

**OFFICERS' REPORT****OAKLEIGH COMMUNITY HUB SCOPING PROJECT**

Submitting Councillor: Cr Stuart James

**MOTION**

*That Council considers allocating funding in the 2019/2020 budget to undertake a holistic scoping study that will investigate opportunities to improve community infrastructure and service provisions within Oakleigh and the potential for a Community Hub in the area.*

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

The cost of the Oakleigh Community Hub Scoping Project will be approximately \$50,000. Community Development and Services does not currently have the capacity to fund this project within its existing budget and therefore it would need to be considered in the 2019/20 Budget planning process.

**IMPACT ON INTERNAL RESOURCES**

No impact on internal resources are anticipated as a result of this Motion.

**COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES**

In January 2016, Council endorsed the Community Infrastructure Study and the recommendations that accompanied it. Project 4, of the study was to continue planning in the central Oakleigh area including the potential co-locations, relocations, redevelopments and/or divestments and report back to Council. Projects 1 – 3 have either been completed or currently in progress.

The 'Strengthening Oakleigh Project Community Action Plan' undertaken in 2015 highlights the Oakleigh community's desire to increase health and wellbeing services and address the issue of social isolation. The community expressed a need to establish a U3A or similar adult learning education facility to increase social inclusion and feelings of belonging within the community. It was also highlighted that the community is seeking a space for a community garden.

**RELEVANCE TO WORK ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY OFFICERS OR COMMITTEES**

The Community Infrastructure Study (CIS) was undertaken in 2015 with the report endorsed by Council in 2016, highlighting the need for a strategic approach to infrastructure planning within the central Oakleigh precinct.

Given the complexity of the number of buildings, uses of these buildings in Oakleigh and their current condition, officers support a strategic planning approach within this precinct to ensure that the broader Oakleigh community has access to high quality, purpose built community infrastructure in the right location.

***FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS***

A strategic approach to community infrastructure is of benefit to the Council and the community alike.