



**WHANGANUI
DISTRICT COUNCIL**
Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Whanganui

MINUTES

**Strategy and Finance Committee Meeting
17 November 2020**

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**MINUTES OF THE STRATEGY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 101 GUYTON STREET, WHANGANUI
ON 17 NOVEMBER 2020 AT 1.00PM**

PRESENT: Cr Josh Chandulal-Mackay (Chair), Cr Charlie Anderson, Cr Philippa Baker-Hogan, Cr James Barron, Cr Helen Craig, Cr Brent Crossan, Deputy Mayor Jenny Duncan, Mayor Hamish McDouall, Cr Hadleigh Reid, Cr Alan Taylor, Cr Rob Vinsen, Cr Graeme Young, Whanganui Rural Community Board Member David Wells.

APOLOGIES: Cr Kate Joblin (Leave of absence 15 September to 15 December 2020)

IN ATTENDANCE: Kym Fell (Chief Executive), Stephanie Macdonald-Rose (Group Manager – Corporate), Mike Fermor (Chief Financial Officer), Kate Barnes (Senior Democracy Advisor), Karyn Turner (Senior Governance Services Officer), Jasmine Hessel (Team Leader Policy), Justin Walters (Senior Policy Analyst), Warrick Zander (Compliance Operations Manager), Wiehan Labuschagne (Management Accountant), Lauren Tamehana (Community Wellbeing Manager), Sandy Lee (Policy Advisor), Sarah Pomeroy (Communications & Marketing Manager), Peter Oskam (Whanganui Rural Community Board Member).

1 OPENING PRAYER / KARAKIA

Cr Duncan read a karakia. The meeting sung waiata *E rere re AwaTupua*.

2 APOLOGIES

Cr Joblin's approved leave of absence was noted.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cr Taylor declared an interest in Public Excluded Item 8.2.

David Wells joined the meeting at 1.04pm.

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**4.1 MINUTES OF THE STRATEGY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
ON 6 OCTOBER 2020**

Author: Karyn Turner - Senior Governance Services Officer

Authoriser: Kate Barnes - Senior Democracy Advisor

Significance of decision – In terms of the Significance and Engagement Policy 2018, the decision is not significant.

Committee Resolution SFC/2020/64

Moved: Cr Josh Chandulal-Mackay

Seconded: Cr Rob Vinsen

That the minutes of the Strategy and Finance Committee Meeting held on 6 October 2020 are confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

5 REPORTS TO COMMITTEE**5.1 DRAFT CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY - APPROVAL FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Author: Charlotte Almond - Contractor

Authoriser: Stephanie Macdonald-Rose - Group Manager - Corporate

Significance of decision – In terms of the Significance and Engagement Policy 2018, the decision is significant.

Discussion

Charlotte Almond tabled a copy of the designed version of the Climate Change Strategy and acknowledged the Council's Communications Team for its work on the design.

Summarising her report, Ms Almond said work on climate change had started in 2017 with focussed development of the strategy document occurring during 2020 in a joint forum with Iwi representatives and other stakeholders. In terms of developing the draft strategy she believed it had been a strong process. Acknowledging all involved for their input, Ms Almond specifically noted Rāwiri Tinirau's assistance to express the Maori world view, he had done the translations in the document and helped with the Rākau Model which explains the strategy's principles.

The four focus areas of the strategy looked at goals, objectives and potential actions. Actions were still a 'work in progress' and through the consultation process it would be good to get feedback on the suggested actions. These will need to be refined and incorporated into Council plans and budgets.

The District mitigation targets proposed were interim as there was insufficient understanding of the implications of the targets and impact of potential actions. It had been suggested that a District Carbon Model be developed to help understand and refine those targets over time.

A further aspect of the strategy was the Council role-modelling good practice and showing leadership. The strategy suggests that Council understands its own carbon footprint to enable it to move forward in terms of developing a road map to reducing its own carbon footprint. That will also rely on growing staff capacity and capability to action the strategy.

Ms Almond responded to questions. A representative of Whanganui Federated Farmers had attended the last workshop and was relatively comfortable with what was included. He sought clarification on contributing all forest sequestration to forestry as some could be attributed to agriculture. While this was also a 'work in progress', and as knowledge and science improved these would be looked at in the future, an explanation paragraph was added below the emissions

model as suggested by Mr Cranstone. The emissions model provided a baseline and progress monitoring would be measured against the baseline. Reducing the net carbon emissions for the District to zero (excluding biogenic CO₂) by 2050 was based on the national target. There was insufficient evidence to support setting more optimistic targets. Targets also needed to align with the Regional Council to provide consistency across the region and nationally.

