

Community update

Council has a long history of providing and supporting early childhood learning and care in the municipality. It owns seventeen facilities supporting this service – being over a third of the City’s licenced capacity of childcare places.

Council has consulted the community regarding the future of the three of those facilities – at 17 Eildon Road, St Kilda, 37 The Avenue, Balaclava, and 46 Tennyson Street, Elwood. This included discussions with representatives from the operators of those facilities.

Council acknowledges the significant community interest and thanks our community for the time invested in providing the feedback. Council has considered all feedback received.

Simultaneously, Council has carried out discussions with the State and Federal governments regarding funding for major upgrades to Council’s childcare centre portfolio. Those confidential discussions are still in train. However, in the interests of transparency, Council has authorised the release of this update.

Council and the Victorian Department of Education and Training have been engaged in productive conversations about the long-term early childhood infrastructure needs across the municipality, including the centres at 17 Eildon Road, St Kilda, 37 The Avenue, Balaclava, and 46 Tennyson Street, Elwood. This includes discussions with the Department on potential co-funding arrangements under the Building Blocks Partnership program, which are progressing well.

Council is committed to continuing to invest in infrastructure across the municipality, and would welcome the opportunities to partner with State and Federal government in this.

Subject to finalisation of funding arrangements, Council has resolved not to sell 17 Eildon Road, St Kilda, 39 The Avenue, Balaclava, and 46 Tennyson Street, Elwood, and instead will seek to rebuild or renovate these centres. Council Officers have been discussing options for funding support with both State and Federal Governments and this will continue.