

CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN
MINUTES OF THE
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ON 24 MARCH 2026

ITEM 6.1 **CHESTER SQUARE PLANNING PROPOSAL - POST EXHIBITION (PP-2024-548)**
(478) **CLR. STAVRINOS:/CLR. ABU-SAMEN**

RESOLVED that

1. Council submits the Chester Square planning proposal (PP-2024-548) to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for finalisation as set out in this report.
2. Council endorses the draft site specific Development Control Plan as shown in Attachment 3, and that it be brought into effect once the LEP amendment is gazetted and published on the NSW Legislation website.
3. Council endorses the draft Planning Agreement as provided in Attachment 4 and authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute the agreement on behalf of Council, including any other administrative changes that does not alter the intent.
4. Council notes the matters raised by the Community Voice Panel in connection with this planning proposal.

- CARRIED

For:- Clrs Raffan, Walsh, Abu-Samen, Asfour, Zakhia, Stavrinis, Walther, Lindsay and El-Hayek

Against:- Clrs Blood, Cahill, Harika, Saleh, Akther and Coorey

ITEM 6.2 **GAS BAN REVIEW**
MOTION **CLR. ASFOUR:/ CLR. ABU-SAMEN**

That the information be noted.

AMENDMENT **CLR. WALTHER:/CLR. STAVRINOS**

That Council do not make a submission to the NSW Government in relation to banning gas.

THE AMENDMENT WAS LOST.
CLRS. STAVRINOS AND COOREY STOOD FOR A DIVISION.

DIVISION **For:-** Clrs Coorey, Zakhia, Stavrinis, Walther and Lindsay

 Against:- Clrs Asfour, Cahill, El-Hayek, Harika, Raffan, Blood, Saleh, Akther, Abu-Samen and Walsh

CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN
MINUTES OF THE
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ON 24 MARCH 2026

THIS MATTER WAS DEALT WITH PREVIOUSLY. SEE RESOLUTION NO. 473 ON PAGE FIVE OF THESE MINUTES.

SECTION 11: NOTICE OF MOTIONS & QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

ITEM 11.1 STATUS OF PREVIOUS NOTICES OF MOTION - MARCH 2026

THIS MATTER WAS DEALT WITH PREVIOUSLY. SEE RESOLUTION NO. 474 ON PAGE FIVE OF THESE MINUTES.

**ITEM 11.2 NSW GOVERNMENT - FUND OUR DE-AMALGAMATION
(485) CLR. STAVRINOS:/CLR. BLOOD**

RESOLVED that Council:

1. Writes to the NSW Minister for Local Government and strongly advocate to get the NSW Government to change the *Local Government Act* to ensure that it provides forcibly merged Councils a commitment to fully fund a council-initiated Business Case to demerge provided that a plebiscite is put to the residents of the Canterbury-Bankstown LGA.
2. Agrees to submit a motion to the 2026 NSW Local Government Conference advocating to change the Act and ensure that forcibly merged councils have their Business Case fully funded by the NSW Government.

- CARRIED

CLR. ASFOUR TEMPORARILY VACATED THE CHAMBER AT 8.02 PM AND RETURNED AT 8.04 PM.

ITEM 11.3 GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY 2026

THIS MATTER WAS DEALT WITH PREVIOUSLY. SEE RESOLUTION NO. 475 ON PAGE SIX OF THESE MINUTES.

CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN
MINUTES OF THE
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ON 24 MARCH 2026

ITEM 11.4 **DEEPWATER PUMP TRACK PEDESTRIAN REFUGE**
(486) **CLR. LINDSAY:/CLR. WALTHER**

RESOLVED that Council continue working with Transport for NSW (TfNSW) and request that the remaining design approvals be prioritised to support timely construction of the pedestrian refuge, improving pedestrian safety and access to the new pump track, and that following completion, Council monitor the site to determine whether any further safety or access improvements are required.

- CARRIED

ITEM 11.5 **ADDITIONAL ROUNDABOUTS IN CONDELL PARK**

THIS MATTER WAS DEALT WITH PREVIOUSLY. SEE RESOLUTION NO. 476 ON PAGE SIX OF THESE MINUTES.