It was important that the strategy covered all wellbeings and the economics of it had to be taken into account. That had been acknowledged in the Paris Agreement in regard to food production. Actions would need to be approached in terms of affordability and impact on economy so that decisions can be balanced across all wellbeings.

The financial cost to the ratepayer was queried as there was no indication included in the draft document of cost to progress the strategy. In response, Ms Almond said while the Council had resolved to have this costed, that had been extremely difficult. How this could be costed had been discussed with Council's Executive Leadership Team. When putting budgets through to the Long-Term Plan, managers would need to consider whether this strategy had implications they needed to link into the Long-Term Plan and its consultation. The action plans were not finalised and more work would be needed on what actions would be undertaken. Significant actions would require a business case.

The Mayor and Councillors unanimously supported approving the draft Climate Change Strategy for public consultation.

Committee Resolution SFC/2020/65

Moved: Cr Alan Taylor

Seconded: Mayor Hamish McDouall

That the Strategy and Finance Committee approve the Draft Climate Change Strategy for public consultation.

CARRIED

References

- 1 Draft Climate Change Strategy - designed version

5.2 REVIEW OF DOG CONTROL POLICY AND BYLAW

Author: Justin Walters - Senior Policy Analyst

Authoriser: Jasmine Hessel - Team Leader Policy

Stephanie Macdonald-Rose - Group Manager - Corporate

Discussion

Justin Walters (Senior Policy Analyst) said extensive consultation had been undertaken with responses received from by both dog owners and non-dog owners. He summarised the proposed changes to the Dog Control Policy and Bylaw.

Responding to a query on dog numbers, Warwick Zander (Compliance Operations Manager) said while there would be 'unknown' dogs in the community, there were 8,000 known dogs; 97% of these registered.

The Senior Policy Analyst and Compliance Operations Manager responded to questions on the proposed changes.

Responsible Dog Owner

The 'Responsible Dog Owner' written test on dog ownership would apply to owners applying to be a 'Responsible Dog Owner' for the first time. Responsible dog ownership can be revoked, therefore the written test would apply to dog owners reapplying for that status. At this stage the written test would be undertaken at the new Dog Pound's education room.

Cr Duncan, Cr Barron and Whanganui Rural Community Board member, David Wells, expressed concern at the 'out-of-town' location for the responsible dog ownership written test. A first preference was that this be available in the community, for example at library hubs, or available online. Mr Wells' preference was that until an online version was available the test should not proceed. The Compliance Operations Manager acknowledged these concerns, particularly for the rural community, and said while this could be worked on a case by case basis, if numbers were high the location for the written test may need to be relooked at.

Dog Access

It was proposed that on walkways, cycleways and shared pathways, all dogs must be under control on a leash. No change was proposed on grassed areas. The recommendation was areas that were technically footpaths. Further refining of this could be looked at as part of the consultation process. There was no specifications regarding the length of a lease. What was defined was 'under control'.

Beach Access

Cr Duncan queried how often Council officers monitored the behaviour of dog owners and the way they controlled their dogs on the beach. The Compliance Operations Manager said not many beach visits were made during the COVID period and winter. More recently however, with responsibility for the rubbish contract, beach visits had increased.

For clarity, it was agreed that a map of the beach access areas for dogs would be included.

Rehoming Dogs

This was to formalise an existing Council policy. Recently many dogs had been rehomed and the Compliance Operations Manager undertook to email numbers to Elected Members.

Responding to a query on amending the wording of Recommendation (a) iii: requiring dogs to be under control on a leash on walkways, cycleways and shared paths), the Senior Policy Analyst said the consultation was on broad issues right across the District. There was the ability to apply dog access rules around specific areas if members of the public raised issues where it was considered the proposed rules would not work.

At Cr Duncan's request, the Chair agreed to take all recommendations in (a) separately.

Cr Duncan said it was unfortunate that some aspects of the Dog Control Policy and Bylaw were necessary and essential until the behaviour of dog owners improved and they took responsibility for owning a dog. The behaviour of a number of dog owners on the beach left a lot to be desired and for that reason she would vote against the increased dog access on Castlecliff Beach and Mowhanau Beach.

