and voting on this item. Councillor Cai declared that he is a resident in the Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy (PRCUTS) location (exempt as the matter is in relation to a strategic planning item).

Councillor Hall declared a Non-Pecuniary/Significant conflict of interest for items *PE1 3-5 Bridge Road, Homebush – Voluntary Planning Agreement* and managed the conflict of interest by leaving the meeting for discussion and voting on this item. Councillor Hall declared that she has an affiliation with the lessee of property in close proximity to the subject location.

Councillor Maheswaran declared a Non-Pecuniary/Significant conflict of interest for item *PE1 3-5 Bridge Road, Homebush – Voluntary Planning Agreement* and managed the conflict of interest by remaining in the meeting for discussion and voting on this item. Councillor Maheswaran declared that he owns land within affected area – place of primary residence.

Councillor Hall left the meeting, the time being 7:37pm.

Councillor Cai left the meeting, the time being 7:37pm.

31/24

RESOLVED: (Reddy / Datta)

That Council resolve to:

Delegate to the General Manager the authority to execute the Planning Agreement in relation to the dedication of 179m² of land to Council along the northern boundary of 3-5 Bridge Road, Homebush, for the purpose of achieving an extension to Loftus Lane.

For the Motion: Councillors Pensabene, Datta, Maheswaran and Reddy

Against the Motion: Nil

Councillor Cai returned to the meeting, the time being 7:38pm.

PE2 Council Submission: Explanation of Intended Effect (EIE) Low and Mid Rising Housing

Councillor Datta declared a Pecuniary/Non-Significant conflict of interest for item *PE2 Council Submission: Explanation Intended Effect (EIE) Low and Mid Rising Housing* and managed the conflict of interest by remaining in the meeting for discussion and voting on this item. Councillor Datta declared that his residential property may be under the strategic consideration of the item.

Councillor Hall declared a Non-Pecuniary/Significant conflict of interest for items *PE2 Council Submission: Explanation of Intended Effect (EIE) Low and Mid Rising Housing* and managed the conflict of interest by leaving the meeting for discussion and voting on this item. Councillor Hall declared that she has an affiliation with the lessee of property in close proximity to the subject locations.

Councillor Maheswaran declared a Non-Pecuniary/Significant conflict of interest for item *PE1 3-5 Bridge Road, Homebush – Voluntary Planning Agreement* and managed the conflict of interest by leaving the meeting for discussion and voting on this item. Councillor Maheswaran declared that he owns land within affected area – place of primary residence.

Councillor Maheswaran left the meeting, the time being 7:38pm.

32/24

RESOLVED: (Reddy / Pensabene)

1. That Council endorse the Strathfield Council draft submission to the NSW Government Explanation of Intended Effect: Changes to create low and mid-rise housing; and

2. That Council forward the endorsed submission (subject to amendments) to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for consideration.

For the Motion: Councillors Pensabene, Cai, Datta and Reddy

Against the Motion: Nil

Councillor Maheswaran returned to the meeting, the time being 7:46pm

Councillor Hall returned to the meeting, the time being 7:46pm.

PE4 Strathfield Local Planning Panel - Confirmation of Interim Arrangements

Councillor Cai declared a Pecuniary/Non-Significant conflict of interest for item *PE4 Strathfield Local Planning Panel – Confirmation of Interim Arrangements* and managed the conflict of interest by remaining in the meeting for discussion and voting on this item. Councillor Cai declared that he is a resident in the Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy (PRCUTS) location (exempt as the matter is in relation to a strategic planning item).

33/24

RESOLVED: (Datta / Cai)

That Council endorses:

1. The appointment of the following panellists to the Strathfield Local Planning Panel on an interim basis until 30 June 2024:

Expert Panel Members

1. Marcia Doheny (Chair)
2. Linda Gosling
3. Stephen Pearse
4. Jason Perica
5. Jennifer Bautovich
6. Trevor Bly
7. Heather Warton
8. Suesan Francis
9. Lindsay Fletcher
10. Peter Brennan

Community Representatives

11. Ashwin Garg
12. Jennifer Inglis

13. Julie Erskine

2. The dis-continuation of the following panel members and offer thanks via letter for their contribution to the Strathfield Local Planning panel:

Expert Panel Members

1. Jan Murrel
2. Paul Vergotis
3. Sue Hobley
4. David Logan
5. Brian Kirk

Community Representatives

6. Alexander Carrington
7. Geoff Markwell
8. David Starr

3. The commencement of an Expression Of Interest process to select replacement Community Representatives
4. That a further report be returned to the June 2024 Council meeting seeking endorsement of Chair, Alternate Chair, Expert Members and Community Representatives

For the Motion: Councillors Pensabene, Cai, Datta, Hall, Maheswaran and Reddy

Against the Motion: Nil

PE5 NSW Government Transit Orientated Development Program - Accelerated Precincts - Homebush

Councillor Cai declared a Pecuniary/Non-Significant conflict of interest for item *PE5 NSW Government Transit Orientated Development Program - Accelerated Precincts – Homebush* and managed the conflict of interest by remaining in the meeting for discussion and voting on this item. Councillor Cai declared that he is a resident in the Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy (PRCUTS) location (exempt as the matter is in relation to a strategic planning item).

Councillor Hall declared a Non-Pecuniary/Significant conflict of interest for item *PE5 NSW Government Transit Orientated Development Program - Accelerated Precincts – Homebush* and managed the conflict of interest by leaving the meeting for discussion and voting on this item. Councillor Hall declared that she has an affiliation with the lessee of property in close proximity to the subject locations.

Councillor Maheswaran declared a Non-Pecuniary/Significant conflict of interest for item *PE5 NSW*

Government Transit Orientated Development Program - Accelerated Precincts – Homebush and managed the conflict of interest by leaving the meeting for discussion and voting on this item. Councillor Maheswaran declared that he acts for a charity whose Director owns property that may be affected.

Councillor Hall left the meeting, the being 7:49pm

Councillor Maheswaran left the meeting, the time being 7:49pm.

34/24

RESOLVED: (Reddy / Datta)

That Council:

1. Acknowledge the inclusion of Homebush as an Accelerated Precinct with the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Program and that Strathfield Council continue to actively participate in the program.
2. Continues to provide advice and technical assistance to the preparation of the Masterplan with a focus on the following items:
 - a. Achievement of high quality urban design, place making and design excellence
 - b. Creation of new public and open spaces and the enhancement of existing green spaces
 - c. Robust Transport solutions
 - d. Support for positive economic, social and environmental outcomes across the Homebush precinct
 - e. Delivery of affordable housing and infrastructure contributions
3. Continues to advocate for the preparation and adoption by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Industry of a Probity and Governance Plan and Community Engagement Strategy for the project
4. Undertakes to provide further information to the community regarding the Homebush TOD Masterplan process and project in accordance with Probity and Governance Plan and Community Engagement Strategy.
5. Bring further briefings and update reports to Council as the Homebush TOD Masterplan progresses, as permitted by the Probity and Governance Plan.
6. Close prior resolutions 244/22, 35/23 and 321/23 and note that the precinct will now be referred to as the Homebush Transit Oriented Development (TOD) instead of the Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy (PRCUTS).

For the Motion: Councillors Pensabene, Cai, Datta and Reddy

Against the Motion: Nil

Councillor Hall returned to the meeting, the time being 7:51pm.

Councillor Maheswaran returned to the meeting, the time being 7:51pm.

EO1 Draft Vehicle Crossing (Driveway) and Associated Works Policy

35/24

RESOLVED: (Datta / Cai)

1. That Council place the draft Vehicle Crossing (Driveway) and Associated Works Policy on public exhibition.
2. That should Council receive negligible feedback, that Council delegate for the General Manager to finalise the Vehicle Crossing (Driveway) and Associated Works Policy.

For the Motion: Councillors Pensabene, Cai, Datta, Hall, Maheswaran and Reddy

Against the Motion: Nil

Recommittal - Item CCS6 OLG Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit

36/24

RESOLVED: (Datta / Hall)

That item CCS6 OLG Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit be recommitted to be discussed and voted on.

For the Motion: Councillors Pensabene, Cai, Datta, Hall, Maheswaran and Reddy

Against the Motion: Nil

CCS6 OLG Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit

37/24

RESOLVED: (Datta / Hall)

That in relation to the membership of Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC), Council:

1. Approves the transition plan set out in this report to maintain vital knowledge and experience in the ARIC by retaining the long-standing chair until 30 June 2025 noting this will mean Council is non-compliant with the Guidelines.
2. Endorse appointing 2 new independent members to the ARIC to commence 1 July 2024 and the requirement for additional funding of a fourth independent member for up to 12 months.
3. Endorse the plan to achieve compliance with the new Guidelines by 1 July 2025.

For the Motion: Councillors Pensabene, Cai, Datta, Hall, Maheswaran and Reddy

Against the Motion: Nil

12. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Note: Items *12.1 Report on Traffic Committee Meeting on 19 December 2023*, *12.2 Report from Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting on 14 December 2023* and *12.3 Report from Multicultural and Diversity Advisory Committee Meeting on 7 February 2024* were dealt with by exception.

13. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil.

14. MATTERS OF URGENCY

Nil.

15. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Nil.

16. CONCLUSION OF MEETING

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8pm.

The foregoing Minutes were confirmed at the meeting of the Council of the Municipality of Strathfield on 26 March 2024.

Chairperson_____

General Manager_____