

North Sydney Combined Precincts Committee (CPC)
Tuesday 16 April 2024
6.05pm start, Ros Crichton Pavilion

General Meeting Minutes

Voting Participants¹: TC (Anzac Park); HM (Bay); JB (Bay); RM(Brightmore); LS (Brightmore); KH (Euroka); CC (Harrison-Bennett); MdS (Harrison-Bennett); LT (Holtermann); KB (Holtermann); JS (Lavender Bay); JC (Milson); GC (Neutral); CP (Neutral); SM (Parks); MT-J (Willoughby Bay); MS (Willoughby Bay).

Also present: Council staff -; Sam Clark Community Engagement Specialist/Minute Taker (SC NSC); Therese Cole CEO of North Sydney (TC NSC)

In attendance (Observers): n/a

Apologies: PE (Brightmore)

Co-convenor presiding: SM (CPC Co-Convenor/Parks)

The meeting started at 6.05pm

1. Acknowledgement of Country

SM (Parks) opened the meeting by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which the meeting was held and welcoming all attendees to the meeting.

2. Guest Speaker – Therese Cole, CEO of North Sydney – addressing the upcoming Informing Strategies campaign and service levels

TC (NSC) presentation to the Committee covered a range of focuses.

Presentation Focus: Recap on organisational changes

- Realignment as seen the Council move from six directorates down to three.
- Executive Leadership Team remains at six
- Tier three positions from 30 to 16
- Recruiting for eight tier three positions
- Reduced number of higher positions in order to create resources to plug gaps that we have in other areas of the organisation.

JS (Lavender Bay) - *Q: What percentage of the people appointed to the leadership roles have come internally and what externally?*

A: Basically the Leadership team is new and then out of the 16 positions we are recruiting eight, so 50%.

RM(Brightmore) - *Q: How do you manage the delicate balance between cultural change and not losing corporate memory?*

A:

- *a lot of managers' positions have become vacant through natural attrition or retirement.*
- *people have taken retirement still very passionate about North Sydney, so said give me a call if you ever get stuck.*
- *Why we need to have such an emphasis on having better systems and processes.*

¹ Limited to two voting representatives per active Precinct Committee.

- *Our staff below the management layer have great corporate knowledge too*

Presentation Focus: Finances

- We are not the only Council who is struggling financially. What has happened over the years is that other Council's rates have snuck up (eg Strathfield lowest in 2021/22 to one of the highest) through a process of Special Rate Variation.
- The realignment didn't have an impact on the budget, we have just shifted resources

KH (Euroka) -Q: *Is the Pool positive from an upgrading surplus point of view when it comes online?*

A: *When it comes online it should be positive from an Operating result perspective, not including depreciation and interest*

MT-J (Willoughby Bay) - Q: *North Sydney has a higher percentage of people living in apartments and you would expect what they pay in rates to be less per dwelling.*

A: *We have a minimum rate which means that if your land value doesn't get to a point that is calculated rates that are higher than that, then you get charged the minimum rate. The minimum rate structure has apartments paying a lot less than the base rate structure.*

JS (Lavender Bay) - Q: *With the significant loss of parking due to the Warringah Freeway Project, has Council been recompensed by Transport? Do we have a case too?*

A: *No*

GC (Neutral) - Q: *What sort of advertising is represented in that graph?*

A: *Some of the Community boards across the villages but also bus shelters.*

CP (Neutral) - Q: *Is there any work being done to try and increase developer contributions*

A: *It is very much legislated. We have been advocating. Apart from advocacy, there is nothing we have control over in that space.*

Presentation Focus: Planning for the next 10 years

- Looking at how we do things and how we do things better
- We don't want to go cutting service levels with the community before we actually talk to the community.
- Internally we are working on improvement
- Externally we are starting a project of engagement with the community that will kick off on 12 May developing and reviewing strategies
- We have an Environment Strategy prepared not too long ago which is still good, so we are not reinventing the wheel there
- Housing is dependent on what happens at the State Government level
- It's not that Council is making a decision on it; it's us as an organisation saying "tell us what you think".
- This current Council won't be setting the strategy we are working on now, that will be the next Council.
- Will consult with the Community on the Strategies that are developed before it informs the Community Strategic Plan

SM (Parks) - Q: *What do you mean by Housing*

A: *Housing Strategy so looking at our Housing plans and our Local Planning Statements and the like. The State Government has targets for housing and increased Housing but we haven't received them.*

RM(Brightmore) -Q: *When does the caretaker mode kick in in Local Government?*

A: *Six weeks before the election.*

LS (Brightmore) -Q: *The Strategy won't be announced till the new set of Councillors, so the election won't be a political one based on this? So people won't really be getting a vote on this per say?*

A:

- *What we are doing here is planning for ten years that goes over three different Council elections.*
- *When each Council comes in they decide what they want to do for the next four-year period.*
- *It will be an election they run based on what they see for the community.*

JS (Lavender Bay) – Q: *Is the process you have outlined the standard LGA process required by the Minister for Local Government?*

A:

- *Yes, it fits within the standard. I would say this is best practice.*
- *What we are trying to do with these strategies is to ensure that it's integrated all the way through what we are going to do.*
- *Make sure we have the capacity to deliver on what we say we will.*

JB (Bay) – Q: *About the rates; it was \$1,130. I live in a four-apartment building and I paid \$1,256 which seems a tad on the high side.*

A: *Rates are levied based on unimproved land value. So effectively you have 4 properties sharing that land value.*

GC (Neutral) – Q: *Pre-COVID covid there was a chat that rates were split with a split percentage that was residential and a fixed which was commercial and they weren't going to vary that at all. Is that still the case?*

A: *You still have the same revenue split maintained every year. The development in the CBD is based on land value, not based on improved value.*

GC (Neutral) – Q: *70% of the area is going to be affected by low to mid-rise development. Is there any way we can say North Sydney is open for business if you want to make that capital contribution for the path or whatever (voluntary planning agreement)?*

A: *It is important that decisions are made based on good planning. If the community was interested in growth in return for infrastructure, that would have to be carefully considered by the community when engaging with Council in relation to housing strategies.*

MT-J (Willoughby Bay) – Q: *Are there negotiations going on with the Department of Planning and the leadership on Housing in terms of the one size fits all versus can we put it where we want it?*

A: *There are a lot of conversations happening right across Sydney in relation to allowing this.*

JC (Milson) - Q: *In terms of the rates, something that has disturbed me since 2008 when I was in Council was that you've got the million dollar plus apartments and we really should be looking at the improved value because it's not fair.*

A: *We can't change it individually. It requires a State change in how we do rates.*

KH (Euroka) -Q: *How in this planning process focus on human resources and and the livability as well as the TAFE and school formation in North Sydney Council. How do we maintain the performance of the LGA?*

A:

- *From an organisational perspective and our Human Resources and how do we ensure that we have got the right capability and development programs that is something we are working through workforce strategy.*
- *more broadly in the community the way that local government makes a difference is in the services we provide and the infrastructure available.*

3. Previous Minutes of 20 February 2024

MOTION: *The minutes of the general meeting held on 20 February 2024 were confirmed as read and correct.*

MOVED BY: *CG (Neutral), SECONDED BY: KH (Euroka)*

CARRIED

For	Against	Abstain
Anzac Park x 1 Bay x 2 Brightmore x 2 Euroka x 1 Harrison-Bennett x 1 Holtermann x 2 Lavender Bay x 1 Milson x 1 Neutral x 2 Parks x1 Willoughby Bay x 2		Harrison-Bennett x 1
Total: 16	Total: 0	Total: 1

4. Council’s Reply to Previous Minutes (Summary of Actions)

Taken as read. No discussion

5. Co-convenors Report

- Need a subcommittee of the CPC that could coordinate WHT responses and report back to us before a Q&A session with the WHT team.

KH (Euroka): It would be good to help us understand the funds are being well managed and signed off appropriately but also the noise mitigation as well.

JB (Bay): One of the issues that CPC should be pursuing is the 2-for-1 tree replacement.

- Write around to Precincts calling for expressions of interest for people to be on that subcommittee and to report back. You can take that to your Precinct meeting and we can go from there.

GC (Neutral): Let's put the WFU in that to.

KH (Euroka) Incorporate the Metro as well?

Action: *SM will write some terms of reference and distribute them.*

6. Council Update (SC, NSC)

ATTACHMENT B – slides ****Note** due to technical issues the slides were not on display during the meeting

SC (NSC) advised:

a. Attendance Lists

PRECINCT SYSTEM POLICY states:

4.10 Compulsory Submission of Actions Arising and Attendance Records - each Committee will submit to Council, as soon as practicable after each meeting, minutes and/or a summary of actions arising (all resolutions), including the number voting for and against, that require a response from Council. Refer to the Precinct System Guidelines for more information.

Please ensure that Attendance Records are sent to precincts@northsydney.nsw.gov.au as soon as possible after every meeting.

ACTION: SC to provide Precincts with a soft copy Attendance Sheet to fill out

b. Update on Draft Neutral Bay Village Centre Planning Study

- The draft Neutral Bay Village Planning Study was on exhibition from 27 Feb – 2 April
- Council received 344 submissions, which are currently under review
- At this stage, we anticipate the post-exhibition report is likely to be reported to the late May or early June meeting of Council, although the final timing depends on the resolution of the issues raised

c. Update on Precinct reactivations

- The Plateau Precinct
 - Meeting will take place on 23 April 2024
 - Flyers are being distributed inviting to the meeting
- Hayes/Kurraba Precincts
 - Meeting will take place on 1 May 2024
 - Flyers to be distributed next week
- Planning to deliver Office Bearer training in late June or early July

d. Precinct System Review recommendations – progress update

- Ongoing
- Operational funding is being reviewed. Additional funding is available if required, pending a review of spending.

ACTION: Review Governance and Code of Conduct in Precinct System Review before undertaking Office Bearer training

e. Current/upcoming consultations (taken as read)

- [Draft Operational Plan and Budget 2024/25](#) – closes 7 May
- [North Sydney Bike Action Plan](#) - closes 12 May
- [Draft Fees and Charges Schedule 2024/2025](#) - closes 19 May
- [Mapping Queer North Sydney](#) - ongoing
- [Ridge St Window Gallery feedback](#) - ongoing

7. General Business

a. Proposed Motions - Nil

b. Discussion Items

- i. Harrison-Bennett – Suggestion to Precincts for action on rat running in neighborhoods.

Proposal: That either the CPC or as individual precincts ask North Sydney Council to also write to Google requesting, they stop encouraging rat running in our local area.

Proposal: That Council put the issue on the Council Conference agenda.

Proposals not carried into a motion. Suggestion to be put to the subcommittee being formed to deal with WHT and WFU works.

**MOTION: Motion of thanks to Therese Cole for speaking to the CPC
Passed Unanimously**

For	Against	Abstain
Anzac Park x 1		
Bay x 2		
Brightmore x 2		
Euroka x 1		
Harrison-Bennett x 2		
Lavender Bay x 1		
Milson x 1		
Neutral x 2		
Parks x1		
Willoughby Bay x 2		
Total: 15	Total: 0	Total: 0

9. NEXT MEETING - Tuesday 18 June

Meeting closed at 7.35pm