

Date: Tuesday 28 September 2021 at 3.00pm
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

The Deputy Mayor A L Jamieson (the Chairman), the District Mayor N C Volzke, Councillors G W Boyde, P S Dalziel, J M S Erwood, R W Coplestone, A K Harris, V R Jones, M McKay, W J Sandford and G M Webby.

In attendance

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director – Community Services – Ms K Whareaitu (*part meeting*), the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the Director – Corporate Services – Mrs T Radich, the Director – Assets – Mrs V Araba, the Committee Advisor and Executive Assistant – Mrs E Bishop, the Roding Asset Manager – Mr S Bowden, the Environmental Health Manager- Ms R Otter (*part meeting*), the Compliance Officer – Mr K Best (*part meeting*), the Communications Manager – Ms G Gibson (*part meeting*), the Community Services Manager – Mr C Julie (*part meeting*), the Services Asset Manager – Mr J Cooper (*part meeting*), the Customer and Leisure Services Manager and one member of the media (Stratford Press)

1. Welcome

The Deputy Mayor welcomed the Chief Executive, Councillors, staff, and the media.

2. Apologies

There were no apologies received.

3. Announcements

The Chief Executive noted that *Item 10 – Decision Report – Road Closures for the Targa Rally 2021* had been withdrawn. In accordance with Standing Order 9.9 notice of this withdrawal had been given to the Chairman and Elected Members on Friday 24 September 2021. The item was due to a change in the route due to the roadworks on State Highway 3 and requires further advertising before returning to Council for approval on 12 October 2021.

4. Declarations of Members Interest

The Deputy Mayor requested Councillors to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda.

The Deputy Mayor and Councillor Erwood noted their conflict of interest in Item 16. Both would remove themselves from the table for this item. The District Mayor would assume the position of Chair for this item.

5. Attendance Schedule

The Attendance Schedule for Policy and Services Committee meetings was attached.

6. Confirmation of minutes

6.1 Policy & Services Committee – 24 August 2021 (Hearing) D21/30229 Page12

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee Meeting, to hear and consider submissions to the Mobile and Travelling Shops Bylaw 2021, held on Tuesday 24 August 2021 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

BOYDE/ERWOOD
Carried
P&S/21/123

6.2 Policy & Services Committee – 24 August 2021 D21/30227 Page 15

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 24 August 2021 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

JONES/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/21/124

7. Matters Outstanding D16/47 Page 23

Recommendation

THAT the Matters Outstanding be received.

WEBBY/COPLESTONE
Carried
P&S/21/125

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/VOLZKE
Carried
P&S/21/126

2. THAT the Council approve the renaming of Page Street extension.

McKAYWEBBY
Carried
P&S/21/127

3. THAT the Council determined the new name for Page Street extension is Ford Street.

WEBBY/ERWOOD
Carried
P&S/21/128

Recommended Reason

Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) have directed the Council to correct historic inconsistencies in street numbering within the Stratford District. Page Street Extension has been identified as an area with inconsistent numbering.

The Environmental Health Manager noted the following points:

- This report asks Council to consider a name change for the Page Street Extension to correct numbering issues identified by LINZ.
- Council officers have investigated present and future considerations and now recommend renumbering and changing the name of Page Street Extension as being the most cost effective and viable option that also takes into consideration future development of vacant land in the surrounding area.
- This option will also cause the least amount of disruption to a small number of residents.
- Option 1 in the report has been socialised with current occupiers and home owners of Page Street Extension. There was no other feedback received other than the name suggestion of Edward Avenue.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The District Mayor noted he had no issue with the name Edward as it fit the criteria, however he disagreed with *Avenue* as the definition of an avenue was a tree lined thoroughfare. He suggested it should be Street, Road or Way.
- The District Mayor noted that two properties included in the renaming actually face Brecon Road. He requested Officers reconsider these two properties as part of Brecon Road.
- Councillor Webby suggested Ford Street as an appropriate name due to the friendship of Mistress Page and Mistress Ford within the play *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

Points noted in discussion:

- Councillor Sandford requested a letter be sent to residents explaining the reason behind Ford Street.

