
Minutes of a meeting of the Strategy & Finance Committee of the Waikato District Council held in the Council Chambers, District Office, 15 Galileo Street, Ngaruawahia on **MONDAY, 22 MARCH 2021** commencing at **9:31 am**.

Present:

Cr JM Gibb (Chairperson)
His Worship the Mayor, Mr AM Sanson
Cr AD Bech [*from 9:38am*]
Cr JA Church
Cr SL Henderson
Cr SD Lynch
Ms Maxine Moana-Tuwhangai
Cr FM McNally
Cr JD Sedgwick
Cr NMD Smith
Cr LR Thomson

Attending:

Mr Kelvin French, Chief Executive, Waikato Local Authority Shared Service

Mr G Ion (Chief Executive)
Mr T Whittaker (Chief Operating Officer)
Mr R MacCulloch (General Manager Service Delivery)
Mr C Bailey (Finance Manager)
Mr J Quinn (Communications, Marketing & Engagement Manager)
Mrs S O’Gorman (General Manager Customer Support)
Mr V Ramduny (Strategic Projects Manager)
Mr J Ebenhoh (Planning & Policy Manager)
Mr B Burnand (Project Manager – Long Term Plan)
Ms M May (Community Connections Manager)
Ms S Baker (Community Venues and Events Team Leader)
Mr M Horsfield (Democracy Advisor)

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Resolved: (Cr Thomson/Ms Moana-Tuwhangai)

THAT an apology be received from Cr Eyre, Cr McGuire and Cr Patterson;

AND THAT an apology for lateness be received from Cr Bech.

CARRIED

S&F2103/01

CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA ITEMS

Resolved: (Crs Sedgwick/Woolerton)

THAT the agenda for a meeting of the Strategy & Finance Committee held on Monday, 22 March 2021 be confirmed and all items therein be considered in open meeting with the exception of those items detailed at agenda item 8 which shall be considered with the public excluded;

AND THAT all reports be received;

AND FURTHER THAT in accordance with Standing Order 9.4 the order of business be changed with agenda item 7.4 [*Draft Statement of Intent for 2021/2022*] and item 7.5 [*Council Controlled Organisations' Interim Accounts*] being considered after item 6.4;

AND FURTHER THAT other items be considered at an appropriate time during the course of the meeting.

CARRIED

S&F2103/02

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

His Worship the Mayor and Cr Church advised members of the Committee that they would declare a non financial conflict of interest in item 7.4 [*Draft Statement of Intent for 2021/2022*] and item 7.5 [*Council Controlled Organisations' Interim Accounts*].

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved: (Crs Henderson/Lynch)

THAT the minutes of a meeting of the Strategy & Finance Committee held on Tuesday, 9 February 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

CARRIED

S&F2103/03

REPORTS

Action Register

Agenda Item 5

The report was received [*S&F2103/02 refers*]. The following matters were discussed:

- Media Report – Article referred to in the previous meeting has now been circulated.

ACTION: Staff to amend action register status update to reflect the circulation of the article relating to unpaid rates.

Draft Statement of Intent for 2021/2022

Agenda Item 7.4

The report was received [*S&F2103/02 refers*] and the Finance Manager gave a verbal update and the following matters were discussed:

- Mr French from Waikato Local Authority Shared Services spoke to his report. The report provided an overview of progress achieved and direction for the future.
- Waikato Local Authority Shared Services had established the Foundation for Success, a robust strategy for business cases and continual development of relationships with Chief Executives and Council Staff.
- Waikato Local Authority Shared Services had faced challenges in the last 12 months. They were categorised into five areas.
 - Resistance to change.
 - Prioritisation of Councils within Waikato Local Authority Shared Service.
 - Staff resourcing.
 - Potential for change within councils and effective management.
 - Acknowledge Councils were facing increasing uncertainty.

- Central solution for these challenges was Chief Executive support for Waikato Local Authority Shared Services to develop the best possible business cases and impress support for Waikato Local Authority Shared Services on staff.
- Waikato Local Authority Shared Services would continue to identify priority projects, encourage Councils to think differently and save costs. Vision is for Waikato Local Authority Shared Services to be seen by local Councils as an enabler to continually improve service delivery.
- Waikato Local Authority Shared Services would continue to advance a transformation agenda.
- Waikato District Council was an important partner for Waikato Local Authority Shared Services and provided resources to achieve outcomes.
- Relationship between the Building consent group and Kainga Ora. Waikato Local Authority Shared Services would work in parallel with Kainga Ora.
- Kainga ora, needed to understand the touch points and long term consenting impacts.
- Waikato Local Authority Shared Services concern was associated with staff retention.
- Liability concerns regarding Kainga Ora consents were being investigated. These sat with Kainga Ora. Different processes exist depended on refurbishments or new developments. Kainga ora issues the code of compliance.

