Shire of York
Agenda Briefing Record

20 October 2026

Shire of York

Agenda Briefing Record

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CLOSURE 11

Record of responses to Councillor questions/clarification received prior to or at the Agenda Briefing, held in the Council Chamber, on Tuesday 20 October 2026 commencing at 5:00pm.

OFFICIAL OPENING

The Presiding Member welcomed all those in attendance and declared the meeting open at 5:00pm.

Acknowledgement of Country

The York Shire Council acknowledges the Ballardong people of the Noongar Nation who are the Traditional Owners of the country where this meeting is being held and recognise their continuing connection to land, water, sky and culture. We pay our respects to all these people and their Elders past, present and emerging.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Cr Chris Gibbs	Shire President (Presiding Member)
Cr Denese Smythe	Deputy Shire President
Cr Kevin Trent	Councillor
Cr Monique Hutchinson	Councillor
Cr Kevin Pyke	Councillor

In Attendance

Alina Behan	Chief Executive Officer
Anneke Birleson	Temporary Executive Manager Corporate Services
Thomas Bruins	Executive Manager Infrastructure & Development Services
Gail D'Arcy	Council Support Officer

Apologies

Rebecca Atkinson	Temporary Executive Manager Community & Economic Development
Cr Melissa Welsh	Councillor
Cr Elaine Ashford	Councillor

Members of the Gallery

There was one (1) members of the public in the gallery at the commencement of the meeting.

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA FOR MEETING TO BE HELD ON 27 October 2026

OCM ITEM SY102-10/26 CORRECTION TO MULTIYEAR FUNDING ACQUITTAL – FOUR MILL EMPORIUM 2025/26

Notes from Agenda Briefing

Question Received

Nil

Administration Response

Nil

Further Information to be Provided

Nil

OCM ITEM SY103-10/26 REQUEST FOR FUNDING – WHEATBELT ARTS AND EVENTS INC, BALLARDONG FIRST

Declaration of Interest – Financial Interest, Alina Behan, Chief Executive Officer

With regard to Request for Funding – Wheatbelt Arts and Events Inc, Ballardong First, the matter in Item 103-10/26, I disclose that I have an association with the applicant (or person seeking a decision). The association is (describe the Nature of Interest): That a member of my household is employed by WAEI.

As a consequence, I will leave the meeting.

Declaration of Interest – Impartiality, President Chris Gibbs

With regard to Request for Funding – Wheatbelt Arts and Events Inc, Ballardong First, the matter in Item 103-10/26, I disclose that I have an association with the applicant (or person seeking a decision). The association is (describe the Nature of Interest): I have subcontracted to WAEI for other projects but am not a member, committee member nor office bearer and I have nothing to do with this project.

Notes from Agenda Briefing

Question Received

Why has Administration recommended that Council provide the full amount requested of $6,000.00 for Ballardong First when, in the previous two years, $4,500.00 has been provided towards the event? The application also does not anticipate a substantial increase in attendance for the 2027 event.

Administration Response

In the previous two years, the $4,500.00 funding was provided through the National Australia Day Council (NADC) grant and was separate from Shire of York funding.

The Shire of York contributed $2,000.00 towards the 2025 event and $14,250 towards the 2026 event. The 2026 contribution included an approved variation to utilise funding originally allocated to the York Festival, which was not going to be expended, to support the expanded event.

The Officer Recommendation was assessed against the proposed event deliverables, alignment with the Council Plan goals, the popularity of the event, and its capacity to showcase Ballardong culture as part of the Australia Day celebrations in a collaborative manner.

Question Received

When will Administration know whether WAE Inc. has been successful in securing the external grant from the NADC?

Administration Response

The NADC has indicated that funding outcomes are expected to be announced in early November, subject to there being no delays in the assessment process.

Question Received

What funding was provided for the same event last year?

Administration Response

For the 2026 Ballardong First event, the Shire provided $14,250.00, in addition to the contribution provided through the National Australia Day Council funding.

Question Received

In relation to the additional funding, do we know how much is being sought from another funding body?

