

# COUNCIL MEETING

## MINUTES



(Open to the public)

**Monday 1 May 2023**

Council Chamber - 8 Inglesby Road, Camberwell

**Commencement**      **8.35pm**

**Attendance**

Councillor Felicity Sinfield (Mayor)  
Councillor Jim Parke  
Councillor Victor Franco  
Councillor Wes Gault  
Councillor Di Gillies  
Councillor Lisa Hollingsworth (Deputy Mayor)  
Councillor Jane Addis  
Councillor Cynthia Watson  
Councillor Susan Biggar  
Councillor Garry Thompson  
Councillor Nick Stavrou

**Apologies**

**Officers**

Daniel Freer	Director Places and Spaces
Kate McCaughey	Director Community Support
Scott Walker	Director Urban Living
Bryan Wee	Manager Governance and Legal
Christine White	Manager Capital Projects
Andrew McHugh	Manager Health and Wellbeing Services
Kirstin Ritchie	Coordinator Governance
Liam Merrifield	Senior Governance Officer

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## 1 Declaration of conflict of interest of any councillor or council officer

Nil.

## 2 Presentation of officer reports

### 2.1 Temporary Occupation of Former Balwyn Leisure Centre

#### Purpose

This report outlines options to ensure kindergarten services can continue to operate during planned building renewals, including an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of each option.

#### Background

A report on this issue was prepared for the Council meeting of 17 April 2023 and this report is provided in **Attachment 1**. Councillors resolved at the 17 April 2023 Council meeting to lay the question on the table in accordance with Council's Meeting Procedure Local Law (Procedural Motion No. 4) and a revised report (this report) has been prepared which details options to utilise the Balwyn Leisure Centre (BLC) to deliver kindergarten programs while a number of building renewals take place over the next few years.

#### Key Issues

This report outlines four options to ensure programs can be delivered while renewal projects take place at a number of kindergartens and include:

- **Option 1** – Utilise the BLC to deliver kindergarten services prior to demolition in 2029. Option to bring forward to 2028 through a revised foreshadowed kindergarten renewal program.
- **Option 2** – Utilise nearby kindergarten services to absorb capacity while renewals take place.
- **Option 3** – Build a purpose-built temporary facility for kindergarten services to operate during planned building renewals.
- **Option 4** – Utilise BLC to deliver the renewal of two double room kindergartens and demolish the BLC in 2026. Provide a purpose-built temporary facility for Glass Street and Bellevue to operate from during planned building renewals.

Key implications and assessment for each option are outlined below. In summary this report recommends **Option 1** for the following key reasons:

- It is an effective use of resources to utilise a building that already exists and is fit for purpose.
- BLC is a suitable location (close to all services), is maintained as a licenced early years facility, and has good access to parking.

- **Option 2** has significant challenges given a lack of capacity within other nearby licenced facilities and the impact it would have on both the services and community.
- **Option 3** proposes a functional temporary accommodation to be built on an alternate open space location. This option has a high cost and will impact on a significant amount of open space during works.  
There are also challenges with parking at the identified locations. It should be noted that legal advice as to planning permit requirements is currently pending and will be provided to Council as soon as available.
- **Option 4** supports demolition of BLC in 2026, it comes at a high cost (although less than Option 3) to provide functional temporary accommodation for two centres and impacts open space during works. This option also requires the legal advice regarding planning permit requirements as per option 3.

### Next Steps

Following consideration from councillors, officers will continue to liaise with the impacted services and community members as required.

### Procedural Motion - Suspension of Standing Orders

**Moved**            **Councillor Cynthia Watson**

**Seconded**      **Councillor Nick Stavrou**

**That standing orders be suspended.**

**CARRIED**

*Standing orders were suspended at 8:53pm.*

### Procedural Motion - Resumption of Standing Orders

**Moved**            **Councillor Jim Parke**

**Seconded**      **Councillor Nick Stavrou**

**That standing orders be resumed.**

**CARRIED**

*Standing orders were resumed at 9:32pm.*

**Procedural Motion - The Closure**

**Moved**            **Councillor Jim Parke**

**Seconded**      **Councillor Felicity Sinfield**

**That the motion be now put.**

**CARRIED**

**MOTION**

**Moved**            **Councillor Cynthia Watson**

**Seconded**      **Councillor Susan Biggar**

**That Council resolve to:**

- 1. Continue to utilise the Balwyn Leisure Centre to temporarily accommodate community-based early years services during building renewal works until the end of 2025/26 financial year (30 June 2026).**
- 2. Note a report will be presented to Council in late 2023 regarding arrangements to accommodate kindergartens scheduled for planned building renewals.**

**The Council meeting concluded at 9:37pm**

**Confirmed**

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**Chairperson**

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**Date**

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