ITEM 11.6 **INVESTIGATING A TOY LIBRARY SERVICE**
(487) **CLR. WALTHER:/CLR. BLOOD**

RESOLVED that Council:

1. Investigates the feasibility of establishing a community toy library service within the Canterbury-Bankstown LGA;
2. Considers potential delivery models, including integration within existing Council libraries or community facilities, and potential partnerships with local organisations;
3. Identifies suitable location/s for a potential pilot program.
4. Reports back to Council on the outcomes of this investigation, including benefits, costs, funding opportunities, implementation options, and appropriate operational, safety and hygiene considerations and mitigations.

- CARRIED

CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN
MINUTES OF THE
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ON 24 MARCH 2026

ITEM 11.7
(488) **DIGITAL PLANNING ASSISTANCE TOOLS FOR DA'S**
CLR. WALTHER:/CLR. ZAKHIA

RESOLVED that Council:

1. Investigates the feasibility of implementing digital planning assistance tool/s, including AI-enabled systems, to support our residents in understanding and preparing Development Applications (DA);
2. Considers how such tools could improve accessibility, reduce common errors, and enhance the overall customer experience in the initial stages of the DA process;
3. Prepares and provides a workshop for Councillors outlining:
 - Current digital planning technologies available in the market;
 - Examples of implementation across other Councils;
 - Benefits, risks and limitations of such tool/s;
 - Indicative costs, funding opportunities and resource implications.

- CARRIED

ITEM 11.8 **REVIEW OF TRAFFIC CONDITIONS IN SEYMOUR PARADE, BELFIELD**

THIS MATTER WAS DEALT WITH PREVIOUSLY. SEE RESOLUTION NO. 477 ON PAGE SIX OF THESE MINUTES.

ITEM 11.9
(489) **INVITATION TO HIS MAJESTY KING ABDULLAH II TO VISIT THE CITY OF**
CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN
CLR. ABU-SAMEN:/CLR. HARIKA

RESOLVED that Council:

1. Writes to the Prime Minister of Australia and the Minister for Foreign Affairs requesting their support in facilitating an official visit by His Majesty King Abdullah II to Australia in the second half of this year, and advocating for Canterbury-Bankstown to be included as one of the official visit locations.

CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN
MINUTES OF THE
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ON 24 MARCH 2026

2. Formally communicates with the Embassy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in Australia to extend an invitation to His Majesty King Abdullah II and Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah to visit the City of Canterbury-Bankstown.
3. Notes that:
 - Canterbury-Bankstown is home to a significant Jordanian and broader Middle Eastern community.
 - The City is one of the most multicultural areas in Australia, reflecting strong cultural, social, and economic ties with Jordan.
 - The City of Canterbury-Bankstown has established friendship relations with major Jordanian cities, including As-Salt, a recognised heritage city, and Irbid, strengthening cultural and municipal ties between our communities.
 - A visit would further enhance these relationships and promote cultural exchange, mutual understanding, and diplomatic goodwill between Australia and Jordan.
4. Requests that the Mayor formally sign and send letters of invitation and advocacy on behalf of Council.

- CARRIED

CLR. LINDSAY TEMPORARILY VACATED THE CHAMBER AT 8.19 PM AND RETURNED AT 8.23 PM.

ITEM 11.10
(490)

ROAD CONDITION ADVOCACY

CLR. ABU-SAMEN:/CLR. STAVRINOS

RESOLVED that Council:

1. Writes to the NSW Minister for Transport to urgently raise concerns regarding the deteriorating condition of local roads across Canterbury-Bankstown, particularly those heavily impacted by bus services replacing rail services during the Sydney Metro works.
2. Notes that:
 - Roads used by replacement bus services have experienced significant wear and deterioration, making them unsafe and uncomfortable for residents and road users.
 - Council has received a large volume of complaints from the community regarding poor road conditions, including safety concerns and vehicle damage.
 - The current condition of these roads negatively impacts the liveability, safety, and presentation of the City.

CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN
MINUTES OF THE
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ON 24 MARCH 2026

3. Requests that the Minister:
 - Conduct an urgent assessment of the affected road network.
 - Provide a clear timeframe for repairs and upgrades.
 - Allocate dedicated funding to Council to support immediate and long-term road restoration works.
 - Consider the additional burden placed on local infrastructure due to state-led transport projects.
4. Provides supporting evidence, including photographs and documented community complaints, to demonstrate the current condition of the roads.
5. Writes to the Prime Minister of Australia, if adequate support is not received from the State Government, seeking federal assistance to ensure the City receives fair and equitable infrastructure investment compared to other cities across Australia.
6. Calls for stronger coordination between State and Federal Governments to ensure that Canterbury-Bankstown:
 - Is treated equitably with other local government areas.
 - Maintains infrastructure standards consistent with the rest of Australia.
 - Remains a safe, accessible, and presentable city for all residents.
7. Requests that the Mayor advocate strongly on behalf of the community and report back to Council on progress.

