



UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

**Council Chambers
24-26 Richmond Street Nyabing**

Wednesday 18 March 2026

Commencement: 6:00pm

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

18 March 2026

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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Presiding Member, **Cr Kate Johnston**, declared the Ordinary Council Meeting of 18 March 2026 open at 6:05pm.

2. ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE**Elected Members Present**

Cr Kate Johnston	President
Cr Scott Crosby	Deputy President
Cr Suma Reid	Councillor
Cr Greg Hobley	Councillor
Cr Darren Gray	Councillor
Cr Tim Borgward	Councillor

Staff Members Present

Christie Smith	Chief Executive Officer
David Bentley	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Gary Mathewson	Manager Infrastructure

Apologies

Nil.

Leave of Absence

Nil.

3. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil.

5. APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil.

6. CONFIRMATION AND RECEIVING OF MINUTES / BUSINESS ARISING**6.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 11 February 2026****OFFICER RECOMMENDATION / COUNCIL DECISION (OCM2526/058)**

Moved Cr Crosby / Seconded Cr Gray

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of the Shire of Kent held in the Nyabing Council Chambers on Wednesday 11 February 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

CARRIED 6/0

For: Cr Johnston, Cr Crosby, Cr Reid, Cr Hobley, Cr Gray, Cr Borgward

Against: Nil

6.2 Outstanding Council Resolutions March 2026

The Outstanding Council Resolutions Register for March 2026 is provided as **Attachment 6.2** for information.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDING MEMBER WITHOUT DISCUSSION

Nil.

8. PETITIONS / DEPUTATIONS / PRESENTATIONS / SUBMISSIONS

Nil.

9. OFFICER REPORTS

9.1 2025/2026 Budget Review

Author:	Jenni Dolan, Finance Coordinator
Location:	N/A
File No:	FIN.269
Voting Requirements:	Absolute Majority - 4 Elected Members required to vote in favour
Attachments:	9.1 Attachment 1 – Budget Review Report 28 February 2026 9.1 Attachment 2 – Budget Review Overview 28 February 2026

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION / COUNCIL DECISION (OCM2526/059)

Moved Cr Hobley / Seconded Cr Borgward

That Council

- 1. adopt the 2025/2026 mid-year budget review as attached in Attachment 1; and**
- 2. adopt the following budget amendments to the 2025/2026 adopted annual budget.**

CARRIED BY AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 6/0

For: Cr Johnston, Cr Crosby, Cr Reid, Cr Hobley, Cr Gray, Cr Borgward

Against: Nil

Purpose

To consider the Shire of Kent's financial position as at 28 February 2026 and performance for the period 1 July 2025 to 28 February 2026 in relation to the adopted annual budget and estimated revenue and expenditure for the remainder of the financial year.

Background

The budget review has been prepared to include information required by the *Local Government Act (1995)*, *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* and the Australian Accounting Standards. The Budget Review Report for the period 1 July 2024 to 28 February 2025 (Attachment 1) has been prepared incorporating year-to-date budget variations and forecasts to 30 June 2025 and is presented for council's consideration.

Consideration of the status of various projects and programs was undertaken to ensure any anticipated variance were captured within the review document where possible. The material variance levels which have been reported for the budget review, are based upon management judgement where explanations are considered appropriate.

Comment

The Budget Review Report (Attachment 1) includes at Note 4, a summary of predicted variances contained within the Statement of Financial Activity, which is supported by a more detailed outline in the Overview (Attachment 2).

In considering the variances and projections within the attached Budget Review Report, the closing position is the same as previously budgeted with a nil surplus/deficit, being

a balanced budget. There is a decrease in the brought forward balance of \$34,951 representing the audited opening surplus; this is due to estimating the brought forward figure at the time of budget preparation.

Following completion of the budget review and to properly consider the impact of estimated projections at 30 June 2025, some items have been identified as requiring a budget amendment to properly account for these variances where appropriate. Required budget amendments have been presented as a separate recommendation to the budget review (listed below) and are included in Note 5 of the attached Budget Review Report, for council consideration.

