

Glen Innes Severn Ordinary Council Meeting

23 APRIL 2026

Minutes



SEVERN COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

MINUTES

From the meeting held at the Glen Innes Severn Learning Centre,
William Gardner Conference Room, Grey Street, Glen Innes on:
Thursday, 23 April 2026 at 9:00 AM

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PUBLIC FORUM (No community members addressed Council).

PRESENT: Cr Margot Davis (Mayor), Cr Carol Sparks (Deputy Mayor), Cr Max Elphick, Cr Andrew Parsons, Cr David Scott and Cr Anne Vosper.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Bernard Smith (General Manager), Mr Alan Butler (Director of Infrastructure Services), Mr Lindsay Woodland (Director of Corporate and Community Services), Mr Brendan Wright (Acting Governance Manager) and Mrs Debbie Duffell (Executive Assistant (Mayor and General Manager)).

OPENED: 9.00am.

The Mayor read the following statement regarding video and audio recording of the Council Meeting:

"This Council Meeting is being streamed live, recorded and published in accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice and the Live Streaming of Council Meetings Procedure. Recording by any other person is not permitted unless expressly authorised by Council.

By remaining in the chamber today, you acknowledge and consent to your image, voice and comments being captured and published. Statements made in this meeting are not protected by parliamentary privilege, and individuals are personally responsible for any defamatory, discriminatory or otherwise unlawful comments.

If you are invited to speak, your contribution will form part of the live stream and the official recording. We simply ask that comments stay focused on the matter under discussion and avoid any defamatory content.

The Chair and the General Manager may pause or end the live stream if exceptional circumstances arise—for example, if debate becomes misleading, defamatory, or is otherwise inappropriate for public broadcast. This discretion is exercised sparingly and only to maintain the integrity of the meeting.

All attendees are reminded to engage respectfully. Behaviour or comments that fall outside acceptable standards may carry legal consequences.

Under the Model Code of Meeting Practice for NSW Local Government, the Chair is responsible for ensuring the meeting runs safely, respectfully, and in accordance with the Code.

Councillors are reminded of their obligations under the Code of Meeting Practice, the Code of Conduct, and the Oath or Affirmation of Office made under Section 233A of the *Local Government Act 1993*. These obligations guide how we work together and uphold the trust placed in us by the community."

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor read the following “Acknowledgement of Country”:

“I acknowledge the traditional owners on the land in which we meet today, the Ngarabul people, and pay my respect to the Elders past, present and emerging with recognition of their continuing connection to the land, waters and community.

I also extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people here today.”

2 OPENING WITH PRAYER

David Robinson opened the Meeting with a prayer.

3 APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS

The apology previously received from Cr T Alt was noted.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING - 25 MARCH 2026 TO BE CONFIRMED

Moved Cr M Elphick

Seconded Cr D Scott

1.04/26 RESOLUTION

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 25 March 2026, copies of which were circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings of the Meeting.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Cr M Davis	Nil
Cr C Sparks	
Cr M Elphick	
Cr A Parsons	
Cr D Scott	
Cr A Vosper	

The division was declared carried by 6 votes to 0.

CARRIED

5 DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Cr A Vosper declared a Non-Significant Non-Pecuniary Conflict of Interest regarding Item 7.2 “School of Arts and Music Advisory Committee – Terms of Reference”, as she has submitted a tender for hiring a room at the centre on behalf of the Glen Innes Highland Writers.

Cr Vosper intends to remain in the meeting, participate in the debate and vote on this item.

6 MAYORAL MINUTE

6.1 SUPPORT FOR THE INVEST IN US CAMPAIGN - COUNTRY MAYORS ASSOCIATION OF NSW

RATIONALE

Purpose

To formally endorse the *Invest in Us* campaign led by the Country Mayors Association of NSW and reinforce Council’s ongoing, evidence-based advocacy for a fair and sustainable funding model for regional, rural and remote communities.

Background

Regional councils are operating under sustained financial pressure driven by cost shifting, rising infrastructure costs, workforce constraints and increasing service expectations. Notwithstanding the actions Glen Innes Severn Council is taking, it will continue to be under significant ongoing financial pressure.

The *Invest in Us* campaign provides a coordinated national platform to address these structural challenges and aligns with long-standing advocacy led by Glen Innes Severn Council and the Mayor at both State and Federal levels.

This includes consistent support for the position of the Australian Local Government Association to restore Financial Assistance Grants to 1 percent of Commonwealth taxation revenue.

Council Advocacy and Leadership

Glen Innes Severn Council has not been passive in this space. The Mayor on behalf of Council, and the organisation, have been actively advancing a reform agenda that directly aligns with the intent of the *Invest in Us* campaign.

Key advocacy positions and actions include:

- **Financial Sustainability Reform**

Advocacy to address structural underfunding, including support for restoring Financial Assistance Grants and progressing a more outcomes-based, place-based funding model that reflects the true cost of service delivery in regional areas.

- **National Policy Advocacy through Peak Bodies**

Contributions to national policy discussions through the Australian Local Government Association, including motions on circular economy opportunities such as biochar, and broader funding reform.