Significance of decision – In terms of the Significance and Engagement Policy 2018, the decision is not significant.

Committee Resolution SFC/2020/66

Moved: Cr Josh Chandulal-Mackay

Seconded: Cr Rob Vinsen

That the Strategy and Finance Committee:

(a) adopts the Dog Control Policy and Bylaw 2021 for consultation with the following preferred options:

i. That dog owners are required to pass a written test of dog ownership knowledge in order to qualify as a responsible dog owner;

ii. Increase dog access on Castlecliff Beach and Mowhanau Beach by allowing:

- Under control off a leash access - from the southern bluff of Mowhanau Beach to north of the northern end of Castlecliff Beach carpark at all times; and
- Under control on a leash access – South of the northern end of Castlecliff Beach carpark at all times;

Cr Duncan voted against section a) ii) of the motion.

iii. Require dogs to be under control on a leash on walkways, cycleways and shared paths; and

iv. Formalise Council's existing policy on rehoming dogs.

(b) confirms that:

i. a policy and bylaw is the most appropriate way of addressing the issues relating dogs;

ii. the Dog Control Bylaw 2021 is the most appropriate form of a bylaw; and

iii. the Dog Control Bylaw 2021 is not inconsistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.

CARRIED

5.3 INCREASING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR COUNCIL

Author: Kate Barnes - Senior Democracy Advisor

Sarah Pomeroy - Communications & Marketing Manager

Sandy Lee - Policy Advisor

Authoriser: Stephanie Macdonald-Rose - Group Manager - Corporate

Discussion

Summarising the report, Kate Barnes (Senior Democracy Advisor) said the 2020 Community Views Survey showed there was a need for improved engagement between elected members and the Whanganui community. The community had indicated a desire to see more of their representatives and to have greater involvement in decision-making. This was the start of a journey to assist in supporting Elected Members' individual engagement with the community.

In discussion, some elected members considered there was a disconnection between what elected members did and how this was perceived in the community. While it was suggested there

was a need to focus on what the problem was before a solution was determined, it was generally agreed that individual engagement with the community would help ratepayers and residents understand the role of elected members.

The Chair said the Community Views 47% satisfaction rating for elected members should not be a deterrent to aspiring to be better at how they communicated with the public. The report included a range of initiatives that elected members could be doing with Council resourcing behind these suggestions.

Committee Resolution SFC/2020/67

Moved: Cr Rob Vinsen

Seconded: Cr Charlie Anderson

That the Strategy and Finance Committee receive the report – Increasing community engagement opportunities for Council.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2.26pm and reconvened at 2.41pm.

5.4 AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

Author: Lauren Tamehana - Community Wellbeing Manager

Authoriser: Stephanie Macdonald-Rose - Group Manager - Corporate

Cr Vinsen rejoined the meeting at 2.42pm.

Cr Baker-Hogan rejoined the meeting at 2.43pm.

Discussion

In reply to questions, Lauren Tamehana (Community Wellbeing Manager) said a small group of community providers had been involved in determining the action plan. In specific areas some were reasonably prescribed, others would be worked through independently and some were interconnected. Considerable consultation had been undertaken with all organisations involved.

Mayor McDouall rejoined the meeting at 2.44pm.

Committee Resolution SFC/2020/68

Moved: Cr Josh Chandulal-Mackay

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Jenny Duncan

That the Strategy and Finance Committee receive the report – Age Friendly Communities Plan Progress Report.

CARRIED

Mayor McDouall abstained from voting on this item.

5.5 HOUSING STRATEGY UPDATE

Author: Lauren Tamehana - Community Wellbeing Manager

Authoriser: Stephanie Macdonald-Rose - Group Manager - Corporate

Discussion

Outlining key points, Lauren Tamehana (Community Wellbeing Manager) said lack of social housing and affordable rentals continued to be a problem for the community, with young people and single men with the greatest need. Without good references it was almost impossible to get into the rental market. A meeting was planned in December 2020 to begin work on the Growth Strategy. The offer of employment made for the Housing and Community Advisor role had been declined and the position would be re-advertised.

The Community Wellbeing Manager responded to questions of clarification. The Strategic Housing Investment Plan working group would look at different ways and opportunities of investment. One initial consideration was to support infill housing but this had continued to grow on its own. While the Compass Group complex would provide approximately 30 units, this would only make a small dent in the current number on the emergency housing list. Wai Ora Trust was starting the training programme process to build structural insulated housing panels. They were also keen to look for other options and it was important to link people up where there were opportunities. Compass was also keen to look at other opportunities in Whanganui. Members were open to learning from providers outside the district who had successful experiences to share.