Description	Classification	Increase in Available Cash	Decrease in Available Cash
		\$	\$
Budget Adoption	Opening Surplus (Deficit)		(34,951)
Rates Ex Gratia	Operating Revenue	14,771	
Grants - General Purpose (FAG)	Operating Revenue	21,312	
Grants - Untied Roads (FAG)	Operating Revenue	33,666	
Grants - Federal	Operating Revenue		(1,100,000)
LGGS Operational Grant	Operating Revenue		(16,000)
LGGS Operational Grant	Operating Revenue	9,845	
Other Emergency Mgmt Funding	Operating Revenue	7,678	
Other Emergency Mgmt Funding	Operating Revenue	12,390	
ESL Remitted	Operating Expenses		(4,951)
Other Welfare donations	Operating Revenue		(12,000)
Other Welfare donations	Operating Expenses	12,000	
26 Aspendale St - Contract	Operating Expenses	33,000	
28 Aspendale St - Contract	Operating Expenses	32,000	
Other housing	Operating Revenue	3,182	
Profit on sale of housing	Operating Revenue		(202,865)
Loss on sale of asset	Operating Expenses		(104,434)
Capital Housing Upgrades	Capital Expense		(40,000)
RSL Hall	Operating Expenses	15,000	
Direct Grant	Operating Revenue	25,490	
Road Maintenance - contract services	Operating Expenses		(155,414)
Kerbing & Drainage - contract services	Operating Expenses		(50,650)
Proceeds from Sale of Asset	Operating Revenue		(131,670)
Realisation of Assets	Operating Expenses	131,670	
Profit on the Sale of Plant	Operating Revenue		(44,899)
Loss on the Sale of Plant	Operating Expenses		(34,335)
Pingrup Caravan Park - CBH units	Operating Revenue	10,000	
Standpipe Income	Operating Revenue	10,000	
Plant Hire & Material Sales	Operating Revenue		(15,000)
Public Works Overheads - no GST	Operating Revenue	30,000	
Public Works Overheads - WC	Operating Expenses	10,000	
Plant Operation - salaries & wages	Operating Expenses	50,000	
Plant Operation - fuel	Operating Expenses		(80,000)
Plant Operation - repairs & maintenance	Operating Expenses	100,000	
Plant Operation - contract	Operating Expenses		(50,000)
Worker's Compensation	Operating Expenses		(30,000)
Pingrup Pavilion capital upgrades	Capital Expense	30,000	
Nyabing Pavilion capital upgrades	Capital Expense	1,400,000	
Transfer from Land & Building Reserve	Capital Revenue		(300,000)
Purchase Plant & Equipment	Capital Expense	10,000	
Purchase Plant & Equipment	Capital Expense	100,000	
Purchase Plant & Equipment	Capital Expense	30,000	
Purchase Plant & Equipment	Capital Expense		(20,000)
Purchase Plant & Equipment	Capital Expense		(4,000)
Purchase Plant & Equipment	Capital Expense		(5,000)
Purchase Plant & Equipment	Capital Expense	75,000	
Purchase Plant & Equipment	Capital Expense		(2,476)
Purchase Plant & Equipment	Capital Expense	60,000	
Transfer from Plant Reserve	Capital Revenue	16,300	
Solar Pump replacement	Capital Expense	6,000	
Transfer to Land and Building Reserve	Capital Expense		(15,000)
Transfer to Land and Building Reserve	Capital Expense		(25,000)
Transfer to Admin Vehicle Reserve	Capital Expense		(69,998)
Transfer from Admin Vehicle Reserve	Capital Revenue		(15,524)
Change is asset revaluation surplus	Non-Cash Item	20,000	
Loss on Asset disposal	Non-Cash Item	386,533	
Proceeds from sale of asset	Non-Cash Item		(131,670)

Statutory Implications

Regulation 33A of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* requires:

