8.2 RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE – CONFIRMATION OF PROCESS TO BE ADOPTED FOR COUNCIL’S FINAL DECISION ON ITS DIVESTMENT OF ITS RESIDENTIAL AND RETIREMENT LIVING PORTFOLIO

Submitted by the Mayor, Cr Lake

NOTICE OF MOTION

That Council confirms that:

1. The final decision relating to the divestment of its residential aged care and retirement living portfolio will be made in Confidential Business at the 28 January 2014 Council meeting (or at a special meeting soon afterwards if there are unforeseen delays in the process);
2. A public announcement of the selected provider and information about the arrangement entered into between Council and the successful provider will be made available immediately following the conclusion of Confidential Business; and
3. In the interests of transparency and given the level of public interest in this matter, how each councillor votes on this item will be made public immediately following the conclusion of Confidential Business.

INTRODUCTION

This item of business seeks to confirm and communicate the process that Council will follow in making its final decision regarding the divestment of its residential aged care and retirement living portfolio.

DISCUSSION

At the January 2014 Council meeting (or at a Special Meeting of Council, soon afterwards, if there are unforeseen delays), Council will receive a report from Council officers regarding the final phase of the divestment of the Council’s residential aged care and retirement living portfolio.

Because of the content of the report, it will be submitted to Council as an Item of Confidential Business. This is unavoidable due to the confidentiality obligations which Council owes to bidders. Whilst Council would prefer to consider this report and make this decision in open Council, to do that would breach the confidentiality obligations owed to bidders. This has been the advice which Council has received from the CEO and her advice is based on appropriate external advice. It is also worth noting that the recent residential aged care divestments by both the City of Knox and the City of Whitehorse were treated in a similar manner.

Through its confidential report, the Evaluation Panel appointed to consider the offers submitted for the portfolio, will make its recommendations. The
Evaluation Panel will recommend to Council which one of the short-listed parties should be selected on the basis of the formal evaluation criteria.

If Council accepts this recommendation, this will conclude the formal Council decision making process on this matter and Council will then enter into a binding arrangement with the selected provider for the sale of the land at Monash Gardens and the transfer of operations at Monash Gardens and Elizabeth Gardens to the new operator.

CONCLUSION
Given the community interest in Council’s decision in relation to its divestment of its residential aged care and retirement living services, this report is provided so that the method Council will take in January 2014 (or at a Special Meeting of Council soon after the January 2014 meeting, if there are unforeseen delays) is agreed by Council and is understood by the community in advance of the relevant meeting.