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

DALZIEL/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/21/129

2. THAT the Council re-affirms the decision to appoint a Deputy Chairperson be from elected members of the Stratford District Council made on 22 September 2021. The purpose of this role is to consider licensing applications in the absence of the commissioner and in addition ensure the requirements of legislation and a quorum can be readily met. This option supports community knowledge in the consideration of licence applications by the elected member.

COPLESTONE/JONES
Carried
P&S/21/130

3. THAT the Chief Executive collate expressions of interests for this position and present these to the Policy and Services Committee.

HARRIS/DALZIEL
Carried
P&S/21/131

Recommended Reason

The Council reviewed and approved the composition of the DLC in September 2020. To complete the approved structure of the committee, a Deputy Chairperson is required to be selected from elected members in accordance with the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

The Environmental Health Manager noted the following points:

- This report seeks Council's approval to complete the composition of the Stratford District Licensing Committee.
- The Deputy Chairperson would be required to consider applications in the absence of the Commissioner. There is not a high volume of licenses received annually.
- Selecting a Deputy Chairperson from Elected Members ensures local knowledge is provided in the decision making process.
- Training and guidance will be provided to the person appointed to this role.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was clarified expressions of interest are to be given to the Chief Executive who will compile a report to be brought back to this committee to complete the appointment.
- It was clarified that the Commissioner did not have a conflict of interest as the decision to appoint a deputy chairperson from elected members had been a decision of Council in 2020.
- It was noted there were specific criteria that have to be met and these are outlined within the report.

Recommendations

- ~~1. THAT the report be received.~~
- ~~2. THAT pursuant to Section 342(1) (b) in accordance with Schedule 10 Clause 11 (e) of the Local Government Act 1974, notice is hereby given that the Stratford District Council proposes to close the following roads for the purpose of the New Zealand Targa Rally 2021:~~

~~Wednesday 27 October 2021~~

- ~~Stage Name: Rataipiko~~
- ~~Between the hours of 9.05 am and 1.35 pm~~
- ~~• Makara Road: Rataipiko Road to Croydon Road~~
- ~~• Croydon Road: Makara Road to Salisbury Road~~
- ~~• Salisbury Road: Croydon Road to 845 Salisbury Road~~

~~Thursday 28 October 2021~~

- ~~Stage Name: Douglas~~
- ~~Between the hours of 12.00 pm and 4.30 pm~~
- ~~• Wawiri Road: Ahuroa Road to Makuri Road~~
- ~~• Makuri Road: Wawiri Road to Douglas Road~~
- ~~• Douglas Road: Makuri Road to approximately 356 Douglas Road~~

- ~~Stage Name: Insane Eltham~~
- ~~Between the hours of 12.40pm and 5.10 pm~~
- ~~• Wingrove Road: 200m from its intersection with Skinner Road to Cheal Road~~
- ~~• Cheal Road: Wingrove Road to Oru Road~~
- ~~• Oru Road: Cheal Road to Rawhitiroa Road (South Taranaki)~~

~~Recommended Reason~~

~~In order for the Targa Rally to hold its annual event, it is proposed to close the roads listed above. These proposed road closures will require formal endorsement by a Council resolution.~~

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

ERWOOD/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/21/132

Recommended Reason

This is an information report only. It gives a summary of the results of the 2020/21 Customer Satisfaction Survey.

The Chief Executive noted the following points:

- This is an annual exercise undertaken by council. The printed survey was sent to each and every household (4,024) and the electronic version was available on council's website and via facebook.
- There were only 373 responses which is 130 less than the previous year.
- There was a higher response from over 40 females and over 65 males. This raises a concern on the fair representation of the broader community from these results.
- Unfortunately there has been a downward trend across most areas. The Directors have analysed their areas but have come to the conclusion that as every single activity has dropped it is unlikely that council's level of service has dropped in everything that it does. Most measures have lost approximately half a point across the board with very few exceptions. This has been factored into the review of the survey as a whole. The results give a view that the community is feeling a bit cooped up and fed up at the moment.

