



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

# **MINUTES**

**Strategy and Finance Committee Meeting  
1 August 2019**

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**MINUTES OF THE STRATEGY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 101 GUYTON STREET, WHANGANUI  
ON 1 AUGUST 2019 AT 1.00PM**

**PRESENT:** Cr Kate Joblin (Chair), Mayor Hamish McDouall, Cr Charlie Anderson, Cr Philippa Baker-Hogan, Cr David Bennett, Cr Josh Chandulal-Mackay, Cr Murray Cleveland, Cr Helen Craig, Cr Hadleigh Reid, Cr Alan Taylor, Cr Rob Vinsen, Cr Graeme Young and Mr Grant Skilton (Whanganui Rural Community Board member).

**APOLOGIES:** Cr Jenny Duncan.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Kym Fell (Chief Executive) until 2pm, Bryan Nicholson (Chief Operating Officer) from 2pm, Charlotte Almond (General Manager Strategy), Mike Fermor (General Manager Finance), Mark Hughes (General Manager Infrastructure), Rob Goldsbury (Legal Counsel), Stephanie Macdonald-Rose (Policy and Governance Manager), Lauren Tamehana (Manager Safer Whanganui), Kirsty Milham (Policy Advisor – Research and Engagement), Kate Barnes (Senior Democracy Advisor), Karyn Turner (Governance Services Officer).

**1 OPENING PRAYER / KARAKIA**

Cr Josh Chandulal-Mackay opened the meeting with karakia.

**2 APOLOGIES**

**Apology**

Cr Bennett's apology for lateness was noted.  
Cr Taylor advised early departure.

**Committee Resolution 2019/11**

Moved: Cr Kate Joblin  
Seconded: Cr Hadleigh Reid

THAT the apology received from Cr Duncan be accepted and leave of absence granted.

**CARRIED**

**3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil

*At 1.05pm, Cr Bennett joined the meeting.*

## 4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

### 4.1 MINUTES OF THE STRATEGY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 25 JUNE 2019

**Author:** Kim Fielder - 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 2019/12**

Moved: Cr Kate Joblin

Seconded: Cr Josh Chandulal-Mackay

1. THAT the Minutes of the Strategy and Finance Committee Meeting held on 25 June 2019 are confirmed as a true and correct record.

**CARRIED**

## 5 REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

### 5.1 ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES - 1 AUGUST 2019

**Author:** Kim Fielder - 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.

**Legacy Action 3: Ban on Sale of Private Use Fireworks** – This action was complete – 100%.

**Action 1: Community Views survey Results 2019** (Community Involvement in Decision Making and Council). Ms Milham advised Versus Research had provided numeric results across territorial and regional authorities that had some decision-making component in their community views surveys, but these entities could not be named. It was therefore difficult to determine what these councils were doing differently in comparison to Whanganui. Ms Milham would further check whether Versus Research could approach these Councils to determine whether they would be happy for Whanganui District Council to make contact.

**Action:** Kirsty Milham

#### **Committee Resolution 2019/13**

Moved: Cr Kate Joblin

Seconded: Cr Hadleigh Reid

THAT the Strategy and Finance Committee receive the report – Actions Arising from Previous Minutes - 1 August 2019.

**CARRIED**

## 5.2 NOTICE OF MOTION - CLIMATE EMERGENCY

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

### Motion

That Whanganui District Council recognises a state of global 'Climate Emergency' exists

And That in the development of its Climate Change Strategy, the exercising of actions directed by this Strategy, and any other relevant Whanganui District Council Strategies, due accord is given to the recognition that a climate emergency exists.

Cr Taylor sought leave of the Committee to alter his Notice of Motion, advising his intention to move a new motion. Cr Taylor's proposed alteration to Notice of Motion was tabled:

- That in encouraging public engagement in the development of its Climate Change Strategy, Whanganui District Council recognises that a global climate crisis is impending.

The Chair called for a show of hands and the majority of the meeting indicated agreement to alter Cr Taylor's Notice of Motion. Crs Bennett and Craig indicated their disagreement.

### Discussion

Cr Taylor provided the rationale for proposing his new motion. He said the New Zealand Government was currently responding to challenges that this crisis brought. Whanganui District Council had responded to the Climate Change (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill. Local authorities throughout New Zealand, cities worldwide and national governments have variously declared their recognition of this crisis noting the overwhelming and conclusive evidence that demonstrated the risks faced were imminent and ongoing.

