

Minutes for 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, 3 AUGUST 2022** commencing at **9.30am.**

Present:

Cr JM Gibb (Chairperson)
Cr JA Church
Cr CA Eyre
Cr SL Henderson
Cr SD Lynch
Cr RC McGuire
Mrs Moana-Tuwhangai
Cr EM Patterson
Cr J Sedgwick
Cr NMD Smith
Cr L Thomson
Cr CT Woolerton

Attending:

Mr T Whittaker (Chief Operating Officer)
Ms A Diaz (Chief Financial Officer)
Ms S O’Gorman (General Manager Customer Service)
Mr C Morgan (General Manager Community Growth)
Mr R Ramduny (Strategic Projects Manager)
Mr J Fuller (Senior Environmental Planner)
Mr J Brown (Senior Communications & Engagement Advisor)
Ms T Singh-Sandhu (Strategic Planner)
Ms S Bourke (Community Safety Manager)
Ms D Tracey (Strategic Planning Team Leader)
Mr R Turner (Customer Experience Manager)
Mr C Bailey (Finance Manager)
Ms O Bennett (Team Administrator)
Ms L Hood (Corporate Planner)
Ms G Shaw (Democracy Advisor)
Mrs G Kanawa (Democracy Team Leader)
Ms E Saunders (Democracy Advisor)

Ms N Greenwell (Hamilton & Waikato Tourism)
Mr Michael Hooker (Key Research)

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Resolved: (Crs Sedgwick/Patterson)

THAT the Strategy and Finance Committee accepts the apologies for non-attendance from His Worship the Mayor and Cr McNally.

CARRIED

S&F2208/01

CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA ITEMS

Resolved: (Crs Thomson/Eyre)

THAT the agenda for a meeting of the Strategy & Finance Committee held on Wednesday, 3 August 2022 be confirmed:

- a. all items therein being considered in open meeting, with the exception of those items detailed at agenda item 8 which shall be considered with the public excluded; and Brin 6.7 forward to 6.1
- b. all reports be received.

CARRIED

S&F2208/02

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved: (Crs Eyre/Church)

THAT the minutes for a meeting of the Strategy & Finance Committee held on Wednesday, 22 June 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

S&F2208/03

REPORTS

Action Register
Agenda Item 5

The report was received [*S&F2208/02 refers*] and no discussion was held.

- Confirmed that Crs would be provided an opportunity to give feedback around Blueprint projects in their areas.

Treasury Risk Management Policy – Compliance Report at 30 June 2022

Agenda Item 6.1

The report was received [S&F2208/02 refers] and the following discussion was held:

- All areas of treasury risk management were within policy limits except for: (# 6): Actual borrowing costs for the financial year to 30 June 2022 were \$266K higher than budget due to higher than planned borrowing costs (interest) during the year. This was partially offset in June 2022 by savings from the Council credit rating published by Fitch ratings.
- Staff confirmed that the annual plan assumes a higher delivery rate than what we have achieved in the past. There is an opportunity to review this throughout the year. Councillors suggested staff continue to forecast where Council wants to be, as well as where it is going to be.
- Councillors suggested Council has received money (rates) while it is not delivering and continues to fail on delivery. Staff confirmed that we had underdelivered and the carry forwards were high. Confirmed there would be an opportunity to review this in the next annual plan. Finance rates are set over a ten (10) year period; therefore, Council could consider a premature rate reset for the next annual plan.

ACTION: Staff to consider option of a rate reset for the next annual plan.

- Staff noted that we don't rate our ratepayers for the capital expenditure that is budgeted in the annual plan.

Indicative Financial Performance Summary for the year ended 30 June 2022

Agenda Item 6.2

The report was received [S&F2208/02 refers] and the following discussion was held:

- Purpose of the report was to inform the Strategy and Finance Committee on the indicative full year financial performance against the 2021/22 year in the LTP 2021-31 and those budgets carried forward from the 2020/21 budget year.
- The final results for the year would be available after the infrastructure asset revaluation entries had been processed and at the completion of the Annual Report audit, scheduled for September 2022.
- The overall indicative financial performance and the major reserve balances were as expected, apart from the vestment of State Highway 1 to Council that was planned for the 2020/21 budget year which had been delayed.