- **Regional Collaboration and Leadership**

Establishment of the Northern Tablelands mayoral collaboration model, strengthening a unified regional voice on shared priorities including healthcare access, transport connectivity and sustainable funding.

- **Workforce and Economic Development**

Leadership in place-based workforce attraction and retention recognising that workforce constraints are a core barrier to regional productivity and growth.

- **Planning and Housing Reform Advocacy**

Ongoing advocacy for practical, risk-based planning reform to improve housing supply without compromising environmental and safety standards.

- **Infrastructure and Transport Advocacy**

Submissions to regional transport planning processes seeking “fix it first” investment, improved community transport and freight connectivity to support regional economies.

- **Energy Transition and Community Benefit Frameworks**

Development of governance frameworks to ensure regional communities receive structured, transparent benefits from renewable energy developments.

- **Financial Accountability and System Reform**

Active engagement with State agencies to resolve audit challenges and strengthen financial systems, demonstrating a commitment to continuous improvement and responsible stewardship.

This body of work demonstrates that Council is already operating in alignment with the principles underpinning the *Invest in Us* campaign. The campaign provides an opportunity to scale and amplify this advocacy.

Strategic Context

Under the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)*, councils are required to ensure sound financial management and deliver services that meet community needs.

However, there is a growing disconnect between these responsibilities and the funding mechanisms available to support them.

Regional councils are expected to:

- Maintain and renew extensive infrastructure networks,
- Deliver essential services in areas of market failure,
- Enable housing and economic growth,
- Respond to increasing regulatory and compliance demands.

Without structural funding reform, this model is not possible, let alone sustainable.

Discussion

The *Invest in Us* campaign reframes local government funding as a national productivity issue rather than a local budget issue.

Investment in councils delivers:

- Stronger regional economies,
- Improved housing supply through enabling infrastructure,
- More resilient communities,
- Reduced long-term costs to State and Federal governments.

From a governance perspective, this is about aligning accountability with capability. Councils cannot continue to absorb additional responsibilities without a commensurate funding framework. The managed decline by councils needs to turn to managed growth and prosperity.

Conclusion

Glen Innes Severn Council is already doing the heavy lifting when it comes to advocacy, reform and responsible governance.

Supporting the *Invest in Us* campaign is a logical next step and a responsibility on behalf of the community. It strengthens our voice, aligns with our existing work, and positions regional communities as central to the nation's future rather than an afterthought in funding models.

If regional Australia is expected to grow, produce and sustain, then investment in local government is not optional. It is foundational.

I commend this Mayoral Minute to Council.

Moved Cr M Davis Seconded Cr M Elphick

2.04/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Formally endorses the *Invest in Us* campaign led by the Country Mayors Association of NSW.
2. Advocates to the Commonwealth Government to restore Financial Assistance Grants to at least 1 percent of taxation revenue, consistent with the position of the Australian Local Government Association.
3. Writes to relevant Federal and State representatives seeking support for a sustainable, place-based funding framework for local government.

4. Continues to leverage Council's existing advocacy platforms to amplify a coordinated national reform campaign.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Cr M Davis Cr C Sparks Cr M Elphick Cr A Parsons Cr D Scott Cr A Vosper	Nil

The division was declared carried by 6 votes to 0.

CARRIED

6.2 SUPPORT FOR THE COMMUNITY SERVICE OBLIGATION ON BANKS TO FUND FACE-TO-FACE BANKING IN REGIONAL AUSTRALIA - REGIONAL BANKING INVESTMENT ALLIANCE

RATIONALE

Purpose

To formally endorse the *Community Service Obligation on banks to fund face-to-face banking in regional Australia* campaign led by the Regional Banking Investment Alliance and advocate for a cost-sharing model to keep face-to-face branch services open in regional, rural and remote communities.

Background

Since 2017, over 870 bank branches have closed in regional and remote Australia. Despite numerous inquiries and recommendations, including the appointment of a Regional Banking Taskforce, there is currently no support to help regional banks provide essential services to people in regional, rural and remote communities.

Small regional banks are increasingly being used as de facto branches for the majors in a process known as “pass-through banking”, where small banks carry the costs of providing face-to-face banking services but receive none of the commercial benefits with home loans and deposits being held by larger or digital banks. Regional banks are also subject to higher costs for cash-in-transit services due to their location.

A moratorium on regional bank closures was announced in 2025 by the Treasurer and the Big 4 banks, which is set to expire in 2027. The moratorium does not affect any other banks, nor does it apply to opening hours. Bank@Post offers very limited services compared to a bank branch with properly trained staff.

In 2024, Treasury began proposing the concept of a community service obligation on banks.

The Regional Banking Investment is made up of 24 regional banks and a number of supporter organisations. They have taken Treasury's proposal and developed it into a community service obligation cost sharing model for banks.

The model would be used to provide a direct contribution to any bank which maintains or expands regional bank branches. It would ensure ongoing support to preserve the financial viability of existing branches and incentivise banks to invest in new ones.

The model is 100% funded by banks with no taxpayer funds required.

