

Minutes of an emergency meeting of the Waikato District Council's Emergency Committee held by Telephone-Audio Conference on **MONDAY, 30 MARCH 2020** commencing at **12.32pm**.

Present:

His Worship the Mayor, Mr AM Sanson (Chairperson)
Cr AD Bech
Cr JM Gibb [from 12.36pm]
Cr EM Patterson
Cr JD Sedgwick [from 12.35pm]
Cr NMD Smith

Attending:

Cr JA Church
Cr SL Henderson
Cr SD Lynch

Mr GJ Ion (Chief Executive)
Ms A Diaz (Chief Financial Officer)
Mr K Abbot (Projects & Innovation Manager)
Mr B Stringer (Democracy Manager)

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Resolved: (Crs Bech/Patterson)

THAT an apology for lateness be received from Councillors Gibb and Sedgwick.

CARRIED

EMGY2003/01

CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA ITEMS

Resolved: (His Worship the Mayor/Cr Smith)

THAT the agenda for an emergency meeting of the Emergency Committee held on Monday, 30 March 2020 be confirmed and all items therein be considered in open meeting.

CARRIED

EMGY2003/02

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

REPORTS

Update to Delegations – Civil Defence and Emergency Management
Agenda Item 4

Circulated under separate cover: Attachment 2 – Proposed Changes to Delegations

The Projects and Innovation Manager introduced the report and highlighted two key changes in the proposed delegations:

- To widen the delegations, particularly in relation to the local controller role, to align with the partnership arrangement with Hamilton City Council (HCC) for the current national state of emergency. The delegations needed to reflect that the local controller may be from another local authority.
- To increase the current level of financial delegations; principally an increase for the local controller from \$50,000 to \$1 million to enable effective and expedient decision-making.

The Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer also noted:

- The safeguards that were in place to track the Emergency Operations Centre's (EOC) finances and reimbursement process to recover expenditure from other bodies.
- The separate budget codes to identify expenditure for HCC and WDC.
- Daily reports reviewed by the Executive Leadership Team on EOC expenditure.
- The urgency of the proposed delegations to ensure HCC's appointed local controller had financial delegated authority to make timely decisions.
- The current level of financial delegations were insufficient both for the current state of emergency and for future declared emergencies. Reference was made to the current total expenditure by the EOC and the cost to establish community-based assessment centres.

The following matters were discussed in response to questions:

- The background to the partnership arrangement with the HCC.
- Processes and checks in place on a local controller's expenditure:
 - The rigorous process for the appointment of local controllers meant reckless spending was unlikely.
 - The wide power of local controllers under legislation during a state of emergency in relation to procurement and expenditure, and the risk if local authorities wanted to restrict such power.
 - There was a one-week period for alternative finances to be sought, if required, as a result of expenditure by the EOC/local controller.