- Councillors queried staff pay – noted there were 408 staff and Council was paying \$35 million in personnel costs. Therefore, the average staff salary was \$87,000 per year? Staff confirmed this also included ACC, Kiwi Saver and levies.
- Councillors held a discussion regarding the presentation of financial data – e.g. actual versus budget figures in the performance summary.

Draft Taio in the Waikato Strategy
Agenda Item 6.3

The report was received [*S&F2208/02 refers*] and the following discussion was held:

- The Senior Environmental Planner delivered a verbal presentation.
- A part of the project, staff undertook a stocktake of the Conservation Strategy and the Esplanade Strategy and nature activity in the Waikato District. Waikato District Council staff also engaged with various stakeholders to discuss the Conservation Strategy and Taiao in the Waikato.
- Following this, staff prepared a draft strategy based on input received from the Conservation Strategy Steering Group and Stakeholders. Waikato District Council staff discussed the draft strategy at various stages at workshops with Councillors, with the final draft strategy being circulated following the last workshop on 18 July 2022.
- Councillors queried if the farming community had been in agreement with the strategy? Staff confirmed several stakeholders had been/would be consulted.
- Councillors expressed concern that a three-week consultation period would not be sufficient time for the farming community as it would be a busy time of year for farmers.
- Staff confirmed that the consultation timeframe could be extended, however, this would consequently push the strategy's adoption out to a post-election timeframe.
- Councillors agreed to a six-week consultation period. Noted that it was critical to receive the right feedback and it should be done properly regardless of timing.

Resolved: (Eyre/Thomson)

THAT the Strategy and Finance Committee recommends to Council to approve the public release of the draft Taiao in the Waikato Strategy for a six-week public consultation.

CARRIED

S&F2208/04

Adoption of the Future Proof Strategy

Agenda Item 6.4

The report was received [*S&F2208/02 refers*] and the following discussion was held:

- The Future Proof Strategy ('the Strategy') is a 30-year growth management and implementation plan for the Hamilton, Waipa and Waikato sub-region.
- The updated strategy was adopted by the Future Proof Implementation Committee (FPIC) on 16 June 2022.
- The updated Strategy retained the core elements of the 2009 and 2017 Strategy but also incorporated the Hamilton to Auckland (H2A) Corridor Plan and the Hamilton-Waikato Metropolitan Spatial Plan. This reflects the importance of the H2A corridor which stretches through the north-Waikato and into Auckland, the connections east towards Morrinsville and south to Te Awamutu.
- The updated strategy continues to support a compact urban form and includes provisions to meet the NPS-UD requirement to be responsive to out-of-sequence or unanticipated developments.
- Once partner Councils adopt the Future Proof Strategy, work will be done to revise population and employment projections.
- Councillors noted this was an excellent piece of work and thanked staff for their efforts.

Resolved: (Crs Bech/Smith)

THAT the Strategy and Finance Committee recommends to Council that the Future Proof Strategy 2022 be adopted.

CARRIED

S&F2206/05

Adoption of the Local Area Blueprints for Port Waikato and Gordonton

Agenda Item 6.5

The report was received [*S&F2208/02 refers*] and the following discussion was held:

- The purpose of the Port Waikato & Gordonton Local Area Blueprint was to support the needs and aspirations of each community by identifying and prioritising initiatives that are informed by the local residents and groups.
- Public consultation via a questionnaire, workshop and drop-in sessions were undertaken between December 2021 to June 2022 and were used to inform the initiatives developed for the Port Waikato & Gordonton Local Area Blueprint.

- The initiatives developed seek to address the needs and aspirations voiced by community members, and to overall support their wellbeing.
- Without the Port Waikato & Gordonton Local Area Blueprint, the Waikato District Council faced a risk of potentially not understanding the needs and aspirations of these two communities and therefore potentially delivering unnecessary services and infrastructure.
- The Port Waikato & Gordonton Local Area Blueprints allows the community to inform Waikato District Council on what is required to positively contribute to the community (be it council or community-led).
- Councillors thanked all those who had been involved in the project, acknowledging that staff had been particularly responsive.
- Noted that community aspiration is now a driving force in our community planning. Believed that the Blueprints would deliver on these aspirations.