- (1) Between 1 January and the last day of February in each financial year a local government is to carry out a review of its annual budget for that year.
- (2A) The review of an annual budget for a financial year must —
 - a) consider the local government’s financial performance in the period beginning on 1 July and ending no earlier than 31 December in that financial year; and
 - b) consider the local government’s financial position as at the date of the review; and
 - c) review the outcomes for the end of that financial year that are forecast in the budget; and
 - d) include the following —
 - i. the annual budget adopted by the local government;
 - ii. an update of each of the estimates included in the annual budget;
 - iii. the actual amounts of expenditure, revenue and income as at the date of the review;
 - iv. adjacent to each item in the annual budget adopted by the local government that states an amount, the estimated end of year amount for the item.
- (2) The review of an annual budget for a financial year must be submitted to the council on or before 31 March in that financial year.
- (3) A council is to consider a review submitted to it and is to determine* whether or not to adopt the review, any parts of the review or any recommendations made in the review.
*Absolute Majority required.
- (4) Within 14 days after a council has made a determination, a copy of the review and determination is to be provided to the Department.

Section 6.7(1) (b) of the Local Government Act 1995 provides that expenditure can be incurred when not included in the annual budget provided it is authorised in advance by resolution (absolute majority required).

Policy Implications

Policy 3.1 Accounting Policies

Objective: To provide the basis for Council’s accounting concepts and reporting guidelines.
To maintain accounting reporting procedures which comply with Statutory Requirements and to demonstrate Council’s financial position.

Financial Implications

Authorisation of expenditure through budget amendments recommended. Other specific financial implications are as outlined in the body of this report.

Strategic Implications

Community Strategic Plan 2023 - 2033

Civic Leadership Strategic Priorities – Proactive and well governed Shire

The budget review has been developed having regard for the Shire’s integrated planning and reporting documents adopted by council.

Risk Implications

Nil.

9.2 Amalgamation of Reserve Boundaries – Nyabing Sports Precinct

Author:	David Bentley, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Location:	N/A
File No:	
Voting Requirements:	Simple Majority - More than half of Elected Members present required to vote in favour
Attachments:	None

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION / COUNCIL DECISION (OCM2526/060)

Moved Cr Reid / Seconded Cr Hobley

That Council accepts the proposal provided by the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage to amalgamate Reserves 20892, 17930 and 20893 into one reserve, with the purpose of Recreation, Caravan Park, Camping and Associated Accommodation with the power to lease under a management order.

CARRIED 6/0

For: Cr Johnston, Cr Crosby, Cr Reid, Cr Hobley, Cr Gray, Cr Borgward

Against: Nil

Purpose

Council is requested to consider amalgamating the reserves at the Nyabing Sports Precinct following a query that was raised with the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage.

Background

At its meeting on 16 December 2020, Council resolved as follows:

That Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:

- 1. Apply to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, to request that Reserves 20893, 17930 and 20892, Nyabing Town Lots 51, 56, 57 and 98 to be modified in the following manner:***
 - (c) The reserve purpose be amended to “Recreation, Caravan Park, Camping and Associated Accommodation”.***
 - (d) That the management orders be varied to grant the Shire the power to lease or licence, subject to the consent of the Minister for Lands.***
- 2. Execute any document and apply the Common Seal as needed.***

There was no effective action undertaken to progress this Council resolution. In February 2026, the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage queried whether the Shire was still wanting to action this request.

Comment

In response to the request as provided above, the Deputy Chief Executive Officer wrote to the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage that the Shire wished to action this request and queried whether the reserve boundaries could be amalgamated.

The Department of Planning Lands and Heritage provided a response to the effect of that the request would make sense given building encroachments over reserve boundaries and the fact that the facilities are part of the same precinct.

The current reserve boundaries are provided below:



This proposal only seeks Council's approval to amalgamate the reserve boundaries. Council has already given its approval to enact the change of reserve purpose and seek the power to lease through the management order.

Statutory Implications

Land Administration Act 1997

Policy Implications

Policy 3.1 Accounting Policies

Objective: To provide the basis for Council's accounting concepts and reporting guidelines.

To maintain accounting reporting procedures which comply with Statutory Requirements and to demonstrate Council's financial position.

Financial Implications

Ongoing management of Council funds.

Strategic Implications

Community Strategic Plan 2023 - 2033

Community Strategic Priorities – Well maintained community spaces and infrastructure.

Risk Implications

There are no risk implications to this report. Adopting the officer recommendation may make any redevelopment of the Nyabing Sports Precinct easier with no reserve boundaries or conflicting reserve purposes hindering possible development.