The Roading Asset Manager joined the meeting at 3.21pm.

- Elected members have approved budget through the Long Term Plan process to access an external provider to deliver this survey. Being part of a bigger company in this case would have provided information on the downward trend and if this had been common across the board.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde noted that 157 surveys were completed in hard copy. There were a lot of elderly who like to have the paper copy and he noted his concern if the survey went online and away from a paper version. The Communications Manager noted that the agencies she had approached will be taking this into consideration and one agency in particular would still use a letter that would be delivered to residents. She noted that using an external company there would be a much fairer split in the demographics.
- The Deputy Mayor noted that a lot of information can be gained from these surveys but council needed to be asking the right questions while drilling down to the actual users of specific areas rather than a large number of questions regarding public toilets.
- Councillor Coplestone reiterated the need to consider the older generation who do not use computers when moving forward with this.
- Councillor McKay questioned if future surveys could be completed in real time, such as those accessing building consents receiving a survey within a month. Ms Gibson noted that this was one of the options she was investigating. She noted that the comments from the survey had been loaded to diligent today and when reviewing those it is clear that those answering the questions had not necessarily accessed specific services but have heard it is ok from someone else, this means council is not getting the direct response from the users.
- Councillor Sandford noted that every year there are comments regarding lawn clippings on the headstones when the cemetery is mowed. If mowed correctly this won't be a problem but it comes up every year. It was noted that activity specific comments had been passed onto the officers to review.
- The District Mayor noted that although the overall community view around Stratford being an attractive, safe and healthy district had reduced these responses were still above 90% which a lot of places would struggle to achieve and felt this should be commended.
- Councillor Dalziel noted his support in moving towards a more professional approach and that this would result in a shorter but more targeted survey. He noted a typo on page 61 under sports grounds which had 160% but should be 78%.

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/JONES
Carried
P&S/21/133

2. That Council:

- a) **notes** the Government's 30 June and 15 July 2021 Three Waters Reform announcements

BOYDE/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/21/134

- b) **notes** officer's advice on the accuracy of the information provided to Council in June and July 2021 as a result of the RFI and WICS modelling processes

DALZIEL/VOLZKE
Carried
P&S/21/135

- c) **notes** the previously provided analysis of the impacts of the Government's proposed three water service delivery model on the Stratford community and its wellbeing, including the impacts on the delivery of water services and water related outcomes, capability and capacity, on Stratford District Council's sustainability (including rating impact, debt impact, and efficiency) and

ERWOODJONES
Carried
P&S/21/136

- d) **notes** the high level analysis of three waters service delivery options available to council included in this report

HARRIS/DALZIEL
Carried
P&S/21/137

- ~~e) **notes** that a decision to support the Government's preferred three waters service delivery option is not lawful (would be ultra vires) at present due to section 130 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA), which prohibits Council from divesting its ownership or interest in a water service except to another local government organisation, and what we currently know (and don't know) about the Government's preferred option~~

- f) **notes** that Council cannot make a formal decision on a regional option for three waters service delivery without doing a Long Term Plan (LTP) amendment and ensuring it meets section 130 of the LGA.

VOLZKE/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/21/138

- g) **notes** that the Government intends to make further decisions about the three waters service delivery model after 30 September 2021.

HARRIS/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/21/139

- h) **notes** that it would be desirable to gain an understanding of the community's views once Council has further information from the Government on the next steps in the reform process

McKAY/ERWOOD
Carried
P&S/21/140

- i) **requests** the CEO to seek guidance on and/or give feedback to the Government on:
- Placement of Stratford District Council in Entity B – support/no support
 - Ownership model – Council support/not support/ask for alternative options to be shown
 - Governance structure - support/not support/alternative suggestions/further information to be sought
 - Inclusion of stormwater in the reforms – support/don't support
 - Ensuring urban growth is enabled/supported
 - Protection against privatisation
- j) **notes** that the CEO will report back further once they have received further information and guidance from Government ,LGNZ and Taituarā on what the next steps look like and how these should be managed

McKAY/ERWOOD
Carried
P&S/21/141

Recommended Reason

This report outlines the Government's current Three Waters Reform proposal, and enables Council to provide initial feedback to the Government on it.

