

OFFICERS' REPORT**POKIES FREE HAWTHORN FOOTBALL CLUB – FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS**

Submitting Councillor: Cr Fergeus & Cr Lake

MOTION

That Council:

- i) Congratulates the Western Bulldogs Football Club on their plan to withdraw the club from any financial interests attached to the gaming industry;*
- ii) Notes the long relationship between the Hawthorn Football Club and the City of Monash;*
- iii) Notes that venues associated with the Hawthorn Football Club continue to be responsible for more pokies losses than any other AFL Club in the 2017-18 financial year¹, topping \$24.3 million;*
- iv) Notes that \$10.95 million of pokies losses occurred at the Hawthorn Football Club gaming venue Vegas at Waverley Gardens Mulgrave in the 2017-18 financial year; and*
- v) Calls on the Hawthorn Football Club to follow the example of the Western Bulldogs Football Club and withdraw the club from any financial interests attached to the gaming industry.*

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

A commitment to advocacy in reducing gambling-related harm is ongoing within the Community Development and Services directorate. This is delivered within Council's existing budget through existing officer time. Any additional budget implications as a result of this motion will be managed through existing operating budgets.

IMPACT ON INTERNAL RESOURCES

This project will be managed by existing staff resources within the Community Strengthening department with support from local stakeholder organisations where applicable.

COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES

This motion is in line with Monash Council's existing stance on gambling-related harm, as shown in the Public Health Approach to Gambling Strategy 2016-2020. Advocacy on this issue aligns

with Council's prior advocacy efforts regarding industry reform and the minimisation of gambling-related harm.

This motion also strongly aligns with Council's 'A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017 - 2021'. In particular, the recommendations support the priority Active & Healthy, which seeks 'A city dedicated to optimal health and wellbeing for its community'. Actions stated within this plan include: Improving the health and resilience of individuals and communities through proactive services and programs; and advocate to limit gambling-related harm.

RELEVANCE TO WORK ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY OFFICERS OR COMMITTEES

Monash Council has a history of State-wide leadership in the prevention of gambling-harm because of our continued work in delivering successful projects, policy and advocacy. Monash City Council has previously taken a firm stance around minimising gambling-related harm in the local community, which includes the impact of EGM's.

Council's ongoing advocacy to reduce gambling-related harm focuses on preventative health measures. The intention of these efforts is to reduce ongoing costs associated with primary care and other support provided to community members impacted by gambling, both financially and with regard to mental and physical health services.