

## **8 GENERAL MANAGER'S LATE REPORT**

### **8.1 MICHAEL DUFFY'S CONTRIBUTION TO WILLOUGHBY CITY COUNCIL**

**RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:** DEBRA JUST – GENERAL MANAGER

**CITY STRATEGY LINK:** 6.3.3 COUNCIL HAS AN APPROPRIATELY TRAINED, SKILLED AND SUPPORTED WORK FORCE

**MEETING DATE:** 26 FEBRUARY 2018

---

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To inform Council on the passing of Michael Duffy, Council's Chief Financial Officer, and to note his contribution to Willoughby City Council.

#### **2. OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

**That Council note the passing of Michael Duffy, Council's Chief Financial Officer, on 17 February 2018 and send a letter of condolence to Michael's wife Adriana and their family.**

#### **3. DISCUSSION**

Michael Duffy passed away on Saturday, 17 February 2018, following a heart attack while visiting family in Perth. Michael had been communicating with us following the initial episode and appeared to be recovering. It was a shock to hear of his death soon after his last contact.

A service for Michael will be held at 11.45 am this Wednesday 28 February at St Catherine Laboure Church, 123 Gymea Bay Road, Gymea (located on the corner of Gymea Bay Road and President Avenue).

Michael arrived at Willoughby in May 2017 well-equipped for his role, having held CFO positions at Blue Mountains City Council, Catholic Education Office and South Sydney City Council. A Certified Practising Accountant, he earned his Bachelor of Business degree at Curtin University in Perth.

He came to us as the Interim CFO at a difficult time following the passing of Mark McDonald last year. He helped to support the Finance team in their loss and embark on the new financial year. He has prepared a rigorous program of financial support for the forthcoming Delivery Program and budget deliberations. He prepared new policies on related party disclosures and on Council's investments (and then implemented the transition to new settings on investments). He oversaw the first external audit conducted by the Audit Office of NSW which has been more comprehensive than any done in the past. Michael has also overseen the revision of Council's Long Term Financial Plan. Through it all, he supported his team and held their respect.

Michael has been known to his colleagues as a principled finance manager, backed by vast knowledge and extensive experience in financial services. We also knew him as a committed family man, a father of two daughters and a son, who was very proud of his family and of his children's achievements. He took time off late last year to support his son's final HSC preparations.

While appearing on the surface as a sober finance professional, it did not take long to discover his ample reserves of wit and humour. His jokes were often self-deprecatory, with no fear that you would be the butt of the joke. He could take a mishap – breaking down in the Harbour Tunnel – and turn it into a 25 minute story that held interest throughout, along with plenty of laughter.