Mechanics of the model

The model would be used to help fund trained staff in work in face-to-face banking roles in regional and remote Australia.

It would apply only to banks that provide trained face-to-face core retail banking services, including cash management.

The CSO would cover about 32% of the average cost of running a regional bank branch, equivalent to three FTE staff. Across the industry this would amount to around \$153 million, or 0.17% of the total operating income of the major banks.

The advantage of an FTE base for a subsidy is that it scales according to the level of service provided. If a bank branch is open for five days of the week, then it is providing a better service than one opening just three days – all else being equal. FTE numbers will reflect this longer opening time.

It is also proposed that the base FTE costs is adjusted annually by a suitable wage price index.

Similar schemes

Other essential services in Australia are legislated in a similar way to the Community Service Obligation proposed by the Regional Banking Investment Alliance.

- A Universal Service Obligation already exists in telecommunications to ensure that Standard Telephone Services and public payphones are made reasonably accessible to all Australians on an equitable basis, requiring the primary universal service provider.
- A Community Service Obligation funding pool was established by the Federal Government in 2006 to ensure that arrangements are in place to provide all Australians with ongoing and timely access to all PBS medicines, through community pharmacies.
- The Risk Equalisation (RE) Scheme is a financial transfer mechanism administered by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) under the *Private Health Insurance Act 2007*. It operates as a zero-sum pool,

redistributing money among private health insurers (PHIs) to support the sustainability and fairness of Australia's private health insurance system.

Importance to regional/remote communities

Keeping business local - When a local bank branch closes, customers are compelled to travel elsewhere for their banking needs, reducing foot traffic and transactions at other local shops and businesses. While this shift may benefit larger regional centres, it negatively impacts smaller ones.

Security - Another significant issue arising from increased travel distances and reduced access to banking services is the heightened financial and physical risk associated with individuals and businesses needing to retain larger cash holdings for extended periods. Given there is a cash mandate on grocery and fuel retailers, security risks become even greater for these business types when local branches are closed.

Community support - Many community groups rely on their local banks for sponsorships and support for local events, sporting groups and community projects. Local banks are part of their local communities and want to contribute to the prosperity of the community in which they live.

Employment - Local bank branches provide flexible, skilled jobs in regional and remote communities encouraging young people to stay in their local community and attracting new families to regional towns.

Local context - Local bank branches understand their community, its economics and the people in it. This understanding is added to metrics to help inform and work with members of their community. This can also aid in detecting financial abuse, scams and fraud.

Digital disadvantage, outages and natural disasters - Rates of digital exclusion are higher in regional areas, as are outages and spotty network coverage. Regional areas also suffer from more natural disasters. Face-to-face cash services are a necessity for these communities.

Conclusion

The banking system provides essential services that underpin a market-based economy, and these services must be universally accessible.

Regional communities contribute to Australia's prosperity, and the highly profitable banks who owe their success to regional communities should be obligated to service them.

Supporting the *Obligation on banks to fund face-to-face banking in regional Australia* acknowledges the importance of face-to-face banking services as part of the main street businesses in towns throughout the country.

If regional Australia is expected to grow, produce and sustain, then face-to-face banking services need to be maintained and supporting this campaign puts that expectation where it belongs, on the banks themselves.

I commend this Mayoral Minute to Council.

Moved Cr M Davis Seconded Cr C Sparks

3.04/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Formally endorses the Obligation on banks to fund face-to-face banking in regional Australia campaign led by the Regional Banking Investment Alliance and include council logo on RBIA materials.
2. Advocates to the Commonwealth Government to legislate a cost sharing model for banks to fund regional face-to-face banking services.
3. Continues to leverage Council's existing advocacy platforms to amplify the campaign.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Cr M Davis	Nil
Cr C Sparks	
Cr M Elphick	
Cr A Parsons	
Cr D Scott	
Cr A Vosper	

The division was declared carried by 6 votes to 0.

CARRIED

7 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

7.1 RESOLUTION TRACKING REPORT

REPORT FROM: General Manager's Office

Moved Cr D Scott Seconded Cr A Parsons

4.04/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Notes the information contained in this report.

2. Notes the response contained with the report in relation to Resolution 4.02/26 and the allocation of tasks to multiple officers.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Cr M Davis	Nil
Cr C Sparks	
Cr M Elphick	
Cr A Parsons	
Cr D Scott	
Cr A Vosper	

The division was declared carried by 6 votes to 0.

CARRIED

Cr A Vosper declared a Non-Significant Non-Pecuniary Conflict of Interest regarding Item 7.2 “School of Arts and Music Advisory Committee – Terms of Reference” as she has submitted a tender for hiring a room at the centre on behalf of the Glen Innes Highland Writers.

Cr Vosper remained in the meeting.

7.2 SCHOOL OF ARTS AND MUSIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE - TERMS OF REFERENCE

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr A Parsons Seconded Cr D Scott

THAT Council:

1. Adopts the School of Arts and Music Advisory Committee Terms of Reference (April 2026).
2. Appoints Councillor A Vosper and Councillor C Sparks as Council delegates to the Committee until September 2027.