Committee Resolution SFC/2020/69

Moved: Deputy Mayor Jenny Duncan

Seconded: Cr Philippa Baker-Hogan

That the Strategy and Finance Committee receive the report – Housing Strategy Update.

CARRIED

5.6 FIRST QUARTER CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL AND NON-FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORTING FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

Author: Justin Walters - Senior Policy Analyst

Wiehan Labuschagne - Management Accountant

Authoriser: Stephanie Macdonald-Rose - Group Manager - Corporate

Mike Fermor - Chief Financial Officer

Significance of decision – In terms of the Significance and Engagement Policy 2018, the decision is not significant.

Discussion

Wiehan Labuschagne (Management Accountant) and Justin Walter (Senior Policy Analyst) presented the report and responded to questions of clarification. Elected Members noted

appreciation of the detail included in the new reporting structure for consolidated financial and non-financial performance.

Committee Resolution SFC/2020/70

Moved: Deputy Mayor Jenny Duncan
Seconded: Cr Charlie Anderson

That the Strategy and Finance Committee receive the report – First quarter consolidated Financial and Non-Financial Performance Reporting for the period ending 30 September 2020

CARRIED

5.7 FINANCE ACTIVITY REPORT - NOVEMBER 2020

Author: Mike Fermor - Chief Financial Officer
Authoriser: Kym Fell - Chief Executive

Committee Resolution SFC/2020/71

Moved: Cr Helen Craig
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Jenny Duncan

That the Strategy and Finance Committee receive the report – Finance Activity Report - November 2020.

CARRIED

5.8 FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS - OCTOBER 2020

Author: Lana Treen - Senior Procurement Officer
Authoriser: Mike Fermor - Chief Financial Officer

Committee Resolution SFC/2020/72

Moved: Cr Josh Chandulal-Mackay
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Jenny Duncan

That the Strategy and Finance Committee receive the report – Financial Commitments - October 2020.

CARRIED

5.9 STRATEGY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME - NOVEMBER 2020

Author: Stephanie Macdonald-Rose - Group Manager - Corporate

Authoriser: Kym Fell - Chief Executive

Committee Resolution SFC/2020/73

Moved: Cr Rob Vinsen

Seconded: Cr Helen Craig

That the Strategy and Finance Committee receive the report – Strategy and Finance Committee Work Programme - November 2020.

CARRIED

6 MOTION TO EXCLUDE PUBLIC**RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC**

Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Committee Resolution SFC/2020/74

Moved: Mayor Hamish McDouall

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Jenny Duncan

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely items listed overleaf.

Reason for passing this resolution: good reason to withhold exists under section 7. Specific grounds under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution: Section 48(1)(a)

CARRIED

Note

Section 48(4) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 provides as follows:

“(4) Every resolution to exclude the public shall be put at a time when the meeting is open to the public, and the text of that resolution (or copies thereof):

- (a) Shall be available to any member of the public who is present; and
- (b) Shall form part of the minutes of the local authority.”

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

ITEM NO.	GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED	SECTION	SUBCLAUSE AND REASON UNDER THE ACT	PLAIN ENGLISH REASON	WHEN REPORTS CAN BE RELEASED
7.1	Public Excluded Minutes of the Strategy and Finance Committee Meeting held on 6 October 2020			Refer to the public excluded reasons in the agenda for 6 October 2020 meeting	
8.1	Debtors Report - November 2020	s7(2)(a)	Privacy	Maintain confidentiality of individuals' financial information.	
8.2	Application for Remission of Rates - November 2020	s7(2)(a)	Privacy	Protect the privacy of named individuals.	

Committee Resolution SFC/2020/75

Moved: Mayor Hamish McDouall

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Jenny Duncan

That Peter Oskam be permitted to remain at this meeting, after the public has been excluded, because of their knowledge of the Whanganui rural community. This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matter to be discussed, is relevant to that matter because he is a member of the Whanganui Rural Community Board.

CARRIED

The meeting reopened to the public at 4.23pm.

Cr Duncan read a karakia.

The meeting closed at 4.24pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Strategy and Finance Committee Meeting held on 16 February 2021.

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CHAIRPERSON