



Final Community Engagement Report

Asset Plan 2025-2035 and Financial Plan 2025-2035

Summary

Council spends more on the maintenance and renewal of assets than anything else. Given that spend, there are three reasons for engaging:

1. To get input from the community to our approach for assessing and prioritising asset expenditure;
2. To build understanding in the community on the reasons why we need to spend money on renewing and upgrading assets;
3. To understand and respond to changing community needs.

Consultation was undertaken regarding Asset Plan 2025-2035 and Financial Plan 2025-2035 in addition to development of the new Council Plan in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Community engagement included a deliberative panel session held with Councillors, community members and Council staff on 13 August 2025. The Draft Asset Plan was also exhibited over the Engage platform from 5 August to 26 August 2025 to seek feedback through an online survey.

This report records feedback from the sessions.

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Project Overview

Draft Asset Plan 2025-2035

Under Section 92 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, a council must develop, adopt and keep in force the Asset Plan in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices.

Subject to subsection (6) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, a Council must develop or review the Asset Plan in accordance with its deliberative engagement processes and adopt the Asset Plan by 31 October in the year following a general election, other than the first general election to be conducted under section 257(1)(a).

The first Asset Plan 2021-2031 was adopted by Council in June 2022 following community consultation in April to May 2022.

Subsequently, Council completed further community engagement in late 2023 and early 2024, including a deliberative engagement process to discuss the priority and timing of renewal and upgrade works for each asset class as an integral part of Council's service provision to the community. As part of this process, three deliberative panel sessions were held with members of the public and Council staff on 29 and 30 November 2023, and 14 February 2024 along with exhibition on the Engage website from November to December 2023 and February to March 2024.

Following this, Council adopted second iteration of the Asset Plan 2023-2033 in May 2024.

Council is now in the final stages of finalising the Asset Plan 2025-2035 following the further engagement process undertaken in 2025.

Draft Financial Plan 2025-2035

Section 91 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires Council to prepare a Financial Plan covering a period of at least 10 years and that the Plan be developed or reviewed by 31 October in the year following a general election. The plan must be prepared in accordance with Council's deliberative engagement practices.

Council is also reviewing the Draft Financial Plan 2025-2035 and has included this in the engagement process undertaken for the Asset Plan and the Council Plan.

Scope of Engagement

As part of Council's commitment to fostering an inclusive and participative decision-making process, comprehensive community engagement was planned for this project. Recognising the diverse preferences in the community for engagement and feedback, Council implemented a multi-faceted approach to ensure all voices could be heard.

Deliberative Workshop: A deliberative workshop was held on 13 August with the Councillors, community panel members and Council staff. This workshop allowed members to engage directly with council representatives, share their insights and discuss their concerns. It also draws from the feedback provided at the Council Plan workshops (see below).

Engage Mansfield Website and Survey: Council launched an online platform with information and a survey through the Engage Mansfield webpage. This offered a structured environment where the broader community could provide feedback and have input to the plan and included contact details for those who preferred to email in their thoughts.

Summary of Community Feedback

The deliberative panel on 13 August provided feedback on the Draft Asset Plan and 10 year Financial Plan as outlined below:

Challenges

- ▶ Need for more pedestrian friendly access around the town.
- ▶ Need for more parking during peak seasons.
- ▶ Need for more ovals.

Opportunities

- ▶ External funding opportunities.
- ▶ More pedestrian friendly pathways can help reduce the need for parking.
- ▶ Use of social media and media releases to provide details of Council-managed and Department of Transport managed roads to improve community understanding of the responsible road authority for road defects.

What went well?

- ▶ Overall condition of council-managed roads improved.
- ▶ Unsealed roads have been very well maintained.
- ▶ Drainage and excavator work by Field Services team.
- ▶ Installation of new bore for water supply to stock.
- ▶ Communication through social channels especially Facebook.
- ▶ Maintenance of ovals.

What did not go well?

- ▶ A question was raised regarding the remaining unsealed section of Dead Horse Lane which is part of the Heavy Vehicle Alternative Route. Officers confirmed that this unsealed section is proposed to be sealed by the developer of the adjoining industrial land.

Suggestions

- ▶ Kilometre-marked jogging and walking loop track at Botanic Park
- ▶ Media release/communications to inform residents that blocked crossovers must be cleared by property owners.

Workshops for Council Plan

A copy of the current Asset Plan was also shared with community members as part of deliberative engagement process over the Council Plan 2025-2029.

The deliberative panel focused on an exercise to prioritise the feedback received as part of community consultation. The initiatives were considered in four categories according to the resources required and the positive impact on community. In addition to the Council Plan and Asset Plan, the Community Vision and Financial Plan were all informed by this deliberative panel.

Once the panel had considered each of the projects, the same exercise was undertaken with staff. Senior leaders and managers were able to give advice about the resources specific

initiatives might take and consideration was given to what Council could achieve, its role in working toward each of the objectives (e.g., advocate, partner, continue) and other factors to ensure the initiatives were achievable.

The initiatives were then presented to Councillors at a workshop. Councillors were able to refine, initiative by initiative, what should be included in the Council Plan 2025-2029. Officers were provided with feedback to redefine the initiatives and the plans were updated ready for final community engagement.

Engagement Results

The Draft Asset Plan 2025-2035 was exhibited on the Engage platform from 5 August to 26 August 2025 to seek community feedback through an online survey. During this period, 21 people downloaded the Draft Plan. However, no responses were received from the survey and the final Asset Plan will be presented to Council for adoption at the September meeting.

The 10 year Financial Plan and Council Plan are already out for final community feedback and are planned for presentation to the October Council meeting for adoption.