9.3 Policy 4.1.4 – Camping Other Than at a Caravan Park or Camping Ground

Author:	Christie Smith, Chief Executive Officer
Location:	N/A
File No:	GOV.454
Voting Requirements:	Absolute Majority - 4 Elected Members required to vote in favour
Attachments:	9.3 Attachment 1 – Camping Other Than at a Caravan Park or Camping Ground Policy

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION / COUNCIL DECISION (OCM2526/061)

Moved Cr Crosby / Seconded Cr Borgward

That Council

1. adopts the Policy 4.1.4 – Camping Other Than at a Caravan Park or Camping Ground as presented at Attachment 1; and
2. in accordance with section 6.16 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, sets a fee of \$200 to make an application under this Policy to commence from 6 April 2026.

CARRIED BY AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 6/0

For: Cr Johnston, Cr Crosby, Cr Reid, Cr Hobley, Cr Gray, Cr Borgward

Against: Nil

Purpose

To present the Camping Other Than at a Caravan Park or Camping Ground Policy to Council for consideration and adoption.

Background

Section 11 of the *Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Regulations 1997* provides that a person must not camp on land other than a licensed caravan park or camping ground without the approval of the local government.

Currently, the Shire does not have a formal policy framework guiding the assessment and approval of these requests. As a result, applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis which may create inconsistency and uncertainty for both applicants and administration.

The proposed policy has therefore been developed to provide:

- a clear and consistent assessment framework
- guidance for applicants
- protection of public health, safety and amenity
- compliance with relevant legislation.

Comment

The Camping Other Than at a Caravan Park or Camping Ground Policy establishes a structured process for the assessment and approval of applications made under Regulation 11 of the *Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Regulations 1997*.

The policy outlines:

- when approval is required
- the assessment criteria used by the Shire
- application requirements
- potential conditions of approval
- compliance expectations.

The policy also includes an Application Form to support consistent administration of requests.

The intent of the policy is not to prohibit temporary camping but rather to ensure requests are managed appropriately, particularly in relation to:

- public health considerations
- wastewater and sanitation
- bushfire risk
- environmental impacts
- impacts on neighbouring properties.

This policy will provide clarity for both the community and administration when considering requests for camping outside licensed caravan parks or camping grounds.

Statutory Implications

Relevant legislation includes:

- *Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Regulations 1997*
- *Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911*
- *Planning and Development Act 2005*
- *Building Act 2011*
- The Shire's Local Planning Scheme

Policy Implications

Adoption of the policy will establish a clear framework for assessing requests for camping outside licensed caravan parks or camping grounds.

Financial Implications

A fee is proposed to be charged pursuant to section 6.16(1) of the *Local Government Act 1995* to partially recover costs of administration time in recording an application, assessment and any necessary referrals or on site assessments to aid in the assessment of any application for temporary accommodation and the issuing of a permit with enforceable conditions.

Local public notice will be given for the imposition of a new fee in accordance with section 6.19 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Strategic Implications

The policy supports responsible land use management and assists the Shire in ensuring community safety and regulatory compliance.

Risk Implications

The adoption of the policy will assist in mitigating governance, public health and compliance risks by providing a clear and consistent framework for assessing requests for camping outside licensed caravan parks or camping grounds.

Without a policy framework, there is a risk of inconsistent decision-making and potential non-compliance with legislative requirements.

9.4 Review of Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates

Author:	David Bentley, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Location:	N/A
File No:	
Voting Requirements:	Absolute Majority - 4 Elected Members required to vote in favour
Attachments:	9.4 Attachment 1 – Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates 2026 9.4 Attachment 2 – Tracked Changes Code of Conduct

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION / COUNCIL DECISION (OCM2526/062)

Moved Cr Borgward / Seconded Cr Hobley

That Council adopt the updated Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates as provided at Attachment 1.

CARRIED BY AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 6/0

For: Cr Johnston, Cr Crosby, Cr Reid, Cr Hobley, Cr Gray, Cr Borgward

Against: Nil

Purpose

Council is required to update the Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates due to the introduction of new complaints handling processes and the commencement of powers of the Local Government Inspector.

Background

In 2021, all local governments in Western Australia were required to adopt a new Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates following a reform process.

