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THE NEW HEART OF RYDE TO DELIVER BOOST TO ECONOMY

The City of Ryde continues to progress with the Ryde Central project in what will be a major boost to the local economy as it recovers from the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Known as the 'The New Heart of Ryde', the project will redevelop the current Ryde Civic Centre site to deliver a four-fold increase in community space, as well as contemporary office accommodation, commercial floor space, a public plaza and on-site parking all within easy reach of Top Ryde Shopping Centre and its surrounds.

The tender to design and construct The New Heart of Ryde has been awarded to Taylor Construction Group, a highly regarded and experienced delivery partner that has completed many significant commercial, community and residential projects across NSW.

The tender was awarded following a comprehensive Expression of Interest and tender process that commenced in October last year.

Council's decision to proceed with The New Heart of Ryde follows a comprehensive community consultation process undertaken through 2019, which found there was overwhelming support for the project, with 85 percent of respondents in favour.

The project has already undergone rigorous checks and balances. This includes consideration by the independent Urban Design Review Panel and documentation submitted to the Office of Local Government under its Capital Expenditure Review Guidelines.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said The New Heart of Ryde would generate more jobs, boost growth and revitalise the Ryde Civic Centre site, at a time when the local economy needs it most.

"The New Heart of Ryde will be a key component to our economic recovery and joins a range of initiatives Council has introduced that will help local residents and businesses get through this extremely challenging period," Clr Laxale said.

"Not only will The New Heart of Ryde be a major shot in the arm for workers, it will also address the chronic shortage of community facilities in the City of Ryde. This once in a generation project is an investment in people and workers.

"Crucially, The New Heart of Ryde will be financially sustainable, it will not result in increased rates or a reduction in any services. Council will also retain complete ownership of the site.

"Council intends to partner with the federal and state governments to help speed up delivery of the project, and I would encourage other levels of Government partner with us given the enormous social benefits The New Heart of Ryde will bring to the entire city."

Taylor CEO Mark Taylor said: "We are excited to be working with the City of Ryde on such a vitally important project that, once completed, will provide the community with a modern facility that will deliver a range of economic and social benefits."