- CARRIED

ITEM 11.11

APPRECIATION FOR STAFF WORKING IN LAKEMBA NIGHTS DURING RAMADAN EVENT

(491)

CLR. ABU-SAMEN:/CLR. STAVRINOS

RESOLVED that Council:

1. Acknowledges and sincerely thanks all Council staff and workers involved in delivering the Lakemba Nights during Ramadan event, for their outstanding effort, dedication, and professionalism.
2. Recognises that:
 - Staff worked long and demanding hours, particularly during night shifts throughout the Ramadan period.
 - The event was a great success, attracting large crowds and showcasing the cultural richness of our community.

CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN
MINUTES OF THE
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ON 24 MARCH 2026

- The hard work across multiple areas—including operations, safety, cleaning, logistics, and event coordination—was instrumental in delivering a smooth and successful event.
 - Their commitment reflects the strong community spirit and multicultural identity of Canterbury-Bankstown.
3. Extends special appreciation to all teams who contributed to the success of Lakemba Nights during Ramadan, acknowledging their exceptional teamwork and resilience.
 4. Also recognises and thanks all workers across the City of Canterbury-Bankstown for their continued hard work and dedication in serving the community, particularly during busy and challenging periods.
 5. Requests that the Mayor formally convey Council’s appreciation and gratitude to all staff involved.

- CARRIED

ITEM 11.12
(492)

SUPPORTING COMMUTERS AT CHESTER HILL STATION

CLR. HARIKA:/CLR. CAHILL

RESOLVED that Council:

1. Make representations to Transport for NSW (TfNSW), requesting that they investigate the need for and feasibility of additional commuter parking at Chester Hill Station.
2. Propose the Council-owned car park site on Waldron Road as a possible location subject to Council public parking be retained on the site in any future car park.

- CARRIED

CLR. BLOOD REQUESTED THAT HIS NAME BE RECORDED AS VOTING AGAINST THIS RESOLUTION.

ITEM 11.13
(493)

ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΑ Ή ΘΑΝΑΤΟΣ

CLR. COOREY:/CLR. STAVRINOS

RESOLVED that Council:

CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN
MINUTES OF THE
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ON 24 MARCH 2026

1. Reaffirms its commitment to the Hellenic community by continuing the annual raising of the Greek flag at Campsie, Bankstown, and Earlwood to commemorate Greek Independence Day on 25 March.
2. Formally acknowledges that tomorrow, 25 March 2026, marks the 205th anniversary of the Greek War of Independence and its contribution to the democratic and Western values shared by our local community.
3. Recognises the endurance of the Greek and Cypriot communities within the Canterbury Bankstown LGA and the importance of celebrating their cultural heritage and successful pursuit of self-determination.

- CARRIED

ITEM 11.14

WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES ALONG THE COOKS RIVER

MOTION

CLR. COOREY:/CLR. BLOOD

That Council:

1. Urgently investigate the bin collection schedule for bins along the Cooks River, and other waterways within the LGA, to ensure rubbish is not entering our waterways from overflowing and/or neglected bins.
2. Consult with Council's Waste Management Team to ensure they are adequately equipped to retrieve rubbish from relatively remote bin locations, and ensure that immediate remedies are pursued if operational deficiencies are identified.
3. Install signage on bins along the Cooks River advising residents and patrons of the shared path to contact Council in the event of an overflowing bin. This will help prevent rubbish from entering our waterways and ensure an expedient response from collection teams.
4. Implement a more frequent routine of bin collection and cleaning, acknowledging that a major component of the waste is dog excrement disposed of by dog walkers and food scraps from barbecue areas, which currently leads to horrid smells and health concerns.
5. Provide a report to Council outlining the cost of implementing the above operational changes, contrasted against the cost and impact of removing these

CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN
MINUTES OF THE
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ON 24 MARCH 2026

bins and relocating them to more convenient, less remote locations for collection.

AMENDMENT

CLR. WALSH:/ CLR. CAHILL

That Councillors consider operational and service plan changes in the context of Council's overall operational plan and budget so that financial and resourcing impacts can be appropriately considered.