The Chief Executive noted the following points:

- Elected members have been involved in this subject matter for some time now.
- This has been presented as an information report as there is no power to make a decision today and has been presented to elected members in order to collate feedback.
- Elected members are well aware of the 3 waters reforms and there has been at least one workshop held on the matter but plenty of discussions as well as having full access to all material from Department of Internal Affairs.
- It is important to remember the information provided has been third party information as council is a passenger on this journey. Council has been careful in regurgitating elements of this as it is coming from Central Government.
- It is important that council continues to engage in these reports.
- The modelling that was done by consultants has been discussed with elected members. These predicted a significant amount of discrepancies with their models and what it would cost if council continued to provide the water services as opposed to if it went into a reform model. These models have not been deconstructed as there have been thousands of consultant hours that have gone into them and it is not feasible to attempt to do this.
- There is some high level analysis in this report that has previously been discussed with elected members. The government has requested that council spends the eight week period to digest this information to the best of its ability and form some opinions to provide feedback.
- This is not the moment where council can decide to opt in or out. It is also not the moment to start consulting with the community. There are specific elements in the Local Government Act which show what has to be in place to enable consultation – there is still too much vagueness in this proposal. It is also not known yet if this is going to be voluntary or mandatory.
- The Government has asked three specific questions to which they want feedback on, there were also a whole other range of suggestions however this does not mean this is all the engagement elected members have to seek with the government.
- Entity B is where the Stratford District Council has been placed with 22 other councils. This has provisionally been put together to create one of the proposed four entities. Representatives from those councils have met twice to find an appropriate way to engage with these reforms. No one from these councils is saying if they will be opting in or out. These meetings were not endorsements of the reforms and each council has defended their right to make its own submission to this process. A draft copy of the letter from the Entity B to the government was provided to elected members. It was important that elected members now decided if Stratford was to write its own letter in partner to the entity b letter to the government.
- Mr Hanne noted he would take notes of the points raised in discussion and provide a draft letter to elected members for final approval. Both South Taranaki and New Plymouth District Councils have submitted a letter.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was agreed to go through each of the points in the second resolution individually.
- The District Mayor expressed his concern that this option was not lawful under Section 130 of the Local Government Act where Council must continue to provide water services to meet its obligations. The subsection goes on to state that local authorities can transfer these assets to another local government organisation and if Entity B is owned by local government then it may well be lawful, he noted he had also heard suggestions that this subsection could be legislated out of the Act. He noted that resolution 2 F covers transferring of assets adequately and requested that 2 E be deleted.
- Councillor Boyde supported council writing its own letter. He noted the proposal as it stands, regardless of the structure, could have significant impact on the wellbeing of Stratford and would be a massive change to the landscape. The proposal lacks clarity and council still does not know the regulations and standards that it will have to meet, a well informed decision cannot be made without these. He noted that on behalf of the Stratford ratepayers a letter of council's concerns should be sent to the government.
- The Chief Executive noted he had drafted a letter and went through each point seeking feedback and amendments. A final draft will be circulated to elected members.