ACTION: General Manager Customer Support to provide an update to elected members regarding Kainga ora liability concerns once the Rice Speir report is completed.

- Consenting agreements with Kainga Ora would be consistent with similar agreements that Council had with Kainga Ora.
- A subsidiary of Kainga Ora provided consents for Kainga Ora developments. Projects were subject to audit.

Resolved : (Cr Sedgwick/Woolerton)

THAT pursuant to section 64 of the Local Government Act 2002 the Strategy & Finance Committee will provide feedback on Council Controlled Organisation draft Statement of Intent for 2021/22 no later than 30 April 2020.

CARRIED

S&F2103/04

Cr Bech entered the meeting at 9.38am (during discussion and was not present when voting took place).

Council Controlled Organisations' Interim Accounts

Agenda Item 7.5

The report was received [S&F2103/02 refers] and no discussion was held.

Consideration of Conservation Fund Applications

Agenda Item 6.1

The report was received [S&F2103/02 refers] and discussion was held on the following matters:

- Weed spraying – Some portions of land were difficult to access, and for spraying to be effective the whole area needed to be completed.
- Current applications fall under the current delegation and current council policies.
- Pest management – Funding criterias were different depending on Regional or District Councils.
- Council should not fund the majority of development costs.

Resolved: (Cr Bech/His Worship the Mayor)

THAT the report from the Acting General Manager Community Growth be received;

AND THAT the Strategy and Finance Committee recommends to Council that the Conservation Fund application of \$4,900.00 from M Emms (146C Woodcock Road, Tamahere) be approved in full;

AND THAT the Strategy and Finance Committee recommends to Council that the Conservation Fund application of \$4,700.00 from K Over (349 Pinnacle Hill Road, Mangatāwhiri) be approved in full;

AND FURTHER THAT the Strategy and Finance Committee recommends to Council that the Conservation Fund application of \$4,999.00 from C Jackson (1109 Whaanga Road, Raglan) be approved in full.

CARRIED

S&F2103/05

Crs McNally, Smith and Woolerton voted against the resolution and requested their dissenting votes be recorded.

Update on Economic and Community Development Work Programme – March 2021
Agenda Item 6.2

The report was received [S&F2103/02 refers] and discussion was held on the following matters:

- Business survey – survey had been initiated in the same format as last year and would look to measure results against 2020 outcomes. Council would contact businesses, with particular attention being given to the same businesses that were engaged in 2020. The survey would be completed by the end of March 2021. Analysis would be completed by the end of April 2021.
- COVID-19 – initiatives such as the Pop-up Business School aimed to assist people starting new businesses and could assist with sustaining economic activity.
- Funding review - rolling out community led development training. Supports governance training, funding applications, co-operation and project management.
- Youth engagement and employment - Three young leaders were sourced from the youth unit at Tuakau.

Submission on the Waikato Regional Transport Plan 2021-2051
Agenda Item 6.3

The report was received [S&F2103/02 refers] and the Strategic Projects Manager gave a verbal update and the following matters were discussed:

- Projects and programmes contained in the report would help make our communities and the regions better connected and accessible as well as contribute to economic development.
- Future funding challenges regarding transport infrastructure to support growth.
- Staff noted that references to Ohinewai in the Transport Plan needed to be removed. The Draft Waikato Regional Transport Plan stated that there was significant growth pressure in locations that had not been planned for, such as Ohinewai.
- Rail Corridor – rail investment decisions in Auckland had affected the extension of electrification to Pokeno and Tuakau.
- Road Safety & Safe network programme – Council was not able to fund this in the LTP 2021-2031. It would need to be funded by NZTA.
- SH23/39 roundabout - needed to be included in the Waikato Regional Transport Plan. The project would need to be funded by NZTA.
- Integrated transport with Auckland - needed to be adopted in the Waikato Regional Transport Plan and more emphasis was required. Caution would need to be taken in

understanding the impact of integration with Auckland and the affects on housing and economic development.