Amendment Moved Cr M Davis Seconded Cr C Sparks

THAT Council:

1. Appoints Councillor A Vosper and Councillor C Sparks as Council delegates to the Committee until September 2027.

2. Adopts the School of Arts and Music Advisory Committee Terms of Reference (April 2026) with the following amendments:

- Replace “The Advisory Committee will oversee” with “The Advisory Committee may provide advice and feedback to Council on.”
- Change “the application process for Participants” to “the effectiveness and accessibility of the participant application framework at a strategic level, but not individual applications or selections.”
- Add a conflict-of-interest clause.
- Adjust the review clause so it matches the pilot timeframe rather than a generic four-year cycle.
- Reinforce that any consensus on recommendations to Council Officers are not decisions.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Cr M Davis	Nil
Cr C Sparks	
Cr M Elphick	
Cr A Parsons	
Cr D Scott	
Cr A Vosper	

The division was declared CARRIED by 6 votes to 0.

The Amendment became the Motion.

Moved Cr M Davis Seconded Cr C Sparks

5.04/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Appoints Councillor A Vosper and Councillor C Sparks as Council delegates to the Committee until September 2027.
2. Adopts the School of Arts and Music Advisory Committee Terms of Reference (April 2026) with the following amendments:
 - Replace “The Advisory Committee will oversee” with “The Advisory Committee may provide advice and feedback to Council on.”
 - Change “the application process for Participants” to “the effectiveness and accessibility of the participant application framework at a strategic level, but not individual applications or selections.”
 - Add a conflict-of-interest clause.

- Adjust the review clause so it matches the pilot timeframe rather than a generic four-year cycle.
- Reinforce that any consensus on recommendations to Council Officers are not decisions.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Cr M Davis	Nil
Cr C Sparks	
Cr M Elphick	
Cr A Parsons	
Cr D Scott	
Cr A Vosper	

The division was declared carried by 6 votes to 0.

CARRIED

7.3 ABORIGINAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE - ELECTION OF COMMITTEE REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr A Parsons Seconded Cr M Elphick

THAT Council:

1. Endorses the following community representatives as members of the Aboriginal Consultative Committee, as elected at the AGM:
 - Tracey Dennis,
 - Waabii Chapman Burgess,
 - Richard Fields,
 - Meagan Cutmore,
 - Jacqueline Byrne, and
 - Katie Spry.
2. Endorses the Mayor (Councillor Margot Davis) as the Committee Chairperson of the Aboriginal Consultative Committee, and
3. Endorses the Deputy Mayor (Councillor Carol Sparks) as the Deputy Committee Chairperson of the Aboriginal Consultative Committee.

Amendment Moved Cr M Davis

Seconded Cr M Elphick

THAT Council:

1. Endorses the following community representatives as members of the Aboriginal Consultative Committee, as elected at the AGM:
 - Tracey Dennis,
 - Waabii Chapman Burgess,
 - Richard Fields,
 - Meagan Cutmore,
 - Jacqueline Byrne, and
 - Katie Spry.
2. Endorses the Mayor (Councillor Margot Davis) as the Committee Chairperson of the Aboriginal Consultative Committee, and
3. Endorses the Deputy Mayor (Councillor Carol Sparks) as the Deputy Committee Chairperson of the Aboriginal Consultative Committee.
4. Writes to the Glen Innes & District Community Centre Committee to formally invite a representative to attend and participate in the meeting as a non-voting member.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For

Cr M Davis
Cr C Sparks
Cr M Elphick
Cr A Parsons
Cr A Vosper

Against

Cr D Scott

The division was declared CARRIED by 5 votes to 1.

The Amendment became the Motion.

Moved Cr M Davis

Seconded Cr M Elphick

6.04/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Endorses the following community representatives as members of the Aboriginal Consultative Committee, as elected at the AGM:
 - Tracey Dennis,
 - Waabii Chapman Burgess,
 - Richard Fields,
 - Meagan Cutmore,
 - Jacqueline Byrne, and
 - Katie Spry.

2. Endorses the Mayor (Councillor Margot Davis) as the Committee Chairperson of the Aboriginal Consultative Committee, and
3. Endorses the Deputy Mayor (Councillor Carol Sparks) as the Deputy Committee Chairperson of the Aboriginal Consultative Committee.
4. Writes to the Glen Innes & District Community Centre Committee to formally invite a representative to attend and participate in the meeting as a non-voting member.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Cr M Davis	Nil
Cr C Sparks	
Cr M Elphick	
Cr A Parsons	
Cr D Scott	
Cr A Vosper	

The division was declared carried by 6 votes to 0.

CARRIED

7.4 EMMAVILLE MINING MUSEUM COMMITTEE - ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr D Scott

Seconded Cr M Elphick

7.04/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Endorses the following community representatives as members of the Emmaville Mining Museum Committee for the ensuing term, as elected at the AGM:
 - Dell Brown,
 - Evan Brown,
 - Jackie Coppolaro,
 - Cody Fitzgerald,
 - David Freeburn,
 - Heather Green,
 - Mark Green,
 - Harry Moroney, and
 - Alan Smith.