Cr Taylor said the recommendation, per se, would not impose any cost on Council, but seek to facilitate public understanding and encourage community engagement on this important issue. Passage of the recommendation would add weight to the Council's voice on climate change related matters at higher levels. Its passage would add impetus to the relevancy of implementing the Council's eventual Climate Change Strategy and any other aligned strategies.

Cr Taylor referred to a recent climate change talk given by Dr James Renwick, a climate scientist and lead author on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Assessment. Dr Renwick stated this was the greatest crisis and the world had 30 years to fix it. The situation was stark but there was hope and it could be fixed. This motion would encourage Whanganui citizens to become involved in the development of a strategy and implementation of its outcomes. It was a call to action and would demonstrate the Council's desire to lead.

Cr Chandulal-Mackay seconded the motion.

### Discussion

In reply to questions, Ms Almond said if the motion was approved it would not be included in the Climate Change Discussion Document. This document was to seek ideas that would help form the strategy, including priorities from the community that they see should be addressed.

Cr Chandulal-Mackay spoke in support of the new motion. He said that the scientific data around climate change was irrefutable. He spoke on several areas in the world directly impacted with rising sea levels that were impacting eco systems and the economic wellbeing of people. Passing this motion would provide weight to the Council's proposed climate change strategy, would

encourage people to submit to it, and give weight to lobbying Central Government to encourage responsible decisions and funding to local authorities to support climate change strategies.

Cr Vinsen spoke in support of the motion and thanked Cr Taylor for altering the motion to one he could support. He believed this was a serious issue but declaring a climate change emergency trivialised the issue and was a 'follow the leader' fad that invited ridicule. This motion recognised the urgency of the situation. The Council previously had not done anything but was about to move into this stage. He hoped the issue would be addressed rationally and with an attitude that did not become prohibitively costly to the public. While Mayor McDouall said he would support the motion, he noted disappointment in the change of wording that now acknowledged that climate change was impending. This meant it was about to happen but science was overwhelming that a climate crisis was happening.

Crs Joblin, Baker-Hogan and Craig also spoke in support of the motion.

Cr Bennett spoke against the motion. He said the word 'crisis' was mentioned and he did not believe it was an immediate crisis that the Council could do much about except to study it more. At the present time there were too many unknowns. He believed adopting some sort of strange ideological position about the effect everyone will have on global warming would create costs for Whanganui's population and its businesses and seriously affect the economy and lives of Whanganui's population.

### **Committee Resolution 2019/14**

Moved: Cr Alan Taylor

Seconded: Cr Josh Chandulal-Mackay

THAT in encouraging public engagement in the development of its Climate Change Strategy, Whanganui District Council recognises that a global climate crisis is impending.

**CARRIED**

Cr Bennett voted against.

*At 1.50pm, Cr Taylor left the meeting*

## **5.3 WHANGANUI AGE FRIENDLY PLAN**

**Author:** Lauren Tamehana - Manager Safer Whanganui

**Authoriser:** Stephanie Macdonald-Rose - Policy & Governance Manager  
Charlotte Almond - General Manager Strategy

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

### **Discussion**

Cr Joblin acknowledged the number of public in attendance in support of the Whanganui Age Friendly Plan.

Mrs Tamehana said the Whanganui Age Friendly Plan had been led by the Positive Ageing Forum. Extensive pre-consultation with many groups had been undertaken with considerable feedback received. The plan would consolidate what was already being delivered.

Ms Tamehana responded to questions. The use of shared pathways with mobility scooters and bicycles had been raised in consultation. Some were concerned that the pathways were shared with many others while other considered the pathways fantastic, the width providing more ability to use. The safety of zebra crossings had not been raised. Part of building this plan had included conversations with younger people, particularly in regard to what they thought Whanganui should look like in 2050.

Cr Joblin said the plan had received strong community input focussed on universal design. She said it was all about improving the voice of the elderly in Whanganui's community.

*At 2.04pm, Cr Bennett left the meeting.*

#### **Committee Resolution 2019/15**

Moved: Cr Kate Joblin

Seconded: Cr Murray Cleveland

THAT that the Whanganui Age Friendly Plan is endorsed subject to approval and any minor administrative changes at the September 2019 Positive Ageing Forum.

