THE OCTAGON ATHENAEUM BUILDING – SALE PROPOSALS

A report from the Manager City Property (Robert Clark) noted that the Octagon Athenaeum had been marketed by Deadline Treaty in accordance with the Council decision on 10 December 2012. Four offers had been received, ranging from $500,000 to $900,000, and were presented to the Council for consideration.

The highest offer from Mr Forbes of $900,000 also presented the Council with an opportunity to meet community needs, protect the heritage of the building and remove the on-going liability and risks associated with the ownership of the property. It was estimated that if this offer was accepted the remaining debt would be $100,565. This would need to be repaid in the current financial year. This was an unbudgeted cost.

Mr Forbes’ offer appeared to satisfy the Council objectives in this sale. Financially the price he had offered was the highest at $900,000, and socially he planned to meet community needs by protecting the heritage of the building with a covenant and work closely with the arts and cultural sector.

This proposal presented the Council with an opportunity to meet community needs and removed from Council both the on-going liabilities and risks associated with ownership of the property. It was therefore recommended that the offer from Mr Forbes be accepted.

It was moved (Butcher/MacTavish):

"That the Council:

1. Notes the options for the disposal of the Athenaeum Building.

2. Accepts the unconditional offer of $900,000 plus GST (if any) from Lawrence John Forbes for the purchase of 23 The Octagon, the Athenaeum Building.

3. If an offer is accepted that Council:

   (a) authorises the Manager, City Property to sign the agreement immediately and notify the successful purchaser.

   (b) authorises the release of a public statement by the Mayor and Chief Executive relating to the purchase immediately following the meeting and the release of a redacted version of the report."

Following discussion the motion was put and carried.