2. Endorses the election of the following office bearers of the Emmaville Mining Museum Committee, as resolved at the AGM:

- President – Evan Brown,
- Secretary – Harry Moroney,
- Treasurer – Heather Green,
- Publicity Officer – Jackie Coppolaro.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Cr M Davis	Nil
Cr C Sparks	
Cr M Elphick	
Cr A Parsons	
Cr D Scott	
Cr A Vosper	

The division was declared carried by 6 votes to 0.

CARRIED

7.5 EMMAVILLE WAR MEMORIAL HALL COMMITTEE - ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr A Parsons Seconded Cr D Scott

8.04/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Endorses the following community representatives as members of the Emmaville War Memorial Hall Committee for the ensuing term, as elected at the AGM:
 - Rob Banham,
 - Leah Johnson,
 - Daphne Say,
 - Chey Stone, and
 - Dot Wooder.
2. Endorses the election of the following office bearers of the Emmaville War Memorial Hall Committee, as resolved at the AGM:
 - President and Treasurer – Rob Banham, and
 - Secretary – Chey Stone.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Cr M Davis	Nil
Cr C Sparks	
Cr M Elphick	
Cr A Parsons	
Cr D Scott	
Cr A Vosper	

The division was declared carried by 6 votes to 0.

CARRIED

7.6 CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN - STAGE ONE PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr M Elphick Seconded Cr A Vosper

9.04/26 RESOLUTION

That Council Notes the progress made in implementing the Customer Service Improvement Plan – Stage One (Immediate Actions).

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Cr M Davis	Nil
Cr C Sparks	
Cr M Elphick	
Cr A Parsons	
Cr D Scott	
Cr A Vosper	

The division was declared carried by 6 votes to 0.

CARRIED

7.7 INVESTMENTS REPORT - MARCH 2026

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr M Elphick Seconded Cr C Sparks

That Council notes the information contained in this report.

Amendment Moved Cr M Davis

Seconded Cr A Parsons

THAT Council:

1. Notes that the current Investment Report satisfies statutory reporting requirements under the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 and is primarily focused on investment holdings and compliance.
2. Notes that the report identifies:
 - a reduction in investment balances due to operational cash requirements, and
 - a decrease in unrestricted cash during the reporting period; but does not present this information within a consolidated view of Council's overall cash position.
3. Recognises that the current format does not provide sufficient visibility to Council of:
 - total cash and investments as a combined position,
 - the relationship between restricted and unrestricted funds, and
 - changes in liquidity over time.
4. Requests that the monthly Investment Report be revised to a Cash and Investment Report, providing an integrated and decision-supporting view of Council's financial position.
5. Requests that the revised report include, at a minimum:
 - Total cash and investment balances presented as a consolidated position,
 - A clear breakdown of externally restricted, internally restricted, and unrestricted funds,
 - Month-on-month movement in cash and investments,
 - Commentary explaining key movements, including the relationship between investment decisions and operational cash requirements.
6. Requests that the revised reporting format be implemented and delivered from the May Ordinary Council Meeting.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Cr M Davis	Nil
Cr C Sparks	
Cr M Elphick	
Cr A Parsons	
Cr D Scott	
Cr A Vosper	

The division was declared CARRIED by 6 votes to 0.

The Amendment became the Motion.

Moved Cr M Davis

Seconded Cr A Parsons

10.04/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Notes that the current Investment Report satisfies statutory reporting requirements under the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 and is primarily focused on investment holdings and compliance.
2. Notes that the report identifies:
 - a reduction in investment balances due to operational cash requirements, and
 - a decrease in unrestricted cash during the reporting period; but does not present this information within a consolidated view of Council's overall cash position.
3. Recognises that the current format does not provide sufficient visibility to Council of:
 - total cash and investments as a combined position,
 - the relationship between restricted and unrestricted funds, and
 - changes in liquidity over time.
4. Requests that the monthly Investment Report be revised to a Cash and Investment Report, providing an integrated and decision-supporting view of Council's financial position.
5. Requests that the revised report include, at a minimum:
 - Total cash and investment balances presented as a consolidated position,
 - A clear breakdown of externally restricted, internally restricted, and unrestricted funds,
 - Month-on-month movement in cash and investments,
 - Commentary explaining key movements, including the relationship between investment decisions and operational cash requirements.
6. Requests that the revised reporting format be implemented and delivered from the May Ordinary Council Meeting.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Cr M Davis	Nil
Cr C Sparks	
Cr M Elphick	
Cr A Parsons	
Cr D Scott	
Cr A Vosper	

The division was declared carried by 6 votes to 0.

CARRIED

7.8 DRAFT GLEN INNES HIGHLANDS PRECINCTS ACTIVATION FRAMEWORK & STRATEGY

REPORT FROM: Place and Growth

Moved Cr C Sparks Seconded Cr A Vosper

THAT Council:

1. Endorses the Draft Glen Innes Highlands Precincts Activation Framework and Strategy 2026 – 2029 for public exhibition for a period of 28 days commencing Tuesday 28 April 2026.
2. Receives a further report at its June 2026 meeting to adopt the final version of the Glen Innes Highlands Precincts Activation Framework and Strategy 2026-2030 incorporating any changes from public submissions and the final graphic design for formal adoption and publication.
3. Notes that consultation for Deepwater will commence late May 2026 in-line with the Framework.

Amendment Moved Cr D Scott Seconded Cr A Parsons

THAT Council:

1. Endorses the Draft Glen Innes Highlands Precincts Activation Framework and Strategy 2026 – 2029 for public exhibition for a period of 56 days commencing Tuesday 28 April 2026.
2. Receives a further report at its July 2026 meeting to adopt the final version of the Glen Innes Highlands Precincts Activation Framework and Strategy 2026-2030 incorporating any changes from public submissions and the final graphic design for formal adoption and publication.

3. Notes that consultation for Deepwater will commence late May 2026 in-line with the Framework.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For

Cr A Parsons
Cr D Scott

Against

Cr M Davis
Cr C Sparks
Cr M Elphick
Cr A Vosper

The division was declared LOST by 4 votes to 2.

Amendment Moved Cr M Davis Seconded Cr C Sparks

THAT Council:

1. Places the Precinct and Activation Framework on public exhibition with the following amendments:
 - A clearly defined a two-layer precinct model, comprising:
 - i. Functional precincts as spatial clusters aligned to economic and community activity including:
 - Retail and Employment Precinct
 - Civic and Community Precinct
 - Recreation and Sporting Precinct
 - Tourism, Arts and Events Precinct
 - Transport and Gateway Precinct
 - ii. A Landscape and GeoRegion Network defined as a networked precinct rather than a traditional geographic boundary including:
 - GeoRegion Core
High-value geological, natural and landscape assets that are central to the UNESCO Global Geopark ambition.
 - GeoRegion Interface
Areas that connect to or influence the core, including scenic routes, river corridors, transition landscapes and key recreational destinations such as Beardy Waters, Stonehenge Recreation Reserve and Mann River.
 - GeoRegion Opportunity Areas
Broader parts of the LGA where there is greater capacity to accommodate development, including renewable energy and existing or future mining sites, without undermining key landscape values.

2. Displays the amended Draft Glen Innes Highlands Precincts Activation Framework and Strategy 2026 – 2029 for public exhibition for a period of 28 days commencing as soon as possible in May 2026.
3. Receives a further report at its July 2026 meeting to adopt the final version of the Glen Innes Highlands Precincts Activation Framework and Strategy 2026-2030 incorporating any changes from public submissions and the final graphic design for formal adoption and publication.
4. Notes that consultation for Deepwater will commence late June 2026 in-line with the Framework.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For

Cr M Davis
Cr C Sparks
Cr M Elphick
Cr D Scott
Cr A Vosper

Against

Cr A Parsons

The division was declared CARRIED by 5 votes to 1.

The Amendment became the Motion.

Moved Cr M Davis

Seconded Cr C Sparks

11.04/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Places the Precinct and Activation Framework on public exhibition with the following amendments:
 - A clearly defined a two-layer precinct model, comprising:
 - i. Functional precincts as spatial clusters aligned to economic and community activity including:
 - Retail and Employment Precinct
 - Civic and Community Precinct
 - Recreation and Sporting Precinct
 - Tourism, Arts and Events Precinct
 - Transport and Gateway Precinct

ii. A Landscape and GeoRegion Network defined as a networked precinct rather than a traditional geographic boundary including:

- GeoRegion Core

High-value geological, natural and landscape assets that are central to the UNESCO Global Geopark ambition.

- GeoRegion Interface

Areas that connect to or influence the core, including scenic routes, river corridors, transition landscapes and key recreational destinations such as Beardy Waters, Stonehenge Recreation Reserve and Mann River.

- GeoRegion Opportunity Areas

Broader parts of the LGA where there is greater capacity to accommodate development, including renewable energy and existing or future mining sites, without undermining key landscape values.

2. Displays the amended Draft Glen Innes Highlands Precincts Activation Framework and Strategy 2026 – 2029 for public exhibition for a period of 28 days commencing as soon as possible in May 2026.
3. Receives a further report at its July 2026 meeting to adopt the final version of the Glen Innes Highlands Precincts Activation Framework and Strategy 2026-2030 incorporating any changes from public submissions and the final graphic design for formal adoption and publication.
4. Notes that consultation for Deepwater will commence late June 2026 in-line with the Framework.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For

Cr M Davis
Cr C Sparks
Cr M Elphick
Cr A Parsons
Cr D Scott
Cr A Vosper

Against

Nil

The division was declared carried by 6 votes to 0.

CARRIED

7.9 DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT REPORT - DA-11-26 - SUBDIVISION (7 LOTS INTO 4 LOTS) - 217 GREY STREET AND 177-179 BOURKE STREET, GLEN INNES

REPORT FROM: Place and Growth

Moved Cr M Elphick Seconded Cr C Sparks

12.04/26 RESOLUTION

That Council approves Development Application No. DA-11-26 for a Subdivision (7 Lots into 4 Lots) at 217 Grey Street and 177-179 Bourke Street, Glen Innes, subject to the conditions of consent contained in Schedule 1 (Annexure A).