Entity B

- There is a natural alignment as a council towards the south rather than across to the east as well as having strong affiliations going down the country. Entity B is a more growing prosperous area compared to going down the country. Natural iwi affiliation would support going down the country rather than across.
- The alternative would be to seek to be put in Entity C.
- The Deputy Mayor noted rather than aligning with what has been proposed should it be noted that council is opposed to specific entities? He felt there had been a general discontent with the process to date and this is reflected by the community. There has been a lack of engagement and lack of ability to provide feedback.
- Councillor Dalziel supported sticking with Entity B including Whanganui. He did not see any value in changing.
- The District Mayor noted that if the reforms proceed in their currently proposed form then Option C discusses an alternative arrangement being a regional model which should be mentioned within the letter as council may wish to consider that. The work being done to date does suggest there could be benefit in a regional model and it would just be a matter of comparing that to the Entity B model.
- Councillor Boyde noted that without knowing the regulations and standards that council is meant to be achieving it is still difficult to look at the proposal for a regional model.
- Councillor Copestone reiterated that without standards then it is impossible to judge anything.
- The Deputy Mayor noted that council has met every standard and never fallen below them and continues to strive to provide that to the community. We do not know if they are going to go higher or stay the same.
- Councillor Dalziel felt the standards will go higher. He noted that every council already has its own interpretation of what those standards are. He did not know if a regional set up would match up to Entity B in a cost benefit analysis as a regional solution is never going to match the numbers of an Entity B set up.
- The District Mayor agreed that scale is the key to lowering the costs however one of his major concerns is the loss of community ownership, the loss of being able to prioritise things and he noted there were many arguments that could challenge the economies of scale argument. He felt for this reason the letter should note the request to be able to consider the regional option. On one of the maps provided Entity B has a circle around it which suggests that Taranaki has the potential to move from Entity B to Entity C which suggests the government is willing to look at the region of Taranaki potentially due to its isolation and distance from the Waikato.
- It was agreed that Entity B was the preferred approach.

Ownership models

- Mr Hanne noted that it is an interesting hybrid of managed assets that will be managed by the entity. A line outside of the management schedule brings the ownership back to councils but then it was also described as a crown owned entity. He felt that he had accepted the fact that , if the reforms were to go ahead, council was to hand over the ownership of these assets to an entity but there is a tie back to council in the model as it stands.

- Mr Hanne noted that there are four layers to the governance structure: A board chosen on skill and expertise chosen by an independent selection panel. The independent selection panel which is appointed by a regional representative group made up of a 50/50 mix of representatives of local authorities and representatives of mana whenua. Finally, there are the local authorities and mana whenua themselves. There are no representatives of local authorities or mana whenua directly appointed to the board. There is a misconception that councils or iwi are appointing this board, but this is not the case.
- It was also clarified that iwi will not own the entities, they will be owned by the memberships of the councils in Entity B's case this is the 22 within the model.
- Mr Hanne noted the letter would include feedback regarding governance and ownership together. He noted concern had been raised around the size and complexity of the governance board which creates concern around efficiencies and the loss of say for Stratford ratepayers.
- It was agreed that council would like to see the regional model as an option.
- Councillor Dalziel agreed he would like to see some options. He agreed it was complex at the moment and it would be good to see a simplified version. The over complication is leading to the miscommunications as people will believe what they want to believe.
- The District Mayor also noted the loss of local voice, issues of prioritisation of spend, concerns over the planning processes – what council wants to do vs what the entity wants to do, concerns over the accountability of the entity back to the owners and concerns over the governance model as it felt it was clumsy and flawed. Councillor Dalziel supported these points to be included.
- Councillor Boyde asked that the assumptions be questioned. Councillor Coplestone reiterated this as he felt the summary was ridiculous and could not work out how figures could increase from \$1,200 to \$7,000 for a council run operation.
- Councillor Erwood noted figures, graphs and modelling could be manipulated in anyway and he felt the government had done this with these.
- The Deputy Mayor noted his concern that he did not see how this could save money and felt the investment would be better made into infrastructure that needs it.
- Councillor Boyde reiterated that the figures have been made on assumptions. In order to make assumptions they must know the standards they want to be achieved and he noted he was really struggling with the fact council could not get those standards so that it could make its own assumptions.

Consultation

- Mr Hanne noted one of the biggest concerns had been around community consultation.
- Councillor McKay noted she would like to see more local engagement. There has been a lack of community engagement on fundamental changes coupled with an appalling advertising campaign.
- Councillor Coplestone noted there had been a lack of reporting on the whole thing which he expressed his surprise at due the scale of the topic.
- The District Mayor requested it refer to government led consultation as these are their reforms and they should be telling the community.
- Councillor Erwood noted that he was very proud of council's three waters and felt it was disgraceful that all councils had been portrayed as bad suppliers in the advertising campaign.
- Councillor Harris noted that she agreed with the general conversation and noted if she laid a water pipe like the government structure with this any joins there would be a very poor water supply.
- Mr Hanne noted that the letter could reflect on the order the government reforms are taking place and felt they have not been done in the right order. Elected members agreed.
- The District Mayor also wanted to note that councils need time to reconsider and assess the whole proposal.
- Mr Hanne noted that stormwater as one of the three waters, still takes the same skill sets to manage and is entwined with roading and parks. This is important to note as everything that is a park stays with council but everything with a pipe or similar structure would go to the new structure. The District Mayor noted that the Australian models that had been presented to councils have not included stormwater. He felt the letter should reflect the amount of unknowns around stormwater.