THE AMENDMENT WAS CARRIED AND BECAME THE MOTION.
CLRS. WALSH AND CAHILL STOOD FOR A DIVISION.

DIVISION

For:- Clrs Asfour, Cahill, El-Hayek, Harika, Raffan, Saleh, Akther and Walsh

Against:- Clrs Coorey, Zakhia, Blood, Stavrinis, Walther, Lindsay and Abu-Samen

AMENDMENT

CLR. WALTHER

That Councillors consider operational and service plan changes in the context of Council's overall operational plan and budget so that financial and resourcing impacts can be appropriately considered in relation to bins along the Cooks River.

THE AMENDMENT WAS ACCEPTED BY CLR. WALSH.
THE AMENDMENT WAS CARRIED AND BECAME THE MOTION.

(494)

CLR. WALSH:/CLR. CAHILL

RESOLVED that Councillors consider operational and service plan changes in the context of Council's overall operational plan and budget so that financial and resourcing impacts can be appropriately considered in relation to bins along the Cooks River.

- CARRIED

CLR. RAFFAN TEMPORARILY VACATED THE CHAMBER AT 8.46 PM AND RETURNED AT 8.49 PM.

ITEM 11.15

MAINTENANCE AND PRESENTATION OF BYPASSES, FOOTPATHS, AND VERGE AREAS

MOTION

CLR. COOREY:/CLR. STAVRINIS

That Council:

1. Institutes a comprehensive maintenance policy for all bypass, footpath, and verge areas within the ambit of Council's jurisdiction, with specific focus on main road footpaths and their corresponding verge areas.

CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN
MINUTES OF THE
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ON 24 MARCH 2026

2. Ensures this policy mandates the regular and proactive removal of all rubbish, as well as comprehensive grass verge maintenance, including the edging (whipper snipping) of kerbs and pavement edges.
3. Requests the Chief Executive Officer to prepare a brief operational report detailing the scheduling, resource allocation, and budget required to implement this policy, noting that the former Canterbury Council previously delivered this level of service within their standard operating budget.

AMENDMENT

CLR. CAHILL/: CLR. RAFFAN

That this matter of illegal dumping be entered into the Councillor Portal for an appropriate review and response to all Councillors regarding background of this illegal dump and the actions that were undertaken to respond to it and what process Council has in place to deal with future instances.

THE AMENDMENT WAS CARRIED AND BECAME THE MOTION.
CLRS. COOREY AND STAVRINOS STOOD FOR A DIVISION.

DIVISION

For:- Clrs Asfour, Cahill, El-Hayek, Harika, Raffan, Blood, Akther, Abu-Samen, Saleh and Walsh

Against:- Clrs Coorey, Zakhia, Stavrinis, Walther and Lindsay

AMENDMENT

CLR. STAVRINOS

That Council request that the Chief Executive Officer prepare a brief operational report detailing the scheduling resource allocation and budget requirement to implement a policy for all bypass, footpath and verge areas within the ambit of Council's jurisdiction.

THE AMENDMENT WAS ACCEPTED BY CLR. CAHILL.
THE AMENDMENT WAS CARRIED AND BECAME THE MOTION.

(495)

CLR. CAHILL:/CLR. RAFFAN

RESOLVED that:

1. This matter of illegal dumping be entered into the Councillor Portal for an appropriate review and response to all Councillors regarding background of this illegal dump and the actions that were undertaken to respond to it and what process Council has in place to deal with future instances.
2. Council request that the Chief Executive Officer prepare a brief operational report detailing the scheduling resource allocation and budget requirement to

CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN
MINUTES OF THE
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ON 24 MARCH 2026

implement a policy for all bypass, footpath and verge areas within the ambit of Council's jurisdiction.

- CARRIED

CLR. WALTHER TEMPORARILY VACATED THE CHAMBER AT 8.57 PM AND RETURNED AT 8.59 PM.

ITEM 11.16

COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS – CLR. BLOOD

In accordance with the requirements of section 3.14 of the Code of Meeting Practice, the Chief Executive Officer provided an oral response to each of the questions from Councillor Blood.

CLR. HARIKA TEMPORARILY VACATED THE CHAMBER AT 9.10 PM AND RETURNED AT 9.13 PM.

