
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 3 MAY 2021** commencing at **9:31 am**

Present:

Cr JM Gibb (Chairperson)
His Worship the Mayor, Mr AM Sanson
Cr AD Bech
Cr JA Church
Cr CA Eyre
Cr SL Henderson
Cr SD Lynch
Cr FM McNally
Cr RC McGuire
Mrs M Moana-Tuwhangai
Cr EM Patterson
Cr JD Sedgwick
Cr NMD Smith
Cr LR Thomson
Cr CT Woolerton

Attending:

Mr G Ion (Chief Executive)
Mr T Whittaker (Chief Operating Officer)
Ms A Diaz (Chief Financial Officer)
Mr C Morgan (General Manager Community Growth)
Mr R MacCullough (General Manager Service Delivery)
Mr M Horsfield (Democracy Advisor)

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

There were no apologies.

CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA ITEMS

Resolved: (Crs Sedgwick/Thomson)

THAT the agenda for a meeting of the **Strategy & Finance Committee** held on **Monday 3 May 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 9.13** the **Committee** resolves that the following item be added to the open agenda, for discussion, as advised by the **Chairperson**.

- **Agenda Item 7.3 – Banks and Cheques.**

CARRIED

S&F2105/01

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved: (Crs McInally/Woolerton)

THAT the minutes of a meeting of the **Strategy & Finance Committee** held on **22 March 2021** be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting subject to the editing of the attendance list to include **Cr Woolerton**.

CARRIED

S&F2105/02

REPORTS

Action Register
Agenda Item 5

The report was received [*S&F2105/02 refers*] and discussion was held.

- **Hall Catchment and Targeted Rate Review** - Thought be given to Tamahere Hall to be included in Stage two of the review. Community loan close to being repaid and basis for the hall targeted rate should be revisited.

- All halls need to be considered within the review. Many halls do not have sufficient hall rates and discussion was required regarding maintenance costs.

ACTION: Workshop to be held to discuss targeted rates for all Community halls, including Community halls not identified under the three stage Hall Catchment and Targeted Rate review.

The Whenua Maori Rating Amendment Bill Agenda Item 6.1

The report was received [*S&F2105/02 refers*] and discussion was held.

- Rates were currently charged for unproductive Maori land.
- Whenua Maori Rating Amendment Bill would make unused Maori land unrateable.
- Land that receives and charged for services such as water were considered productive land.
- Provisions have been made within the annual budget regarding outstanding rates.
- Staff were working how to implemented the changes required in the Bill.

Updated 2021 Operational Budget Review Agenda Item 7.1

The report was received [*S&F2105/02 refers*] and discussion was held.

- Discussion held regarding budget transfers.

Treasury Risk Management Policy – Compliance Report as at 31 March 2021 Agenda Item 7.2

The report was received [*S&F2105/02 refers*] and discussion was held.

- Total interest rate swaps were \$119 Million currently on swaps, we're above our benchmark.
- Council's risk management policy includes interest rate cover to mitigate possible interest rates fluctuations in the future.
- Council interest rates were calculated from the Long Term Plan and debt levels.

ACTION: Council to ask PWC to look over the last 5 years and assess what was Council's average interest rate and the average swap rate.

- Risk management associated with interest rates needs to be strategic and not reactive.
- Currently have 100% cover on our borrowings. Council required to have good cashflow forecasts for three years, including when interest rate swap will be put in place and for how long.
- External debt forecasts were predicted from what was currently known. Does not include aspects such as Three Waters Reform.

Councillor McGuire left the meeting during the above item at 10:14am and re-entered the meeting at 10:17am.

Banks and Cheques

Agenda Item 7.3

A verbal report was provided by the Chief Financial Officer and the following discussion was held:

- A report was presented to the Audit & Risk Committee regarding the phasing out of cheques.
- Waikato District Council will not be receiving cheques from 1st July 2021.
- Chief Financial Officer stated that cheques are not classified as legal tender from that date.
- Waikato District Council receives 7,000 cheques a year.
- Only 4% of total receipting was processed from cheques.

ACTION: Chief Financial Officer will investigate whether Council received cheques from payees outside New Zealand.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Agenda Item 8

Resolved: (Crs Thomson/Sedgwick)

THAT the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

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:

