



Brighton Council

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE BRIGHTON COUNCIL, HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
COUNCIL OFFICES, 1 TIVOLI ROAD, OLD BEACH
AT 5.22 P.M. ON TUESDAY,
14 MARCH 2023**

PRESENT: Cr A De La Torre (Acting Chairperson)(via Teams); Cr Geard; Cr L Gray; Cr P Owen and Cr M Whelan.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cr G Irons, Cr J McMaster, Cr T Murtagh, Ms G Browne (Corporate Executive); Ms J Banks (Governance Manager), Mr L Wighton (Acting Manager Asset Services)

1. Acknowledgement of Country

2. Apologies

Cr Curran had requested leave of absence.

Cr Geard moved, Cr Gray seconded that Cr Curran be granted leave of absence.

CARRIED

VOTING RECORD

In favour	Against
Cr De La Torre	
Cr Geard	
Cr Gray	
Cr Owen	
Cr Whelan	

3. Public Question Time and Deputations

There was no requirement for public question time.

4. Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the requirements of Part 2 Regulation 8 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*, the chairperson of a meeting is to request Councillors to indicate whether they have, or are likely to have, a pecuniary interest or conflict of interest in any item on the Agenda.

In accordance with Section 48(4) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, it is the responsibility of councillors to then notify the general manager, in writing, the details of any interest(s) that the councillor has declared within 7 days of the declaration.

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Business

5.1 Monthly Finance Report - February 2023

Author: Corporate Executive (Ms G Browne)

Background

The monthly reports were presented for consideration.

They comprised the Comprehensive Income statement for the first eight months of the 2022/2023 financial year.

Consultation

Nil

Risk Implications

Nil.

Financial Implications

Not Applicable

Strategic Plan

S4.1 – Ensure Financial & Risk Sustainability

Social Implications

Not Applicable.

Environmental or Climate Change Implications

Not Applicable.

Economic Implications

Not Applicable.

Other Issues

Nil.

Assessment

Nil

Options

1. As per the recommendation.
2. Not receive the reports.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the reports be received.

DECISION:

Cr Owen moved, Cr Geard seconded that the report be received.

CARRIED

VOTING RECORD

In favour	Against
Cr De La Torre	
Cr Geard	
Cr Gray	
Cr Owen	
Cr Whelan	

5.2 Audit Panel Chairperson

Author: Corporate Executive (Ms G Browne)

Background

The Audit Panel is required under Section 85 (1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* and as directed under the *Local Government (Audit Panels) Order 2014*. Councils audit panel charter states that "The membership of the Panel will comprise of three (3) members, whereby one (1) member must be an Independent Person."

In July 2022 Geoff Dodge resigned as Chairperson of Councils Audit Panel. The decision was made to hold off advertising for another Chairperson until after the Council elections. In December 2022 an advertisement was taken out in The Mercury newspaper however Council received no applications. In February 2023 another advertisement was taken out in The Mercury newspaper and three applications were received.

Consultation

General Public

Risk Implications

Nil.

Financial Implications

The Audit Panel is set up to serve as an independent and objective party to review all financial information presented to the local community. Failure to not have an independent audit chair will reflect Council not showing due diligence being observed.

Strategic Plan

Goal 4 – Ensure a progressive, efficient, and caring Council.

S4.4.4 - Ensure financial and risk sustainability

Social Implications

Not Applicable.

Environmental or Climate Change Implications

Not Applicable.

Economic Implications

Not Applicable.

Other Issues

Nil.

Assessment

Staff assessments of the applications have found that all applicants addressed the selection criteria and have necessary professional and work experience in the audit field.

Ric De Santi is recommended as the preferred Chairperson based on his experience as a current audit panel chair and audit panel member of a number of other Councils.

Options

1. As per the recommendation.
2. Select an alternative candidate.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Ric De Santi be appointed as the Brighton Council Audit Panel Chairperson.

DECISION:

Cr Geard moved, Cr Gray seconded that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

VOTING RECORD

In favour	Against
Cr De La Torre	
Cr Geard	
Cr Gray	
Cr Owen	
Cr Whelan	

Meeting closed: 5.30pm

Confirmed:

(Mayor)

Date:

_____ 21 March 2023 _____