

OFFICERS' REPORT**6.6a CITY OF MONASH PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO GAMBLING POLICY STATEMENT 2016 – 2020 - SPORTS CLUBS**

Submitting Councillor: Cr Stuart James

MOTION

That prior to December 2019, Council officers:

a. prepare a draft sports grounds and facilities allocation policy for Council consideration that addresses issues regarding the Club compliance with Council's Approach to Gambling Policy Statement 2016 – 2020, and to better promote the principles of access and inclusion of Council facilities.

b. prepare a draft revision of the City of Monash Public Health Approach to Gambling Policy Statement 2016-2020 for Council consideration that addresses the outcomes sought in this motion

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

A commitment to prepare a draft sports grounds and facilities allocation policy for Council consideration before December 2019 can be delivered within Council's existing budget through officer time.

Any policy to reinforce Council's commitment to Club compliance with Council policy including Council's approach to Gambling Policy Statement 2016 – 2020 is unlikely to have any expenditure implication to operating budgets.

IMPACT ON INTERNAL RESOURCES

For 2019/2020, Council has dedicated resources to working with sporting clubs around a number of public health issues including gender equity, gambling harm and drugs & alcohol. This work would be supported by any policy updates that strengthen Council's ability to put in place measures that align with this work around building healthy environments for our residents.

COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES

The City of Monash places a high value in supporting healthy lifestyles and recognises the range of benefits to individuals and the community derived from participation in sport. The Council Plan 2017 -2021 highlights the importance of renewal and maximising the use of community sporting facilities under its strategic objective Inviting Open Spaces. To meet this objective Council provides and maintains a range of sporting infrastructure to cater for a diverse range of users.

Council's Active Reserves Fees and Charges Policy currently has a list of criteria to consider when there is an opportunity for a new allocation of a sports ground or facility. A new sports

grounds and facilities allocation policy will therefore allow Council to actively encourage and promote cultural change within sports clubs with an existing allocation. It will also allow Council a means by which to prioritise the allocation of sports grounds and facilities to sports clubs that more closely align with Council objectives.

The introduction of an additional sports ground and facilities allocation policy to address existing compliance issues would further support the existing current policies as well as inform future policy updates including the Public Health Approach to Gambling Harm which sunsets in 2020.

RELEVANCE TO WORK ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY OFFICERS OR COMMITTEES

The City of Monash 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.

The introduction of a sports grounds and facilities allocation policy will further support this commitment and enable Council to work collaboratively with sporting clubs to create greater cultural change within the Clubs creating inclusive and supportive environments.
