
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 **WEDNESDAY, 16 FEBRUARY 2022** commencing at **9.30AM**.

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
Ms M Moana-Tuwhangai
Cr RC McGuire
Cr EM Patterson
Cr JD Sedgwick
Cr NMD Smith
Cr CT Woolerton

Attending:

Mr G Ion (Chief Executive)
Mr T Whittaker (Chief Operating Officer)
Ms A Diaz (Chief Financial Officer)
Mr R MacCulloch (General Manager Service Delivery)
Mrs S O’Gorman (General Manager Customer Support)
Mr C Morgan (General Manager Community Growth)
Mr V Ramduny (Strategic Projects Manager)
Mr J Ebenhoh (Planning & Policy Manager)
Mr R Turner (Customer Support Manager)
Mr V Ramduny (Strategic Projects Manager)
Mr C Bailey (Finance Manager)
Ms M Russo (Corporate Planning Team Leader)
Ms L Hood (Corporate Planner)
Ms E Symes (Reserves Planner)
Ms R Law (Reserves Planner)
Ms J de Abreu (Financial Accountant)
Ms G Shaw (Democracy Advisor)
Mrs G Kanawa (Democracy Team Leader)

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Resolved: (Cr Eyre/ Cr Church)

THAT the Strategy & Finance Committee accepts:

- a. the apology for non-attendance from Cr Thomson; and
- b. the apology for lateness from Cr McNally.

CARRIED

S&F2202/01

CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA ITEMS

Resolved: (Cr Patterson/Cr Woolerton)

THAT:

- a. the agenda for a meeting of the Strategy & Finance Committee held on Wednesday, 16 February 2022 be confirmed;
- b. all items therein be considered in open meeting with the exception of those items detailed at agenda item 7 which shall be considered with the public excluded; and
- c. all reports be received.

CARRIED

S&F22022/02

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved: (Cr Bech/Cr McGuire)

THAT the minutes for a meeting of the Strategy & Finance Committee held on Monday, 29 November 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

S&F2202/03

REPORTS

Action Register – February 2022

Agenda Item 5

The report was received [*S&F2202/02 refers*] and the following discussion was held:

- It was agreed that Cr Eyre will forward the library map/s to all other councillors.
- Cr Bech enquired how many applications had been received for the position of 'Halls Officer'.
- Crs requested an updated staff contact list. The Chief Financial Officer reminded Councillors that requests be directed via an Executive Leadership Team member and copied to the democracy email.

Financial Performance Summary for Period Ending 31 December 2021

Agenda Item 6.1

The report was received [*S&F2202/02 refers*] and the following discussion was held:

- Financial position was as forecasted. However, recorded revenue is lower than anticipated as a result of COVID-19 restrictions faced by the Consents and Building Quality teams. Payment for projects within these areas have been received, but have yet to be recorded as income. This will be resolved once the Building Quality and Consents teams catch up on their backlog.
- Cash flow is strong. The second rates instalment in January provided a good cash take, showing an increase of 10 percent on the previous year.
- Cr Bech raised a point that the rates income had increased and capital spending was lower than usual (due to project delays). This leaves Council in a strong position from a cash point of view and, from a ratepayer perspective, does this mean that rate increases may not need to be at the forecast level.
- The Finance Manager responded that the capital expenditure work which had not been undertaken was delayed, but is still in the Council work programme, and the underspend to date is basically reducing deficit reserves which will increase once those projects are underway. He also stated that rates increases are smoothed over the long-term planned period, which takes into account the Council's capital programme over a 10-year period. Therefore, rates are unaffected.

Treasury Risk Management Policy – Compliance Report at 31 December 2021

Agenda Item 6.2

The report was received [*S&F22021/02 refers*] and the following discussion was held:

- There was an area of non-compliance regarding the actual borrowing costs being higher than budget, which is a phasing issue. It didn't phase quite correctly in the budget, but overall, will be in line with budget by the end of the year.
- Perennial debt is at \$95 million, Council has borrowed a further \$ 5 million this in February 2022.
- The borrowing is all budgeted, and Council is currently borrowing less than has been budgeted.