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Cr M Davis	Cr A Parsons
Cr C Sparks	Cr D Scott
Cr M Elphick	
Cr A Vosper	

The division was declared carried by 4 votes to 2.

CARRIED

8 NOTICES OF MOTIONS (INCLUDING RESCISSION MOTIONS) / QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

8.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - BEARDY WATERS WEIR - SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT AND WATER SECURITY ASSESSMENT

REPORT FROM: Councillors

Moved Cr D Scott Seconded Cr A Parsons

THAT Council:

1. Recognises the weir on Beardy Waters as a critical piece of local water infrastructure contributing to water security, drought resilience, and amenity within the Glen Innes local government area.
2. Notes that sediment accumulation upstream of the weir may be impacting:
 - hydraulic capacity and storage function,
 - water quality and reliability,
 - operational performance of the asset.

3. Resolves to undertake a technical investigation and feasibility assessment into sediment management options for the Beardy Waters weir pool, including:
 - hydrological and geomorphological assessment,
 - sediment characterisation and volume analysis,
 - ecological and fisheries constraints,
 - engineering options for sediment removal, redistribution, or stabilisation.
4. Requests that this assessment be conducted as an asset management and water security initiative, with consideration of:
 - long-term infrastructure performance,
 - climate variability and drought preparedness,
 - whole-of-system water management outcomes within the Macintyre River catchment.
5. Directs Council staff to commence pre-lodgement consultation with relevant NSW Government agencies, including:
 - NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water,
 - Department of Primary Industries and Regional Developmentto identify approval pathways under the:
 - *Water Management Act 2000*,
 - *Fisheries Management Act 1994*.
6. Receives a report back to Council within six months outlining:
 - feasibility findings,
 - regulatory requirements and risks,
 - indicative costs and funding opportunities,
 - recommended next steps, including whether to proceed to a Part 5 Review of Environmental Factors (REF) under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.
7. Notes that this investigation is to be undertaken in alignment with Council's current Drought Management Plan, complementing immediate response measures while proactively addressing longer-term infrastructure readiness and water security considerations beyond the Plan's immediate operational scope.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For

Cr A Parsons

Cr D Scott

Against

Cr M Davis

Cr C Sparks

Cr M Elphick

Cr A Vosper

The division was declared LOST by 4 votes to 2.

Cr Sparks left the meeting room at 10:30am.
Cr Sparks returned to the meeting room at 10:32am.

8.2 NOTICE OF MOTION - DECLARATION OF LIFE CHOICES SUPPORT SERVICES AS A BUSINESS ACTIVITY AND FULL FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY

REPORT FROM: Councillors

Moved Cr D Scott Seconded Cr A Parsons

THAT Council:

1. Formally resolves that Life Choices Support Services (LCSS) be assessed for classification as a business activity of Council in accordance with the NSW Office of Local Government Pricing & Costing for Council Businesses guidelines and the competitive neutrality framework.
2. Undertakes and reports a formal competitive neutrality assessment of LCSS, including:
 - determination of gross operating turnover,
 - assessment against Category 1 and Category 2 thresholds, and
 - consideration of whether LCSS operates in a materially contestable market.
3. Prepares and reports financial statements for LCSS, consistent with Special Purpose Financial Statement (SPFS) principles, including:
 - a full profit and loss statement,
 - balance sheet (where applicable),
 - statement of cash flows (where applicable),
 - full cost attribution including overheads, insurance, and superannuation,
 - identification and quantification of any Community Service Obligations (CSOs).
4. Subject to the outcome of the competitive neutrality assessment, prepares formal SPFS in accordance with NSW reporting requirements for declared business activities.
5. Provides full financial disclosure to Council and the community, including:
 - gross operating turnover,
 - a breakdown of revenue sources (NDIS, Commonwealth programs, grants, user charges),
 - operating expenditure,
 - any direct or indirect subsidies, including cross-subsidisation from general rates or reserves,
 - projected financial performance for FY2025–2026, including net surplus or deficit and assessment of commercial sustainability.

6. Reports operational metrics for the past three financial years, including:
 - number of clients,
 - full-time equivalent (FTE) staff,
 - fleet vehicles utilised.
7. Ensures transparency, with all reporting presented in Open Council, except where specific items meet the strict criteria for confidentiality under Section 10A(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.
8. Receives a report to the next Ordinary Meeting of Council outlining:
 - the completed competitive neutrality assessment,
 - the financial statements for LCSS, and
 - recommendations regarding the classification and governance of LCSS as a Council business activity.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For

Cr A Parsons
Cr D Scott
Cr A Vosper

Against

Cr M Davis
Cr C Sparks
Cr M Elphick

The division was declared EQUAL.

The Mayor, in accordance with the provisions of Section 370(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, used her casting vote to vote against the motion.

The Motion was declared LOST.