Administration Response

An additional funding request of $4,500.00 has been made through the National Australia Day Council (NADC), separate from the funding requested from the Shire of York.

The NADC funding is specifically for an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander component of Australia Day celebrations. WAE Inc. applied through an Expression of Interest process and was identified as the successful applicant.

Question Received

There are a significant number of redacted items in the application, which makes it difficult to understand the complete application.

Administration Response

The original application covered both the Twang Festival and Ballardong First. Information relating specifically to the Twang Festival has therefore been removed from the documentation presented in relation to Ballardong First.

Clarification

It was clarified that the original application incorporated both events. Information relating to the event that has already occurred has therefore been removed from the documentation relevant to the current application.

Question Received

As grant applications generally require applicants to disclose other sources of funding, will Council be provided with the outcome of the external funding application prior to the OCM?

Administration Response

The NADC has indicated that application outcomes are expected to be announced in early November, subject to there being no delays.

Question Received

The application indicates that the event cannot proceed with partial funding. Can Administration confirm whether this is the case?

Administration Response

Administration cannot speak on behalf of WAE Inc. regarding whether the event could proceed with partial funding. However, it is noted that previous applications have indicated that an event could not proceed without full funding and a different outcome subsequently occurred.

Question Received

When the funding is separated between the events, is WAE Inc. requesting less funding from the Shire for Ballardong First this year than it received last year?

Administration Response

Correct.

Further Information to be Provided

Nil

Alina Behan, Chief Executive Officer returned to the room at 5.10pm.

OCM ITEM SY104-10/26 EXTENSION OF LEASE – YORK RECREATION AND CONVENTION CENTRE BAR AND FUNCTION AREA – YORK BOWLING CLUB INC

Notes from Agenda Briefing

Question Received

Has the Shire discussed with the York Bowling Club (YBC) whether it can sustain its current operations without monthly wage funding through to June 2027?

Administration Response

The YBC has indicated that it could continue operations without the funding; however, depending on volunteer availability, it may need to reduce the level of service provided to other clubs.

Question Received

Can the Executive Manager Community provide Council with a general update on the progress of negotiations regarding the new lease with the YBC? If more appropriate, this information could be provided at a Concept Forum.

Administration Response

Discussions with the YBC have been positive. The Club has indicated that it wishes to continue operating at the facility and considers funding support necessary to assist with its operations.

The Club acknowledges the community's desire for increased activation of the facility and is working with Shire officers to determine how this could be achieved.

Representatives of the YBC and Shire officers are scheduled to meet on 29 October to continue discussions regarding the proposed framework and to address outcomes identified in the 150Square report and matters raised by Council.

Question Received

If the terms and conditions of the lease are largely unchanged, other than the salary support funding, is the funding proposed through to 30 June 2027 what the YBC has requested, or is this an Administration proposal?

Administration Response

The existing lease has expired, and a new lease arrangement is required to enable the YBC to continue using the facility.

The Club is not yet in a position to present its funding request to Council for consideration. A lease extension was previously granted to allow sufficient time for the Club to develop a funding proposal and associated lease arrangements; however, a proposal was unable to be finalised within that extension period.

Given that:

- *the previous lease extension has expired;*
- *a new funding proposal suitable for Council consideration has not yet been received; and*
- *the YBC has indicated that it can continue operating without the grant, although this may require some adjustment to services.*

Officers recommend that a longer lease extension be granted at this stage. This would enable continued service delivery while providing the YBC with additional time to develop and negotiate its proposal.

Once this process is complete, the proposed lease arrangements and funding request can be presented to Council together for consideration.

Further Information to be Provided

Nil

OCM ITEM SY105-10/26 REPORTS ON COUNCILLORS ATTENDANCE AT THE 2026 WALGA LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONVENTION

Notes from Agenda Briefing

Question Received

Nil

Administration Response

Nil

Further Information to be Provided

Nil

OCM ITEM SY106-10/26 LOCAL LAW REVIEW 2026/27

Notes from Agenda Briefing

Questions Received

What amendments are proposed as part of the review of these local laws?