ITEM 11.17

COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS – CLR. COOREY

In accordance with the requirements of section 3.14 of the Code of Meeting Practice, the Chief Executive Officer provided an oral response to questions 6, 7, 9, 14, 16 and 19 from Councillor Coorey.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that the answers to questions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17 and 18 will require further investigation and as such a report will be provided back to Council at a future Ordinary Council Meeting.

(496)

CLR. ASFOUR:/CLR. STAVRINOS

RESOLVED that:

1. Staff do not provide a separate report on the remaining questions requested by Councillor Coorey.
2. Councillor Coorey be encouraged to convey to the staff the basis and rationale for the information.
3. Accordingly, it be reflected in the forthcoming operational planning process.

- CARRIED

CLR. BLOOD TEMPORARILY VACATED THE CHAMBER AT 9.17 PM AND RETURNED AT 9.19 PM.

CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN
MINUTES OF THE
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ON 24 MARCH 2026

CLR. WALTHER TEMPORARILY VACATED THE CHAMBER AT 9.26 PM AND RETURNED AT 9.28 PM.

AT THIS STAGE OF THE MEETING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15.15 OF THE CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE, THE MAYOR EXPELLED CLR. COOREY FROM THE MEETING FOR CONTINUED ACTS OF DISORDER UNDER SECTION 15.10(G) OF THE CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE. CLR. COOREY REFUSED TO LEAVE THE MEETING.

THE MAYOR ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 9.45 PM AND ASKED CLR. COOREY TO COMPLY WITH HIS RULING.

THE MAYOR REOPENED THE MEETING AT 10.00 PM.

AT THIS STAGE OF THE MEETING, THE MAYOR ADVISED CLR. COOREY THAT FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE REASONABLE DIRECTION TO LEAVE THE MEETING IS AN OFFENCE UNDER SECTION 660 OF THE *LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT* CARRYING A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF 20 PENALTY UNITS EQUALLING \$2,200.00.

THE MAYOR SAID HE WOULD NOT CALL THE POLICE AND THAT HE HAD GIVEN CLR. COOREY AMPLE LEEWAY AND SHE CONTINUED TO DISRUPT THE ORDER OF THE MEETING AND FAILED TO COMPLY WITH REASONABLE DIRECTIONS. THE MAYOR ASKED CLR. COOREY TO VACATE THE CHAMBER UNDER CLAUSE 15.15 OF THE CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE.

CLR. COOREY LEFT THE MEETING AT 10.01 PM.

SECTION 12: CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

(497) CLR. ASFOUR:/CLR. ZAKHIA

RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act, 1993, the Public and the Press be excluded from the meeting to enable Council to determine Items 12.1 and 12.2 in confidential session for the reasons indicated:

Item 12.1 Bus Shelter Tender Negotiation

This report is considered to be confidential in accordance with Section 10A(2)(d)(i) of the Local Government Act, 1993, as it relates to commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed, prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

Item 12.2 Children's Services - Department of Education and Service Proposal

CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN
MINUTES OF THE
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ON 24 MARCH 2026

This report is considered to be confidential in accordance with Section 10A(2)(c) of the Local Government Act, 1993, as it relates to information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

- CARRIED

**COUNCIL RESOLVED INTO CONFIDENTIAL SESSION AT 10.05 PM AND
REVERTED BACK TO OPEN COUNCIL AT 10.10 PM.**

ITEM 12.1
(498)

BUS SHELTER TENDER NEGOTIATION

CLR. ZAKHIA:/CLR. ABU-SAMEN

RESOLVED that

1. Council accepts oOh!Media's proposal with respect to carrying out the contract for Council's Advertising Funded Bus Shelter Program, as outlined in the report.
2. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to negotiate the final terms and conditions, enter into a contract and sign all documentation in accordance with Council's resolution, as required.
3. Council notifies the unsuccessful proponent in writing and thanks them for their participation in the procurement process.

- CARRIED

ITEM 12.2
(499)

CHILDREN'S SERVICES - DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SERVICE PROPOSAL

CLR. LINDSAY:/CLR. BLOOD

RESOLVED that

1. Council agree to commence management and operation of the Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service at Bankstown Public School for a 12-month trial period.
2. Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a Licence agreement with the Department of Education, based on the details outlined in the report.
3. A progress report be presented to Council after six months, followed by a further report on the evaluation of the service at the completion of the 12-month trial period.

CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN
MINUTES OF THE
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ON 24 MARCH 2026

- CARRIED

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.12 PM.

Minutes confirmed 28 APRIL 2026

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Mayor