

6.1 IMPROVING TRANSPARENCY – DEVELOPER CONTACT

Submitting Councillor: Cr Josh Fergeus

MOTION

That Council:

- 1. Re-affirms its commitment to the highest levels of transparency.*
- 2. Directs Officers to provide advice to Council on the development of a policy addressing Councillor contact with developers.*
- 3. Requests that in developing this advice, Officers take into consideration the success or otherwise of the approaches taken by the City of Bayswater, City of Adelaide, City of Vincent, Town of Bassendean, City of Rockhampton, and other Councils which have implemented such a policy.*
- 4. That this advice is presented by the February 2021 meeting of Council.*

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND

While Council prides itself on aiming for the highest standards of governance, this motion will serve to further improve standards of transparency.

Council has suffered some small dips in satisfaction in some areas according to the 2019 Annual Community Satisfaction Survey.

Areas which are down on previous years include 'Making decisions in interests of community' and 'Responsiveness to local community needs'. 'Maintaining community trust and confidence' is stable.

Implementation of measures designed to make public Councillor contact with developers will send a strong signal to the community that these areas of the highest importance to Council.

By ensuring the highest standards of transparency, Council will increase community confidence in relation to its management of development and planning proposals.

If Council were to implement such a policy, it would establish itself as a leader in this area across Victoria.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This motion is simply asking for Officer advice, and as such will have no net financial impact.