Resolved: (Crs Eyre/Woolerton)

THAT the Strategy & Finance Committee recommends to Council that the Port Waikato & Gordonton Local Area Blueprints be adopted

CARRIED

S&F2208/06

Resident Perception Survey – Quarter 4 Results

Agenda Item 6.6

The report was received [*S&F2208/02 refers*] and the following discussion was held:

- The Resident Perception is undertaken by external contractor, Key Research, on a quarterly basis.
- Key Research delivered a verbal presentation, providing the Strategy and Finance Committee with a high-level update on the insights gained from the data collected from the Quarterly Resident Perception Survey for April – June 2022.
- Over the previous three months, Council had seen significant improvement regarding the overall reputation of Council. Most significant improvements were seen in Awaroa Ki Tuakau, Eureka and Raglan. It was believed this had been the result of lifting Covid-19 measures.
- Significant decrease in satisfaction around the safety of roads. River Road in Ngaruawahia was specifically noted as an issue. Council was working to resolve the issue.
- A significant decrease in satisfaction was seen in Whangamarino, Hukanui – Waerenga, Eureka and Raglan. Several cemeteries had undergone beautification improvements which included planting and fencing. It is thought that these improvements may have impacted perceptions whilst the work was being carried out.

- Reputation profile was driven out of four questions asked in the survey – vision and leadership of the Council, faith and trust in the Council.
- Staff noted a new Communications and Engagement Advisor would be joining Council in the next month. The role would enable Council to ensure our residents understand the value we are delivering to communities.
- Noted Council needed to work on its communications with Huntly. Numbers that we survey were almost below materiality. Sometime question the validity of numbers.
- 50 percent of respondents were sceptical of Council and did not trust Council. Therefore, there is a need to consider what we are communicating to our communities.
- Wards that score poorly are close to a residential/urban population. Is there in-depth analysis of understanding what is going on?

ACTION: Staff to work with Councillors as a source of local knowledge to identify areas of improvement in each ward.

- Council needs to promote and communicate the positive outcomes it has achieved more regularly.
- Noted we need to communicate and liaise with customers in a way that meets their needs. E.g., providing hard copy surveys to older residents.
- Councillors would be interested in seeing a copy of the survey.

ACTION: Staff to provide Councillors with a copy of the resident perception survey and accompanying information (e.g., maps, letters) that are sent to residents.

Hamilton & Waikato Tourism Year End Report to Waikato District Council Agenda Item 6.7

The report was received [*S&F2208/02 refers*] and the following discussion was held:

- Nicola Greenwell from Hamilton and Waikato Tourism delivered a presentation outlining key highlights the organisation had experienced over the previous financial year.
- From July 2021 to June 2022, the Waikato region had only experienced a month and half at the green Covid-19 Traffic Light setting. This impacted activities, events and campaigns forcing the team to adapt and diversify.
- Electronic card transactions were up on the 2019 figures. Noted this was something to be proud of.
- With the return of lockdowns and alert level challenges, Hamilton and Waikato Tourism reactivated the 'Mighty Local' campaign to promote essential services, hospitality providers and contactless/home delivery channels. The core purpose of

'Mighty Local' was to raise awareness, promote and drive residents to 'buy and shop local' within their local communities.

- Auckland lockdown had significant impact on the northern part of our region, but those areas have since experienced some bounce back.
- With tourism returning, it was estimated that Auckland Airport would be up to 72 percent capacity by December 2022.
- Estimated we would see New Zealanders who had travelled locally wanting to travel internationally now that borders were reopening. Consequently, there may be some reduction in domestic visitation while this happens.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Agenda Item 7

The report was received [*S&F2208/02 refers*] and no discussion was held.

Resolved: (Crs Henderson/Patterson)

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 PEX 1 - Confirmation of Minutes	Good reason to withhold exists under Section 6 or Section 7 Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987	Section 48(1)(a)
Item PEX 2.1- 2021/2022 Unpaid Dog Registration Fees Write Off		

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 PEX 1 Confirmation of Minutes		Refer to the previous Public Excluded reason in the agenda for this meeting.

Item PEX 2.1- 2021/2022 Unpaid Dog Registration Fees Write Off	7(2)(g) 7	To protect legally privileged information.
---	------------------------------------	---

CARRIED

S&F2208/07

Resolutions XXXX - XXXX are contained in the public excluded section of these minutes.

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 12.11pm

Minutes approved and confirmed this day of 2022.

Cr J Gibb
CHAIRPERSON

PEX Mins – Sedgwick/McGuire