

Thursday 14 December 2017

CITY OF RYDE EXPLORES NEW OPTION FOR RYDE CENTRAL SITE

The City of Ryde, at its meeting on Tuesday 12 December 2017, resolved to immediately discontinue work with the Beijing Institute of Architectural Design (BIAD).

Council has been exploring revised designs from BIAD's winning entry in the International Design Competition held in 2016, which BIAD won from 175 entries and across 40 countries.

Following the competition, Council found that the winning design was not commercially viable. Other options were explored by Council to achieve commercial viability and Council in late 2016 resolved to approach BIAD to confirm they could successfully apply these larger concepts with their design language contained in their winning design.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said: "Councillors recently received a confidential briefing on the design options from the recent work undertaken by BIAD.

"After consideration of these options, Council has rejected both options proposed for the following key reasons:

- Council did not support the scale of development on the Ryde Central Site
- The proposals would involve selling part of its site which was unacceptable to Council
- One of the proposals would require a Planning Proposal as it exceeded proposed a 40 storey tower for the site
- Both options required a significant financial commitment from the City of Ryde despite the loss of ownership of the site.

"We have now resolved that Council's Acting General Manager prepare new options for the Ryde Central Site and present these options to the Council in early 2018," the Mayor said.

Key features of the design are to include:

- Council Chambers and Administration spaces
- Meeting and Function Rooms
- Performance and Cultural Spaces
- Other Civic Spaces
- Commercial, retail and options on other uses.

"A key fundamental principle of this decision is for Council to retain ownership of the Ryde Central site. This is a significant shift in direction for the Council. We have resolved that this site needs to be for the community, and not for developers," Mayor Laxale stated.

The Mayor also confirmed that a further update on this project would be given in mid-2018, once Council had determined its direction for the Ryde Central Site.