Further reforms brought about the introduction of the *Local Government Amendment Act 2024* which, among other things, established the office of the Local Government Inspector. With the commencement of these provisions, complaints under Division 4 of the Code of Conduct are now dealt with by the Inspector rather than the Local Government Standards Panel, which will be disbanded once the last of pre 2026 complaints have been dealt with.

To effect changes to the management of these complaints, the State Government has mandated changes to the Code of Conduct that all local governments must adopt.

Comment

The main changes to the Code of Conduct are as follows:

- A requirement to refer a complaint to the Inspector when, on at least two previous occasions, the person subject to a complaint has been found to have committed a behavioural breach under the Code of Conduct.

- The Inspector can appoint a monitor for the local government to assist with matters raised in a complaint.
- Ensuring that decision making in relation to Division 3 (behavioural) complaints are undertaken by the Council, or if the Council chooses, a committee comprising only councillors, or a person who is not a council member or employee of any local government, employee of WALGA or LG Professionals or a member of the governing body or employee of a body corporate of which is, wholly or partly, advocating or otherwise acting for or on behalf of local government, members of council or employees of local government.

The changes do not affect anything at the Shire of Kent as there has not been a breach complaint under Division 3 or Division 4 of the Code of Conduct since it was adopted in 2021.

Statutory Implications

The Shire of Kent is required to review its Code of Conduct as the Model Code of Conduct as prescribed in the *Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021* have changed. Section 5.104 of the *Local Government Act 1995* provides:

5.104 Adoption of model code of conduct

- (2) Within 3 months after the day on which regulations amending the model code of conduct come into operation, the local government must amend* the adopted code of conduct to incorporate the amendments made to the model code.

* *Absolute majority required.*

Policy Implications

There are no policy implications applicable to this report.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications to this report.

Strategic Implications

Community Strategic Plan 2023 - 2033

Civic Leadership Strategic Priorities – Proactive and well governed Shire

Risk Implications

The Shire of Kent must adopt the code of conduct as recommended, or it risks non-compliance with section 5.104 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

9.5 Consultation on Electoral Reform Discussion Paper

Author:	Christie Smith, Chief Executive Officer
Location:	N/A
File No:	GOV.481
Voting Requirements:	Simple Majority - More than half of Elected Members present required to vote in favour
Attachments:	9.5 Attachment 1 – WALGA Draft – Discussion Paper – Electoral Reform

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION / COUNCIL DECISION (OCM2526/063)

Moved Cr Gray / Seconded Cr Reid

That Council:

- 1. Supports the continuation of the current biennial election cycle and voluntary voting system, for local government elections in Western Australia, recognising that these arrangements provide stability, continuity of governance, and a cost-effective model for small regional local governments.**
- 2. Opposes the proposed introduction of four-yearly full spill elections, noting the potential loss of corporate knowledge, increased governance risk, and disruption to long-term strategic planning that may arise from the complete turnover of elected members.**
- 3. Opposes the introduction of compulsory voting for local government elections, acknowledging the disproportionate administrative burden this would place on small rural local governments and the limited benefit it is likely to deliver in communities with relatively small elector bases.**
- 4. Requests that the State Government retain the current electoral arrangements for local government elections, particularly for small regional councils, to ensure governance stability and minimise additional regulatory and administrative burden.**

CARRIED 6/0

For: Cr Johnston, Cr Crosby, Cr Reid, Cr Hobley, Cr Gray, Cr Borgward

Against: Nil

Purpose

The purpose of this item is to request Council-endorsed feedback to inform WALGA's advocacy on Local Government electoral reforms expected to be proposed by the State Government, specifically on full spill elections every 4 years; and compulsory voting at Local Government elections.

Background

Council previously provided detailed commentary on Local Government reforms in December 2021. At the time it was noted that the local government sector's advocacy against compulsory voting and "All in All out" 4-year terms had been successful, and these items were not included in the State Government's reform proposals.

In June 2025, Hon Hannah Beazley MLA, Minister for Local Government, expressed support for a four-year election cycle, citing concerns about voter fatigue and the rising costs of conducting biennial elections. These messages were repeated in Minister Beazley's address at WALGA's 2025 Local Government Convention, which also raised the possibility of compulsory voting. These comments have prompted renewed interest and discussion across the sector.

