

## 18.2 Cove Cobras Football Club Update

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| <b>Report Reference</b>    | GC210810F18.2                                    |
| <b>Originating Officer</b> | Recreation Development Officer – Kane Harrison   |
| <b>Corporate Manager</b>   | Manager City Property - Thuyen Vi-Alternetti     |
| <b>General Manager</b>     | General Manager City Development - Ilia Houridis |

### CONFIDENTIAL MOTION

That pursuant to Section 90(2) and (3)(d) (i) and (ii) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, the Council orders that all persons present, with the exception of the following persons: Chief Executive Officer, General Manager City Development, General Manager Corporate Services, General Manager City Services, Manager Corporate Governance, Manager City Property, Unit Manager Sport and Recreational Community Facilities, Unit Manager Communications, Unit Manager Governance and Council Support, Recreation Development Officer and Governance Officer be excluded from the meeting as the Council receives and considers information relating to Cove Cobras Football Club Update, upon the basis that the Council is satisfied that the requirement for the meeting to be conducted in a place open to the public has been outweighed by the need to keep consideration of the matter confidential given the information relates to licencing conditions with Council.

### REPORT HISTORY

| Report Reference | Report Title                      |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| GC200728F02      | Cove Cobras Football Club Tenancy |

### REPORT OBJECTIVE

To provide Council with an update report on the Cove Cobras Football Club (CCFC) for 2020-21 and its compliance with license conditions.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2019 Council considered whether to renew and the conditions for renewing the CCFC tenancy at the Cove Sports and Community Club facility due to ongoing issues and concerns with Club behaviour and conduct.

After working through the issues and concerns, Council subsequently agreed to offer a new one year license commencing 1 October 2019 subject to a number of conditions being met with a review in July 2020.

A report was prepared for Council as part of the July 2020 review, which included progress against licence conditions, a copy of the Special Conditions within the signed CCFC licence, and relevant attachments.

At the General Council meeting 28 July 2020 (GC200728), Council endorsed the CCFC being offered a 5-year license, subject to conditions being met and an annual review to be conducted in July each year commencing 2021, with an update report to be provided to Council in August 2021.

A review has been conducted that indicates no significant issues with the CCFC over the last year, with general compliance to the conditions of the CCFC license.

## RECOMMENDATION

**That Council:**

1. Notes the report.
2. In accordance with Section 91(7) and (9) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Council orders that any attachments to the report, Cove Cobras Football Club Update, having been considered in confidence under Section 90(2) and (3)(d) (i) and (ii) of the Act, except when required to effect or comply with Council's resolution(s) regarding this matter, be kept confidential and not available for public inspection for a period of 12 months from the date of this meeting. This confidentiality order will be reviewed at the General Council Meeting in December 2021.

## DISCUSSION

At the General Council meeting on 28 July 2020 (GC200728F02) the following was resolved:

*That Council:*

1. Notes the deputation from the Cove Cobras Football Club President.
2. In line with the other licences at the venue, endorse a 5-year licence commencing 1 October 2020 subject to all conditions being met with an annual review in July each year commencing July 2021.
3. That the licence offered to the club include the following conditions:
  - That the Council Liaison officer be invited to all executive meetings of the club
  - The club maintains a minimum Level 2 Good Sports accreditation or above
  - Any behavioral issues are reported to Council's Chief Executive Officer within 48 hours
4. An update report will be provided to Council in August 2021.

A review of CCFC was conducted by Administration throughout July 2021 that comprised of:

1. Meetings between Council Administration and the President of the CCFC to discuss progress of license obligations.
2. An invitation to the CCFC President to provide feedback in relation to the Clubs compliance with license obligations, and any other relevant information the Club wished to pass on to Council.
3. Feedback from facility management regarding operations of CCFC under the new licence.
4. Invitations to other licensed Cove sporting clubs to provide feedback on the CCFC operations over the last 12-months.

The outcomes of the review process are as follows:

### 1. CCFC license obligations

- **Obligation 1 - That the Council Liaison Officer be invited to all executive meetings of the club**
  - The CCFC President confirmed in writing on 21 July 2021 that the Council Liaison Officer had been invited to all the Club Committee meetings and has been provided minutes of those meetings.
  - Council Liaison Officer for CCFC confirmed that he has been invited to the Club Committee meetings.

- **Obligation 2 - The club maintains a minimum Level 2 Good Sports accreditation or above**
  - The CCFC currently holds a Level 3 Good Sports accreditation, which is higher than Level 2.
- **Obligation 3 - Any behavioral issues are reported to Council's Chief Executive Officer within 48 hours**
  - There were two main issues that arose during the last 12-months that were reported to the CEO:
    - August 2020
      - ❖ An issue was reported about people's behaviour watching the football on the netball court side of the oval.
      - ❖ This was reported through staff to the CEO within 72 hours with a formal response from the CCFC to the CEO 6-days after being notified of the incident.
    - June 2021
      - ❖ Allegations towards the club that involved an ongoing investigation by the Southern Football League (SFL).
      - ❖ The CCFC contacted the Council Liaison Officer soon after they became aware of the issue, and communication occurred between the CCFC and Council within 4-days via phone and emails.
      - ❖ The CCFC have also provided formal advice to the CEO and GM City Development.
      - ❖ The CCFC are continuing to keep Council updated on the matter.

## 2. Council Facility Management Feedback

- The Club Committee has demonstrated that it is trying to develop a positive relationship with Council.
  - The CCFC has implemented the home and away system for senior sides between Football and Soccer, this was despite a preference to be able to come back to the club rooms during away games. The CCFC President has promoted and implemented this approach with the Board and Club.
  - The Club has provided simple, clear and professional communication via email to Council to discuss matters.
  - The Club has taken a more professional and less emotional approach to communications.
- Where minor operational matters have arisen between facility management and the Club, these have been resolved professionally and through ongoing communications.
- There is still further progress to be made with the Club, but it is noted that the Committee are taking steps towards ongoing improvement.
- There have been no significant issues to note.

## 3. Written statements of other licensed Cove sporting clubs

- The five other Cove sporting clubs were offered an opportunity to confidentially provide their feedback for the review and as of 29 July 2021, no written feedback was received.
- Verbally, feedback has been provided that indicates the following:
  - One Club noted it has a good relationship with the CCFC.
  - One Club noted that it wants a good relationship with the Club and appreciates the CCFC taking steps to improve club culture.
  - There are still some lingering memories from past issues with the CCFC that are a barrier to the CCFC building stronger relationships with some Clubs.
  - Another Club stated they have little interaction with the CCFC and as such, do not have anything relevant to pass on.

#### **4. CCFC Feedback for Report**

On 14 July 2021 the CCFC President provided an update of club progress and behavioral issues to the Council CEO and Ward Members. A copy of the email is attached to this report. The following provides a summary of the email:

- The President stated that the Club has worked hard to create a new culture and has recently engaged someone in the position of Football Development Officer to create a Coach Development program and review existing volunteer roles, ensuring they are aligned to the Clubs' core values and expectations.
- All club policies and procedures have been updated and aligned with the Southern Football League (SFL) requirements.
- Four behavioral issues were reported to Council by the Club. Details of these issues and the Club's response to each issue is included in the attached e-mail from the President.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Email Cove Football Club President 14 July 2021 [**18.2.1** - 2 pages]