general purpose committee

3

section

organisation and resources

ITEM	**SUBJECT**	**PAGE**

SECTION 3 - ORGANISATION AND RESOURCES.

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ITEM: 13 **Richmond Mainstreet Program - Request for Funding**

FILE NUMBER: GT070/024 Pt01/GMA/OGK04NAX.G06

REPORT:

There have been discussions for some months taking place with the executive of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce regarding improvements to the business area of Richmond that would involve improvements to public infrastructure, work on the building facades and a promotions program.

The Chamber executive see the Mainstreet program as being integral to the ongoing well being and growth of the businesses within the town. They indicate there are currently 60 vacant commercial premises with no immediate sign of this improving.

Reinforcing the connection between the new Marketplace shopping centre and the Windsor Street Mainstreet is important and a major factor in achieving this is seen to be a significant renovation of Richmond Park. Plans for this have been prepared, discussions held with interested groups and that matter is reported separately.

Some time ago the Council had a facade renovation study completed that offers advice on a number of improvements that could take place to buildings in the main street, that would considerably enhance the area's aesthetic appeal. Copy of that study has been provided to the Chamber.

In relation to public infrastructure provided and maintained by the Council, it is considered that this should be improved (as is occurring) from the Council's general funds raised through rates. The Chamber however, is keen to pursue the program that involves works on privately owned buildings and promotions. In other areas this is generally achieved by a special rate over an identified area, collected by the Council and then in consultation with the landowners used on agreed programs.

If the Council was to implement such a proposal, including a special rate, it would need to consult with those persons who would be involved, indicating to them the benefits of such a proposal and, obtain their agreement. Without a substantial agreement, it is not seen that the Council would promote the matter further, nor would it seek the approval of the Minister.

A consultancy organisation known as "Mainstreet Partnership Pty Ltd" has been contacted about the proposal and they have provided a program proposal designed to define realistic and achievable directions in both the short, medium and long term to obtain the enthusiasm of business in the broader community for a Mainstreet program.

The consultant's proposal is in four stages, involving a total cost of $8,000 as follows:

Stage 1: $1500 - initial public workshop.
Objective: To introduce the Mainstreet concept to business, Council and the broader community to ensure a clear understanding of the program, clarify opportunities for broad community involvement and determine short and medium term goals.

Stage 2: $500 - Planning Meeting
Objective: To meet with the committee and others that agree to be involved as a result of the initial public workshop to review the outcomes and plan the next steps.

Stage 3: $2,000 - Strategic Planning Workshop
Objective: To detail objectives, strategies and actions for the strategic plan and ensure a clear understanding of the program by the participants.

Stage 4: $4,000 - ongoing advice and support, a presentation to Council, assistance with the employing and training of a Mainstreet co-ordinator.

The work program set out has been very successful in a number of other locations throughout NSW and would be the appropriate action to take if it was to be implemented in Richmond and a special rate levied by the Council. The Chamber supports the principle of a special rate in the order of $500 per annum/property.

Representatives from the Chamber will be at the Committee meeting to present their position and further their case for the proposed funding and projected rate.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council determine its position in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF ITEM 13 Oooo

ITEM: 14 **Monthly Financial Report - September 1997**

FILE NUMBER: FO11/005 PT04/FNC/OGK04NAX.F03

REPORT:

A. Expenditure Warrant Number 3 of 1997/98

Summary of Accounts Paid

Cheques 53,153 to 53,680	$10,598,959.29
EFT 2,984 to 3,295	$1,070,245.68
EFT Other (FDC)	$85,166.10
Cancelled Cheques	-$164.45
Bank Charges	$15,596.59
	============
	$11,769,803.21
	============

B. Cash Book Reconciliation

Cash Book Balance as at 1 September 1997	$331,715.06
Add: Receipts for month of September	$11,016,886.95
	============
	$11,348,602.01
Less: Payments for month of September	-$11,769,803.21
	============
Cash Book Balance as at 30 September 1997	-$421,201.20
	============

C. Statement of Bank Balances

Bank Statement Balance as at 30 September 1997	$9,856.04
Less: Unpresented Cheques	-$503,848.14
	============
	-$493,992.10
Add: Outstanding Deposits	$136,590.07
Outstanding Adjustments	-$63,799.17
	============
	-$421,201.20
	============

D. Investments - September 1997

Investment Type	Balance 31-Aug-97	Deposits	Withdrawals	Interest Paid	Balance 30-Sept-97
Managed Funds	17,454,743.74			77,712.00	17,532,455.74
On Call Funds	4,405,000.00	4,400,000.00	1,500,000.00		7,305,000.00
Term Investments	3,550,000.00		2,600,000.00		950,000.00
TOTAL	25,409,743.74	4,400,000.00	4,100,000.00	77,712.00	25,787,455.74

E. Investment Performance - Year to Date

For the first quarter of the 1997/98 financial year, the investment portfolio has achieved an average return on investments of 5.84%

The average 90 Day Bank Bill Index, which is the performance benchmark used by the funds managers, averaged 5.34% for the corresponding period.

The average on-call cash rate was 5.15%

Responsible Accounting Officer

The summary warrant is fully supported by vouchers and invoices which have been duly certified.

The detailed warrant is available upon request.

The Cash Book and Bank Statements have been reconciled as at 30 September, 1997.

The investments outlined above are the total of all funds that have been invested. All investments have been made in accordance with the Act, Regulations and Council's investment policies.

The Rate Book has been reconciled as at 30 September, 1997.

Geoff Banting
Responsible Accounting Officer

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be received.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report

oooO END OF ITEM 14 Oooo

ITEM: 15 **Westpool Bulk Purchasing - Comprehensive Motor Vehicle Insurance**

FILE NUMBER: GI030/081/CSV/OGK04NBX.C04

REPORT:

Council's motor vehicle insurance coverage falls due for renewal on 31 October 1997, Westpool Member Councils have benefited from a bulk purchase agreement which has provided competitive premiums due basically to the economies of scale in having Councils join to secure motor vehicle cover.

Jardine Australian, Council's Insurance Broker, has invited quotations from a number of Underwriters and in this regard GIO Australia has submitted the competitive terms and conditions with Hawkesbury premium being $75,000 which represents an increase of $4,500. However, Council's excess will be increased from $500 to $1,000.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council renew its comprehensive motor vehicle insurance with GIO Australia at a premium of $75,000 (seventy five thousand dollars).

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF ITEM 15 Oooo