WALGA has contacted both the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulations and Safety (LGIRS) and the Minister's office seeking details of any consultation on these matters, but no further information has been provided.

Comment

WALGA is seeking to obtain sector feedback that will ensure WALGA's positions reflect the sector's current views and enable timely, well-informed and effective engagement with the anticipated State Government reform proposals. Corporate of which is, wholly or partly, advocating or otherwise acting for or on behalf of local government, members of council or employees of local government.

Council endorsed responses to the Discussion Paper – Electoral Reform are due to be forwarded to WALGA by 27 March 2026. This feedback will inform an item to be presented to State Council.

The Shire of Kent considers the current biennial election cycle and voluntary voting system, to be the most effective and cost-efficient approach for small regional local governments. It is therefore recommended that Council formally oppose the proposed changes to introduce four-yearly full council elections and compulsory voting.

Election Frequency – Proposed full spill every 4 years

The Shire of Kent is opposed for the following reasons:

Loss of continuity and corporate knowledge: Staggered elections ensure experienced Councillors remain in office to provide stability and maintain institutional knowledge. A four-year full spill creates a risk of complete Council turnover, which may disrupt governance and long-term strategic projects.

Greater governance risk in small communities: In small rural electorates, elections can be influenced by single local issues or personalities. A full spill election increases the likelihood of sudden and significant changes to Council composition, potentially destabilising decision-making and long-term planning.

Reduced opportunities for community accountability: The current biennial election cycle provides electors with more regular opportunities to influence representation. Moving to four-yearly full spills reduces the frequency of democratic engagement and accountability.

Voting – Proposed compulsory

The Shire of Kent is opposed for the following reasons:

Administrative and enforcement burden: Introducing compulsory voting would create additional administrative requirements for local governments, including managing non-voter notices, exemptions, and follow-up compliance processes. For small rural shires with limited staff and resources, this would create a disproportionate administrative burden.

Risk of disengaged or uninformed voting: Voluntary voting encourages participation from electors who have a genuine interest in local governance. Compulsory voting may result in individuals casting votes without sufficient understanding of candidates or local issues, potentially reducing the overall quality of electoral outcomes.

Cost implications: Implementing compulsory voting would likely increase the costs associated with conducting local government elections, including compliance administration and processing of non-voter notices, which may not represent a cost-effective outcome for small regional councils.

Statutory Implications

Local Government Act 1995

Local Government (Elections) Regulations 1997

Policy Implications

There are no policy implications applicable to this report.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications to this report, however, the introduction of compulsory voting may result in additional administrative and compliance obligations for local governments.

Strategic Implications

Community Strategic Plan 2023 - 2033

Civic Leadership Strategic Priorities – Proactive and well governed Shire

Risk Implications

The proposed introduction of four-yearly full spill elections presents a governance risk for small regional local governments, as it increases the likelihood of complete turnover of elected members in a single election cycle. This may result in a loss of corporate knowledge and reduced continuity in strategic decision-making.

There is also a potential governance risk associated with the introduction of compulsory voting, particularly if it results in increased administrative complexity for small local governments with limited capacity. Ensuring appropriate systems and processes are in place to manage any additional compliance requirements would be necessary to mitigate these risks.

9.6 Amendment to Great Southern VROC Executive Officer Funding Contribution

Author:	Christie Smith, Chief Executive Officer
Location:	N/A
File No:	GOV.454
Voting Requirements:	Simple Majority - More than half of Elected Members present required to vote in favour
Attachments:	Nil

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION / COUNCIL DECISION (OCM2526/064)

Moved Cr Crosby / Seconded Cr Hobley

That Council approve an amended funding allowance range for the 2026/2027 financial year of a minimum of \$4,020 and a maximum of \$7,631, to enable the CEO to negotiate a final funding model with the participating GSVROC member councils.

CARRIED 5/1

For: Cr Johnston, Cr Crosby, Cr Hobley, Cr Gray, Cr Borgward
Against: Cr Reid

Purpose

To seek Council endorsement of a revised funding range for the 2026/27 financial year for Great Southern Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (GS VROC) Executive Officer position, following the withdrawal of one member council from the GS VROC.