**CARRIED**

#### **5.4 COMMUNITY CONTRACT ANNUAL REPORTING**

**Author:** Lauren Tamehana - Manager Safer Whanganui

**Authoriser:** Stephanie Macdonald-Rose - Policy & Governance Manager  
Charlotte Almond - General Manager Strategy

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

##### **Discussion**

*At 2.07, Cr Bennett rejoined the meeting.*

In response to questions, Mrs Tamehana said if organisations had not met the reporting criteria of their contracts, this would be taken into consideration if further applications were received. Reports would still be requested from those organisations who had not reported.

Cr Reid made comment on the excellent work undertaken by the Whanganui People's Centre to help homeless people get the care they needed. Cr Joblin said all community organisations provided a valuable service to the community, often on a shoestring budget.

#### **Committee Resolution 2019/16**

Moved: Cr Kate Joblin

Seconded: Mayor Hamish McDouall

THAT the Strategy and Finance Committee receive the report – Community Contract Annual Reporting.

**CARRIED**

## 5.5 LINE ITEM ANNUAL REPORTING

**Author:** Lauren Tamehana - Manager Safer Whanganui

**Authoriser:** Stephanie Macdonald-Rose - Policy & Governance Manager  
Charlotte Almond - General Manager Strategy

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

### **Committee Resolution 2019/17**

Moved: Cr Kate Joblin

Seconded: Cr Hadleigh Reid

THAT the Strategy and Finance Committee receive the report – Line Item Annual Reporting.

**CARRIED**

## 5.6 WELCOMING COMMUNITIES SIX MONTHLY REPORT

**Author:** Katy Newton - Community Development Advisor Newcomers

**Authoriser:** Stephanie Macdonald-Rose - Policy & Governance Manager  
Charlotte Almond - General Manager Strategy

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

### **Discussion**

Ms Newton responded to questions about Welcoming Communities and Refugees. Advice from the Welcoming Communities' national office was refugee work was a separate project to Welcoming Communities however the definition of a newcomer was 'a recent migrant, former refugee or international student' so there was overlap. In the absence of available people, and because of her knowledge on migrant communities, she did receive questions from the public about refugees and worked with Immigration New Zealand providing local contacts in the community. This however was not a formal position. Immigration New Zealand was leading refugee settlement.

There was further discussion on Immigration New Zealand's proposed refugee settlement plans. In response to a question, Bryan Nicholson said the Council was seeking clarification on how Immigration New Zealand and Council could work together to support refugee settlement. Responding to discussion on the provision of housing for refugees, Ms Newton confirmed that Immigration New Zealand had responsibility for securing housing for refugees settled in Whanganui and they had been provided Whanganui's housing snapshot.



**Committee Resolution 2019/18**

Moved: Cr Kate Joblin

Seconded: Cr Charlie Anderson

THAT the Strategy and Finance Committee receive the report – Welcoming Communities Six Monthly Report.

**CARRIED**

**5.7 STRATEGY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

**Author:** Charlotte Almond - General Manager Strategy

**Authoriser:** Kym Fell - Chief Executive

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

*At 2.26pm, Mayor McDouall left the meeting.*

**Committee Resolution 2019/19**

Moved: Cr Kate Joblin

Seconded: Cr Josh Chandulal-Mackay

THAT the information is noted.

**CARRIED**

**5.8 FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS - MAY - JUNE 2019**

**Author:** Lana Treen - Procurement Officer

**Authoriser:** Mike Fermor - General Manager Finance

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

**Committee Resolution 2019/20**

Moved: Cr Philippa Baker-Hogan

Seconded: Cr Helen Craig

THAT the Strategy and Finance Committee receive the report – Financial Commitments - May - June 2019.

**CARRIED**

**5.9 FINANCIAL RESULTS 2018/19 AND CARRY OVERS TO 2019/20 FINANCIAL YEAR**

**Author:** Mike Fermor - General Manager Finance

**Authoriser:** Kym Fell - Chief Executive

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

*At 2.30pm, Mayor McDouall rejoined the meeting.*

**Discussion**

In reply to questions on the approval of carry overs, Mr Fermor said funding committed to projects had been through the rigorous long-term plan and annual plan processes. The community was aware of work to be undertaken and if carry overs were not approved, effectively the work would stop and the Council would be unable to do what it had told the community it would do. Mr Hughes said some infrastructure projects take longer than one year and some have a 2.5 year term. Work was ongoing and always overlapped financial years. The only infrastructure funding not committed or work commenced was the Wakefield Bridge replacement which was still awaiting New Zealand Transport Agency approval.

**Motion**

Moved: Cr Kate Joblin

Seconded: Mayor Hamish McDouall

THAT the Twelve-Month Report to 30 June 2019 is received.

THAT the Committee recommends to Council that the schedule of carry overs from 2018/2019 to 2019/20 listed in item 'Financial Results 2018/2019 and Carry Overs to 2019/2020 Financial Year' in the Strategy and Finance Committee's agenda 1 August 2019 is approved.

Cr Bennett proposed an amendment to the second motion, seconded by Cr Anderson:

- That the Committee recommends to Council that the schedule of carry overs from 2018/2019 to 2019/20 listed in item 'Financial Results 2018/2019 and Carry Overs to 2019/2020 Financial Year' in the Strategy and Finance Committee's agenda 1 August 2019 is approved, with the exception of the Animal Welfare Centre carry over of \$865,000.

**Discussion**

Cr Joblin proposed that the meeting move into confidence to enable legal advice on possible implications of this amendment.

**Committee Resolution 2019/21**

Moved: Cr Kate Joblin

Seconded: Mayor Hamish McDouall

THAT the public be excluded from the following part of the meeting: Item 5.9 – Financial Result 2018/19 and Carry Overs to 2019/20 Financial Year; as per Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the reason for excluding the public exists under Section 7(2)(g): legal professional privilege.

**CARRIED**

*The meeting reopened to the public at 2.50pm.*

**Discussion**

Cr Joblin advised that following legal advice, Cr Bennett's amendment would not be accepted and referred Elected Members to the original motion.

**Committee Resolution 2019/22**

Moved: Cr Kate Joblin

Seconded: Mayor Hamish McDouall

THAT the Twelve-Month Report to 30 June 2019 is received.

THAT the Committee recommends to Council that the schedule of carry overs from 2018/2019 to 2019/20 listed in item 'Financial Results 2018/2019 and Carry Overs to 2019/2020 Financial Year' in the Strategy and Finance Committee's agenda 1 August 2019 is approved.

**CARRIED**

Crs Bennett and Young voted against.

**5.10 QUARTERLY POLICY WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

**Author:** Stephanie Macdonald-Rose - Policy & Governance Manager

**Authoriser:** Charlotte Almond - General Manager Strategy

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

**Committee Resolution 2019/23**

Moved: Cr Kate Joblin

Seconded: Cr Helen Craig

THAT the Strategy and Finance Committee receive the report – Quarterly Policy Work Programme Update.

**CARRIED**

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

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

**Committee Resolution 2019/24**

Moved: Cr Kate Joblin

Seconded: Mayor Hamish McDouall

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)

**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	Confidential Actions Arising from Previous Minutes - 1 August 2019			Refer to the previous public excluded reason in the agenda for this meeting	
7.2	Confirmation of Confidential Minutes of Strategy and Finance Committee Meeting held on 25 June 2019			Refer to the previous public excluded reason in the agenda for this meeting	

**CARRIED**

**7 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS TO COMMITTEE****8 MOTION TO REOPEN THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC****Committee Resolution 2019/25**

Moved: Cr Kate Joblin

Seconded: Cr Charlie Anderson

THAT the meeting be reopened to the public and the preamble, discussion and resolutions associated with Item 7.1: Confidential Actions Arising from Previous Minutes – 1 August 2019 and Item 7.2: Confirmation of Confidential Minutes of Strategy and Finance Committee Meeting held on 25 June 2019, remain confidential until all parties have either accepted the terms of the proposals or agreed to cease negotiations. The Mayor or Chief Executive may then release press reports on the matter.

**CARRIED**

Cr Joblin thanked all Elected Members for their contribution to the Strategy and Finance Committee meetings and requested Cr Chandulal-Mackay read a closing Karakia.

The Meeting closed at 3.09pm.

**The minutes of this meeting were signed by Whanganui District Council's Chief Executive and the Strategy and Finance Committee's Chair in accordance with the Council Standing Orders, Clause 25.4.**

.....  
**CHAIRPERSON**

.....  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Signed on .....