2021/22 Second Quarter Non-Financial Performance Results

Agenda Item 6.3

The report was received [*S&F2202/02 refers*] and the following discussion was held:

- 65% monthly and quarterly KPI targets were achieved, while 8 percent were within 5 percent of their target. There was a 99% satisfaction score for Libraries.
- Non-achieved KPIs sit at 27 percent.
- Commentary indicates COVID-19 has had a significant impact on KPIs, but it also indicates optimism in increasing results as restrictions ease.
- Concern raised with regard to the Governance results and noted that poor results in this area cannot be remedied unless Councillors have specific detail around dissatisfaction scores.
- COVID-19 restrictions have also impacted building inspections and other areas of core business. The related survey results can be viewed as a snapshot in time arising from COVID-19 restrictions, and not necessarily as an ongoing trend.
- The opportunity for Council to undertake remote building inspections is being investigated. In the Building category, there has been an increase in customer satisfaction and a reduction in the customer effort score.
- Suggested that business continuity needs to be considered and ensured across the entire district.
- A large percentage of complaints and issues regarding buildings and consents appear to be as a result of a disconnect between building firms and ,the expectations they have provided to their clients, rather than Council non-delivery.

Update on objections received to the 2020 District Valuation

Agenda Item 6.4

The report was received [*S&F2202/02 refers*] and the following discussion was held:

- There had been a significant increase in rural valuations for those that have multiple titles and enquired how many rural property owners have been affected in this category.
- Mr Bailey provided an answer, stating that those property owners who hold multiple titles in rural valuations make up the majority of objections Council has received to date.

Civic Financial Services Limited Statement of Intent for 2022

Agenda Item 6.5

The report was received [*S&F2202/02 refers*] and no discussion was held.

Resident Perception Survey – Half Yearly Results

Agenda Item 6.6

The report was received [*S&F2202/02 refers*] and the following discussion was held:

- 800 data fields are received on a quarterly basis.
- Significant increase in the category of financial management; how residents perceive their fees and charges are being utilised.
- Decrease in resident satisfaction around cycleways, footpaths and road maintenance, graffiti control, litter, animal management and community halls. An action group has been set up to analyse and discuss these categories.
- Suggested that Council has constructed significant cycleways and shared paths in recent years, so there should be a question around why these scores have decreased. The lockdowns, in addition to the long summer, has seen greater interest in cycling, walking, and outdoor recreation, therefore, there is increased awareness of what is and isn't available. Evidence from Council resident surveys be provided to NZTA for further consideration (this will be raised with NZTA by Cr Patterson).
- The decreased satisfaction in regard to community halls is likely linked to the Council vaccine mandate policy.
- Important that Council maintains a consistent focus on footpath maintenance as poor maintenance can cause long-term injuries.

- Councillors requested more information on the questions within the survey, particularly in regard to the governance performance.

ACTION: Staff to provide Councillors with the full details of the governance question results by ward under separate cover.

ACTION: Staff to look into reviewing the Governance survey questions.

ACTION: Cr Patterson to discuss resident survey results (cycleways and walkways) with the NZTA.

Submission on the WEL Energy Trust Draft 2022 – 2023 Annual Plan
Agenda Item 6.7

The report was received [*S&F2202/02 refers*] and the following discussion was held:

- The wording of the letter could have been stronger, but understood that the Council has to balance their feedback, whilst maintaining an ongoing relationship with the WEL Energy Trust.
- Further joint submission could be proposed with Hamilton City Council. Mayor Sanson will look into discussing this with HCC.
- **ACTION:** Mayor Sanson to initiate discussions with HCC regarding a joint submission.

Resolved: (Cr Sedgwick/Cr Bech)

THAT the submission on the WEL Energy Trust Draft 2022 – 2023 Annual Plan be received.

CARRIED

S&F22022/04

Approval for consultation on Raglan Food Waste Collection
Agenda Item 6.8

The report was received [*S&F2202/02 refers*] and the following discussion was held:

- Most current residents already have caddies and bins, therefore, the purchase of new caddies will mainly go towards new users going online that may want/need them.

Resolved: (Cr Patterson/His Worship the Mayor)

THAT the consultation on Raglan Food Waste Collection be received.

CARRIED

S&F22022/05

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Agenda Item 8

The report was received [*S&F2202/02 refers*] and no discussion was held.

Resolved: (Cr Patterson/Cr Woolerton)

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:

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)

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 I Confirmation of Minutes		Refer to the previous Public Excluded reason in the agenda for this meeting.

CARRIED

S&F2202/06

Resolutions S&F 2202/06 – S&F2202/08 are contained in the public excluded section of these minutes.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 10.39am.

Minutes approved and confirmed this _____ day of _____ 2022

Cr J Gibb
CHAIRPERSON