9 CORRESPONDENCE, MINUTES, PRESS RELEASES

Moved Cr A Parsons

Seconded Cr M Elphick

13.04/26 RESOLUTION

That Council passes Item numbers 9.1, 9.2 and 10.1 en bloc.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Cr M Davis	Nil
Cr C Sparks	
Cr M Elphick	
Cr A Parsons	
Cr D Scott	
Cr A Vosper	

The division was declared CARRIED by 6 votes to 0.

CARRIED

9.1 MINUTES OF COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR INFORMATION

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr A Parsons Seconded Cr M Elphick

14.04/26 RESOLUTION

That Council notes the information contained in this report.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Cr M Davis	Nil
Cr C Sparks	
Cr M Elphick	
Cr A Parsons	
Cr D Scott	
Cr A Vosper	

The division was declared CARRIED by 6 votes to 0.

CARRIED

9.2 CORRESPONDENCE AND PRESS RELEASES

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr A Parsons Seconded Cr M Elphick

15.04/26 RESOLUTION

That Council notes the information contained in this report.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Cr M Davis	Nil
Cr C Sparks	
Cr M Elphick	
Cr A Parsons	
Cr D Scott	
Cr A Vosper	

The division was declared CARRIED by 6 votes to 0.

CARRIED

10 REPORTS FROM DELEGATES

10.1 REPORTS FROM DELEGATES

REPORT FROM: General Manager's Office

Moved Cr A Parsons Seconded Cr M Elphick

16.04/26 RESOLUTION

That Council notes the information contained in this report.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Cr M Davis	Nil
Cr C Sparks	
Cr M Elphick	
Cr A Parsons	
Cr D Scott	
Cr A Vosper	

The division was declared CARRIED by 6 votes to 0.

CARRIED

11 MATTERS OF AN URGENT NATURE

There were no matters of an urgent nature.

12 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Moved Cr C Sparks Seconded Cr M Elphick

17.04/26 RESOLUTION

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*:

Item	Report	Reason
12.1	NIRW Tender P00826 - Green Waste Processing	(d) (i) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it. (d) (ii) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the Council. (d) (iii) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed, reveal a trade secret.
12.2	General Manager Contract Extension	(a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors).

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For

Cr M Davis
Cr C Sparks
Cr M Elphick
Cr A Parsons
Cr D Scott
Cr A Vosper

Against

Nil

The division was declared carried by 6 votes to 0.

CARRIED

The live streaming of the Meeting was paused at 10:49am.

All members of the public left the meeting room at 10:49am.

Moved Cr A Parsons Seconded Cr D Scott

18.04/26 RESOLUTION

That the meeting be paused for a 10-minute break.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Cr M Davis	Nil
Cr C Sparks	
Cr M Elphick	
Cr A Parsons	
Cr D Scott	
Cr A Vosper	

The division was declared CARRIED by 6 votes to 0.

CARRIED

The meeting resumed at 11:00am.

12.1 NIRW TENDER P00826 - GREEN WASTE PROCESSING

REPORT FROM: Place and Growth

Moved Cr A Parsons Seconded Cr M Elphick

19.04/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Awards Davis Earthmoving & Quarrying Pty Ltd for green waste processing at Glen Innes Severn Council Waste and Recovery Facilities.
2. Notes that the term of the contract will be two years plus two x one year option to extend the contract subject to contract performance.
3. Authorises the General Manager to execute the contract documentation on behalf of Council.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Cr M Davis	Nil
Cr C Sparks	
Cr M Elphick	
Cr A Parsons	
Cr D Scott	
Cr A Vosper	

The division was declared carried by 6 votes to 0.

CARRIED

All members of staff left the meeting room at 11:07am.

12.2 GENERAL MANAGER CONTRACT EXTENSION

Moved Cr A Parsons Seconded Cr A Vosper

20.04/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Notes the General Manager's request for reappointment in accordance with Clause 5 of the Standard Contract of Employment.
2. Notes that the General Manager has agreed to the Performance Plan previously resolved by Council.
3. Offers the General Manager a new contract of employment from 16 January 2027 to 15 January 2030.
4. Resolves to amend the General Manager's performance management and review period from a calendar year cycle to align with Council's financial year and Operational Plan cycle.
5. Authorises the Common Seal of the Glen Innes Severn Council to be affixed to the Standard Contract of Employment for General Managers between the Glen Innes Severn Council and Mr Bernard Smith.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Cr M Davis	Nil
Cr C Sparks	
Cr M Elphick	
Cr A Parsons	
Cr D Scott	
Cr A Vosper	

The division was declared carried by 6 votes to 0.

CARRIED

Moved Cr A Parsons Seconded Cr C Sparks

21.04/26 RESOLUTION

That Council moves out of Closed Council into Open Council.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Cr M Davis	Nil
Cr C Sparks	
Cr M Elphick	
Cr A Parsons	
Cr D Scott	
Cr A Vosper	

The division was declared carried by 6 votes to 0.

CARRIED

Staff members returned to the meeting room at 11:41am.

The live streaming of the meeting resumed at 11:41am.

The Mayor read out the Confidential Closed Resolutions relating to Item numbers 12.1 and 12.2 as listed above.

The Meeting closed at 11.43am.