- Increased mobility scheme – Allocation is contained within the proposed Waikato District Council LTP.
- Te Kauwhata as a potential train station.
- The public had expressed excitement for the Te Huia train service.
- The issue of increased traffic travelling east through main arterial roads in the district had not been addressed in the report.

ACTION : Staff to monitor the change in traffic flows in main arterial roads in the east of the district.

Resolved: (Cr Woolerton/McInally)

THAT the report from the Acting General Manager Community Growth be received;

AND THAT the Strategy & Finance Committee recommends to Council that the submission on the draft Waikato Regional Land Transport Plan 2021-2051 be approved;

AND FURTHER THAT the Strategy & Finance Committee recommends to Council the inclusion of additional comments within the submission on the draft Waikato Regional Land Transport Plan 2021-2051.

CARRIED

S&F2103/06

Hall Catchment and Targeted Rate Review

Agenda Item 6.4

The report was received [*S&F2103/02 refers*] and discussion was held.

ACTION: Staff to inform elected members what changes are required to the 8 halls.

- Increasing the catchment does not include every rate payer. Catchment for halls were localised.
- Possibility that halls are included in the general rate. This approach would be problematic and hard to impose.
- Looking to get feed back regarding the proposal.
- Conversation had that halls are done as general rates. Not everyone is target rated.

Resolved: (Cr Smith/Woolerton)

THAT the report from the General Manager Service Delivery be received;

AND THAT the Strategy & Finance Committee approves to undertake targeted consultation with affected parties on the proposed new hall catchment areas and targeted rates in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002.

CARRIED

S&F2103/07

Financial performance summary for the period ending 28 February 2021

Agenda Item 7.1

The report was received [*S&F2103/02 refers*] and discussion was held on the following matters:

- The Treasury Compliance report had dealt with issues relating to compliance.
- \$5.5 million of capital expenditure incurred at February. All figures were year to date.
- Penalties written off included rates penalties.
- Other expenses included activity expenditure.
- Interest rates received were market rates. Interest paid on debt - Council followed the Treasury Management policy and covered interest rates exposure. Council was presently paying about 4.3% on interest rate swaps. There was a fixed cover in place to protect the Council budget.

The goal for the draft LTP was to achieve zero points in Council reserves and forecasting cashflow was important.

- Council only borrowed funds when needed.
- Highway revocation - timing was not critically material but was unfavourable overall. When assets were vested, costs were incurred.
- Council was not achieving completed capital expenditure projects. More clarity was required regarding capital expenditure. Periods of non-vesting were not helpful to ratepayers.

Operational Budget Review

Agenda Item 7.2

The report was received [*S&F2103/02 refers*] and no discussion was held.

Approved Counterparty Review
Agenda Item 7.3

The report was received [*S&F2103/02 refers*] and discussion was held.

- Credit rating from the Reserve Bank was current as of 29 September 2020.
- Staff have checked that this is correct.

Local Government Funding Agency Half Year Report and Draft Statement of Intent
Agenda Item 7.6

The report was received [*S&F2103/02 refers*] no discussion was held.

Civic Financial Services – Statement of Intent for 2021
Agenda Item 7.7

The report was received [*S&F2103/02 refers*] and no discussion was held.

2020-2021 Second Quarter Non-Financial Performance Report
Agenda Item 7.8

The report was received [*S&F2103/02 refers*] and no discussion was held.

The meeting adjourned at 10:41am and resumed at 11:06am.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Agenda Item 8

Resolved: (Crs Woolerton/McInally)

THAT the public be excluded from the whole or part of the meeting to enable Council to deliberate and make decisions on the following items of business:

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Item number 1 – Confirmation of Public Excluded Minutes	Good reason to withhold exists under Section 7 Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987	Section 48(1)(a)
Item 2.1 Statue Barred Rates and Water Debtor Balances Written off on 30 June 2020		

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, as follows:

Item No.	Section	Interest
Item 1 Confirmation of Minutes	I	Refer to the previous Public Excluded reason in the agenda for this meeting.
Item 2.1 Statue Barred Rated and Water Debtor Balances Written off on 30 June 2020	7(2)(a)	To protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 11:37am.

Minutes approved and confirmed this day of 2021.

Cr J Gibb
CHAIRPERSON