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## **Gawler Civic Centre – Costs Finalised**

Council has undertaken an independent audit of the Gawler Civic Centre Redevelopment as part of the formal acquittal process attached to the Australian Government's National Stronger Regions Fund from which Council received \$5.6m towards the project. This audit has validated the final cost of the Redevelopment being \$15.470m.

"The once-in-a-generation project to restore and refurbish the State Heritage Listed Institute and Town Hall buildings, after decades of neglect, has understandably required important capital investment to bring these buildings back to life," said Mayor Redman. "When Council signed the contract with Badge Constructions in March 2017 the allocated budget was \$14.311m. What became apparent during the redevelopment is that the state of various elements of both buildings was worse than initially thought. This required Council to increase the budget for completing the project."

In February 2018 Council increased the contingency amount within the budget by \$1.217m and allocated \$135k for Project Management within the 2018/19 Budget, thereby increasing the total budget for the project to \$15.664m.

"Council's approval of additional funds for completing the Gawler Civic Centre Redevelopment enabled the project to continue and its reaffirmed commitment to prudential project management delivered the final project within this increased allocation," said Mayor Redman. "The final construction cost of \$15.470m is \$193k under the final budget allocated by Council."

"The fact that the final construction cost returned under budget was only made possible through Council's strategic approach to keeping the varied level of project contingency confidential," continued Mayor Redman. "It gave Council the ability to challenge a range of Badge Constructions' Variation Claims and negotiate the best financial outcome for our community."

Council's net capital investment cost for the Gawler Civic Centre Redevelopment was \$9.87m after deducting the Federal Government grant of \$5.6m that Council received to deliver the project. Council secured this Federal Government grant funding on the basis of various community programs and initiatives being incorporated within the design elements of the redevelopment. Consequently the project incorporates such elements as the Multi-Function Spaces, Business Innovation Hub, Social Enterprise Café, Heritage Gallery, and the regional Smart Library. All of these community focused initiatives and programs have started with the local community (and the wider region more broadly) now able to reap the benefits of this major inter-generational project for generations to come.

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**ENDS**

The media may make contact with Mayor Karen Redman on 0421 839 359