

8.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - ASHWOOD AND CHADSTONE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION ASSESSMENT

Submitting Councillor:	Cr Dr Anjalee de Silva
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RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1 Notes the interest demonstrated by members of the Ashwood and Chadstone communities in Council projects over the past year;**
- 2 Notes the significant number of residents living in social and public housing residing in Ashwood and Chadstone and acknowledges that there may be a variety of communication needs and preferences present in this group;**
- 3 Directs Officers to talk to relevant stakeholders to consider options for how Council communicates and engages with this community on a range of matters (including advocacy), such as in-person pop-up sessions, that may assist in determining residents' priorities and concerns now and into the future;**
- 4 Directs Officers to provide an update to Councillors detailing the outcomes of the review with residents and preferred options for consultation and engagement no later than September 2024.**

INTRODUCTION

Council has received feedback from residents and community groups in Ashwood and Chadstone that they are keen to contribute more to community consultation but can experience difficulty accessing consultations at times, particularly via online options. Residents living in local social and public housing have been identified as particularly at risk of disengagement from Council consultations.

ATTACHMENT LIST

1. Officers Response to NOM [8.1.1 - 2 pages]

OFFICERS REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

Council has received feedback from residents and community groups in Ashwood and Chadstone that they are keen to contribute more to community consultation but can experience difficulty accessing consultations at times, particularly via online options. Residents living in local social and public housing have been identified as particularly at risk of disengagement from Council consultations.

Council has been progressing a number of major projects of importance to the Ashwood and Chadstone communities including the proposed social housing project at 65A Power Avenue and the walking and cycling connections between Mount Waverley Station and Jordanville Station.

Through our Placemaking team, with support from Communications, Council will investigate other options to understand and promote engagement with these communities, including pop-up in-person sessions for significant consultations.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

This motion has no financial impact to Council.

IMPACT ON INTERNAL RESOURCES

Within existing resources.

COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES

Community Engagement Strategy and Framework

RELEVANCE TO WORK ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY OFFICERS OR COMMITTEES

The Neighbourhood and Placing Making team has a dedicated Place Maker who engages with key stakeholders such as the Ashwood and Chadstone Public Tenants Group, Ashwood Partnership Group and Amaroo Neighbourhood House and Power Neighbourhood House.

Regular meetings take place with these stakeholders to ensure the community is informed of Council programs and services and community concerns are passed onto Council.

Officers will further engage with the relevant stakeholders, with the support of Communications, to map out a preferred engagement model.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Gaining community trust and confidence takes time and resources and changes can appear to be slow. Although existing channels are in place for these residents to contribute to consultation and engagement activities, there is always an opportunity to strengthen these channels and tailor them to the needs of stakeholders.