

**OFFICERS REPORT****6.3 RECORDING COUNCILLOR CONTACT WITH DEVELOPERS**

Submitting Councillor: Dr Anjalee de Silva

**MOTION**

*That Council:*

- 1. Notes the October 2021 report from the Victorian Ombudsman "Investigation into allegations of collusion with property developers at Kingston City Council";*
- 2. Notes the Ombudsman's comments regarding meetings with property developers, including her recommendation that "it would be prudent for both Council staff and Councillors to record such meetings and for Council to keep a register of these";*
- 3. Re-affirms its commitment to the highest possible levels of transparency with regard to Council's decision-making as to planning and development;*
- 4. Directs Officers to provide advice to Council on the relevant recommendations from the Ombudsman contained in this report, including as regards the development of a public register of contact with developers.*

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

There are no budget implications to this motion.

**IMPACT ON INTERNAL RESOURCES**

Reviewing the Ombudsman report and the preparation or development of a policy addressing Councillor contact with developers and the approach taken

by other councils which have implemented a policy for registering meetings with developers can be undertaken within existing resources.

***COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES***

Council has undertaken a number of actions since 2017 to improve its transparency in decision making and incorporates these in its decision making processes.

***RELEVANCE TO WORK ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY OFFICERS OR COMMITTEES***

Officers have read the Ombudsman report but no work around this issue has been done, to date.

***FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS***

As a matter of course “Integrity reports” that have direct relevance to Monash City Council and/or the Local Government sector from The Ombudsman, VAGO, Local Government Inspectorate and Local Government Victoria and IBAC are presented to the Audit & Risk Committee, accompanied by officer comments on the relevance of the issue to Monash and any follow up actions on recommendations.