Background

An item was presented to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held 11 February 2026, seeking Council's position on the future for the Great Southern Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (GSVROC) Executive Officer role beyond the current drought resilience funding period, and to consider endorsement of a funding range for the 2026/27 financial year to enable the CEO to participate in discussions for an agreed funding model for the position with the GSVROC member councils.

The following was a resolution of Council:

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION / COUNCIL DECISION (OCM2526/057)

Moved Cr Crosby / Seconded Cr Hobley

That Council:

- 1. Endorse in principle the continuation of the Great Southern VROC Executive Officer position beyond May 2026;**
- 2. Approve a funding allowance range for the 2026/2027 financial year of a minimum of \$3,308.87, and maximum of \$6,676.82, to enable the CEO to negotiate a final funding model with the GSVROC member Councils; and**
- 3. Note that funding for any additional GSVROC project work will continue to be considered by Council on a project-by-project basis.**

CARRIED 6/0

For: Cr Johnston, Cr Crosby, Cr Reid, Cr Hobley, Cr Gray, Cr Borgward
Against: Nil

Comment

Since the preparation of the original report, the Shire of Plantagenet has advised that they will be withdrawing from the GS VROC effective from 1 July 2026 and will not be financially contributing to the employment of an Executive Officer. This has resulted in revised contribution estimates for the remaining councils.

Based on the updated modelling, the Shire of Kent's potential contribution for the 2026/27 financial year would now fall within the following range:

- **Minimum contribution:** \$4,020
- **Maximum contribution:** \$7,631

Consistent with previous GSVROC arrangements, funding for any additional regional project work would continue to be considered by Council on a project-by-project basis.

Statutory Implications

Nil specific statutory implications. Participation in the GSVROC and associated funding arrangements are consistent with Council's general powers under the *Local Government Act 1995* to collaborate with other local governments for regional benefit.

Policy Implications

This decision aligns with Council's existing commitment to regional collaboration through the GSVROC Memorandum of Understanding (2025–2029).

Financial Implications

Provision will need to be made in the Shire's 2026/27 budget for a contribution toward the GSVROC Executive Officer position of between \$4,020 and \$7,631, depending on the final agreed funding model.

Any additional GSVROC project contributions would be subject to separate Council consideration.

Strategic Implications

Support for the Executive Officer role aligns with the Shire's strategic objectives relating to:

- Regional collaboration and advocacy
- Strengthened partnerships with neighbouring local governments
- Improved access to grants and regional funding opportunities

Maintaining the position supports continuity of regional initiatives that benefit the Shire and its community.

Risk Implications

Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Mitigation
Loss of Executive Officer position	Medium	High	Endorse funding range to allow continuation
Disruption to GSVROC operations	Medium	Medium	Early decision on funding approach
Budget uncertainty	Low	Medium	Cap set through maximum allowance
Inequitable funding model	Medium	Medium	CEO to negotiate fair regional outcome

9.7 Monthly Financial Report to 28 February 2026

Author:	Jenni Dolan, Finance Coordinator
Location:	N/A
File No:	FIN.283
Voting Requirements:	Simple Majority - More than half of Elected Members present required to vote in favour
Attachments:	9.7 Attachment 1 – Monthly Financial Report to 28 February 2026 9.7 Attachment 2 – Capital Expenditure Snapshot

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION / COUNCIL DECISION (OCM2526/065)

Moved Cr Hobley / Seconded Cr Gray

That Council receive the Monthly Financial Reports to 28 February 2026 as presented at Attachment 1.

CARRIED 6/0

For: Cr Johnston, Cr Crosby, Cr Reid, Cr Hobley, Cr Gray, Cr Borgward

Against: Nil

Purpose

In accordance with the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, to follow is the presentation of the Monthly Financial Reports to Council.

Background

Monthly Financial Reports are to be presented to Council and are to be received by Council resolution.

