

Alt Childcare motion Wednesday 2 March

Moved Crs Martin/Baxter

That Council:

1. Notes that in relation to each proposed sale a community engagement process in accordance with Section 114(2)(b) of the Act, has commenced, including ongoing dialogue and information sharing with the Committees of Management of the relevant Childcare Centres to identify any alternative viable options to sale and requests the CEO to expedite the report on the engagement and feedback received on the proposed sale of the three early childhood centres.
2. Requests the CEO to provide a report to council on possible options including and not limited to consideration of upgrade/refurbishment, rebuilding, relocation, lease to own arrangements, community purchase.
3. Investigates and analyses further possible funding options including seeking clarity from the VSBA on funding options and timeframes.
4. Includes and applies the following principles in analysing the viability of options to inform the Options Analysis Report required in 2 above:
 - No permanent loss of the total places in council operated or community managed centres in Elwood, East St Kilda or St Kilda as reported in the KISP.
 - Buildings to be fit for purpose and compliant with any regulatory requirements, including DDA compliance (with necessary exemptions).
 - Centres that service the local area and promote healthy travel to centres.
 - Provides families access to a variety of models and scale of centres.
 - Maximises funding opportunities from state or federal governments.
 - Broader community benefit including gender considerations.
 - Alignment with Council's adopted policies
5. Notes that Council will not make a final decision on the sale of the properties and the future of the services until they have the feedback from the community engagement, and the options analysis.
6. In relation to the potential sale of 17 Eildon Road, St Kilda, moves the indicative timing of its settlement from early 2023 to the end of 2023.
7. Acknowledges the value provided by the respective centres to the community and the municipality, and as a matter of principle, shall endeavour to minimise the uncertainty and disruption to the delivery of those services.
8. Notes that the CEO and officers will continue to work collaboratively with the Committees of Management from each of the three centres.
9. Requests the CEO to bring back options for support for the centres during this process such as (but not limited to) a reduction in maintenance levies

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED.

Cr Crawford called for a Division

For: Cr Sirakoff, Cr Copsey, Cr Consolo, Cr Pearl, Cr Martin, Cr Crawford, Cr Baxter

Against: Cr Clark

Abstained: Cr Bond

The motion was CARRIED.