Administration Responses

Consideration of amendments will form the next stage of the process, subject to Council determining that the local laws are to be amended. Any proposed amendments will be presented to Council as part of the statutory local law-making process.

Further Information to be Provided

Nil

OCM ITEM SY107-10/26 WA LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION'S DRAFT ADVOCACY POSITION ON DATA CENTRES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Notes from Agenda Briefing

Comment Received

At Concept Forum, concern was raised regarding the potential establishment of a data centre in Northam due to water supply constraints. Further information subsequently obtained indicated that these facilities can recycle water, which may reduce ongoing water demand once the facility is operational.

Shire President Response

The clarification was noted.

Questions Received

When WALGA receives responses from local governments, will the Shire of York's individual position be identified?

Administration Responses

WALGA's Governance and Policy teams have confirmed that feedback received from local governments is initially collated and largely de-identified to inform a consolidated report to State Council, which formally determines WALGA's advocacy position.

When progressing subsequent advocacy activities, feedback received is collated, de-identified and presented in general terms where it is relied upon.

Further Information to be Provided

Nil

OCM ITEM SY108-10/26 INVESTMENTS – SEPTEMBER 2026

Notes from Agenda Briefing

Questions Received

Nil

Administration Responses

Nil

Further Information to be Provided

Nil

OCM ITEM SY109-10/26 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING 31 AUGUST 2026

Notes from Agenda Briefing

Questions Received

Can Council be provided with an update on the progress of debt recovery undertaken by the Shire's contractor? Outstanding rates aged three years or more have increased by 2% compared with last year. Given that a debt recovery contractor is engaged, would it be expected that this figure would be decreasing?

Administration Response

Demand letters were issued in 2025, with mixed results. Due to staffing changes within the Finance team, these matters were not subsequently progressed to the legal recovery stage.

Following the issue of final notices, a report will be presented to Council in November/December identifying properties recommended for referral to the debt recovery contractor.

Action in relation to these properties, together with any progress concerning the Settlers House units, is expected to assist in reducing outstanding rates. Approximately 50% of rates arrears, excluding pensioner accounts, relate to Settlers House units.

Questions Received

Is the Shire receiving value for money from the debt recovery arrangement?

Administration Response

Yes. The Shire only pays for services utilised, and most legal costs are recoverable against the relevant property.

Questions Received

What is the term of the contract with the debt collection agency, and how often is the arrangement reviewed?

Administration Response

The contract has a term of 36 months and expires in April 2028, with an option for a further 24-month term.

Officers will consider whether to exercise the further term having regard to the progress of referred matters and any non-recoverable costs incurred.

Questions Received

The financial report identifies an outstanding lease-related payment to the Shire that is more than 60 days overdue. Does this relate to the lease of a Shire asset by a local club, business or organisation?

Administration Response

The outstanding amount comprises a combination of a lease payment and reimbursements for building insurance and the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) relating to the lease of a Shire asset.

Questions Received

Transfer station costs have increased significantly. What is the reason for the increase, and is it expected to be ongoing?

Administration Response

Avon Waste charged the monthly fee twice in August. This matter is being followed up so that the payment can be adjusted.

Questions Received

The lease liabilities statement includes a land and building lease identified as L4 (142). What does this relate to?

Administration Response

This relates to the lease with York & Districts Co-operative Ltd for 142 Avon Terrace.

Further Information to be Provided

Nil

OCM ITEM SY110-10/26 LIST OF ACCOUNTS PAID USING TRANSACTION CARDS FOR THE PERIOD 1 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2026

Notes from Agenda Briefing

Questions Received

Nil

Administration Responses

Nil

Further Information to be Provided.

Nil

OCM ITEM SY111-10/26 LIST OF PAYMENTS MADE FROM THE MUNICIPAL AND TRUST FUNDS FOR THE PERIOD 1 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2026

Notes from Agenda Briefing

Questions Received

Nil

Administration Responses

Nil

Further Information to be Provided

Nil

MATTERS FOR WHICH THE MEETING MAY BE CLOSED

Nil

CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Presiding Member thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 5.19pm.