Comment

The Monthly Financial Reports as presented indicate that Council continues to be in a sound financial position

Overview

Presented to Council is the February monthly report stating the financial position of the Shire with 75% of the year completed. Noted in the Statement of Financial Activity is a current surplus of \$4,021,945. Reflected in the report is the operating revenue, which sits below the year-to-date (YTD) budget estimate by 5.16%, and accounts for 82.4% of the adopted full-year budget estimate. Operating expenditure sits below the YTD budget estimate by 13.58%, and accounts for 47.1% of the adopted full-year budget estimate.

Budget Review

Included in this meeting of Council is the 2025/26 Budget Review. A detailed review of the budget has been undertaken over the last month and will be presented as a separate agenda item for approval.

Capital expenditure

February has seen several of our road projects close and the final funding claims for the respective Regional Road Group submitted. Plant purchases are almost complete and

the final few plant assets will be up for auction in the coming month. The Capital Expenditure Snapshot (Attachment 2) provides an overview of the capital works to date.

Next month

March will see us welcome representatives of LG Corporate Solutions on site to continue work on the Long-Term Financial Plan which is anticipated to be finalised this financial year. Finance staff will turn their focus to the preparation of data and modelling in readiness for the 2026/27 budget cycle. In addition, audit preparation will commence in consultation with Lincolns Accounting.

Note 3 of the Financial Report provides a full listing and explanation of all items considered of significant variance.

Statutory Implications

Local Government Act 1995 – Section 6.4

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 – Clause 34 and 35

Policy Implications

Policy 3.1 Accounting Policies

Objective: To provide the basis for Council’s accounting concepts and reporting guidelines.

To maintain accounting reporting procedures which comply with Statutory Requirements and to demonstrate Council’s financial position.

Financial Implications

Ongoing management of Council funds.

Strategic Implications

Community Strategic Plan 2023 - 2033

Civic Leadership Strategic Priorities – Proactive and well governed Shire

Risk Implications

Nil.

9.8 Schedule of Accounts Paid to 28 February 2026

Author:	Jenni Dolan, Finance Coordinator
Location:	N/A
File No:	FIN.279
Voting Requirements:	Simple Majority - More than half of Elected Members present required to vote in favour
Attachments:	9.8 Attachment 1 – Schedule of Accounts Paid, Including Corporate and Fuel Cards for February 2026

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION / COUNCIL DECISION (OCM2526/066)

Moved Cr Reid/ Seconded Cr Hobley

That Council endorse the payments from the Municipal Fund and Trust Fund for the period ending 28 February 2026.

Municipal Fund (Fee)	\$	19,036.30
Municipal Fund (EFT)	\$	304,344.08
Municipal Fund (Cheque)	\$	0.00
Municipal Fund (Direct Debits)	\$	26,864.97
Trust Fund	\$	0.00
TOTAL	\$	350,245.35

CARRIED 6/0

For: Cr Johnston, Cr Crosby, Cr Reid, Cr Hobley, Cr Gray, Cr Borgward
Against: Nil

Purpose

Council endorsement of payment to Creditors under CEO Delegated Authority 2.1.2.

Background

Details payments made to creditors since last Council Meeting.

Comment

The Schedule of Accounts Reports as presented, indicate that Council continues to be in a sound financial position.

Regulation 13 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* states that only the following information is to be reported to Council and form part of the public minutes:

- a) the payee's name;
- b) the amount of the payment;
- c) the date of the payment; and
- d) sufficient information that identifies the payment.

Statutory Implications

Local Government Act 1995 – Section 6.4

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 – Part 2 – Regulation 11, 12 and 13.

Policy Implications

Policy 3.1 Accounting Policies

Objective: To provide the basis for Council's accounting concepts and reporting guidelines.

To maintain accounting reporting procedures which comply with Statutory Requirements and to demonstrate Council's financial position.

Financial Implications

Ongoing management of Council funds.

Strategic Implications

Community Strategic Plan 2023 - 2033

Civic Leadership Strategic Priorities – Proactive and well governed Shire

Risk Implications

Nil.

10. ELECTED MEMBERS' MOTION OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil.

11. NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE AGREED TO BY A RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL

Nil.

12. MATTERS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Nil.

13. MEETING CLOSED

The Presiding Member, **Cr Kate Johnston**, closed the meeting at 6:15pm.