The Director – Community Services left the meeting at 4.28pm

General

- It was felt it would be beneficial to include a paragraph on how Iwi feel about the proposal. Mr Hanne was meeting with three representatives this week so would draft a paragraph following that.
- The District Mayor requested that it be stated that council supported the creation of Taumata arowai and the functions it will carry out. He also requested the suggestion to create an ombudsmen for water for people who feel aggrieved by the process or the entity.
- It was noted that support should be given to the creation of a water pricing regulator. There is a small grouping that oversees set processes around the price setting of water and would be similar to the set up in the electricity market.
- The letter should note the lack of local iwi engagement. This has been done very poorly or not at all.
- Councillor Boyde noted he agreed with the New Plymouth District Council's concern about the funding from the entity funding non-water infrastructure. The funds coming from the new entity will be paid for by everyone and none of it is going to infrastructure.
- It was clarified that bespoke legislation referred to legislation introduced purely to solve one single purpose – being the water reforms.
- Councillor Dalziel noted it was important when looking at this proposal that in the Long Term Plan council is forecasting \$91million to be spent on the three waters over the next 30 years which will mean in year 10 the water will be 70% dearer than what residents are paying now. It is equally as important to share that with the community when consultation does occur.

13. Monthly Reports

13.1 Assets Report D21/30404 Page 89

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/21/142

The Director - Assets noted the following points:

- The highlights are noted on the first and second page of the report.
- The special projects are ongoing despite interruptions.
- The team is continuing with planning and capital projects.
- Ongoing maintenance is occurring.
- Have included a new item being the summary of resource consents that the department are undertaking with the Taranaki Regional Council.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde noted the response to the matters outstanding in the monthly report in regard to Opunake Road and asked if Section 357 1E could also be applied to damage caused by forestry such as sludge on the road and filth coming from that activity. The Roding Asset Manager noted that this clause requires categorical proof that it was this activity that caused the damage but it does cover multiple causes of damages to the road. He noted that it would have to be proven that the damage was caused by forestry trucks and not any other type of truck such as milk tankers. The District Mayor noted he had raised councils concerns about the sludge running from damaged roads into waterways at the Land Transport Committee and as council owns the channelling it would be council's responsibility.

- Councillor Sandford noted that kindys and daycares would not be included in the variable speed zones decision. He noted the detour passing through Stratford roads while the State Highway was being repaired and asked how council will be monitoring the damage. Mr Bowden noted that a video will be taken of Salisbury Road this week and regular meetings will be held with the contractor. He noted that he will be travelling this road on a daily basis so this will be an additional level of monitoring.
- It was requested that the Walking and Access Commission be followed up regarding the Kingheim walkways. The District Mayor will also follow this up at the ministerial level following an update being obtained from the Special Projects Manager.

The Services Asset Manager left the meeting at 4.45pm

13.2 Community Services Report
D21/30588 Page 124

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

WEBBY/JONES
Carried
P&S/21/143

The Customer and Leisure Services Manager noted the following points:

- The impact of lockdown is reflected in the visitor numbers in this report and resulted in events being postponed or cancelled.
- As requested by elected members more information on the library/iSITE figures have been added to the report and will also include quarterly social media engagement statistics in those areas.
- Scarecrow trail registrations are now open.
- The School Holiday Programme starts next week and is being delivered via online videos and take home packs.
- Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund opens next week.

The Roding Asset Manager left the meeting at 4.48pm.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was clarified that the bike park will be open for the school holidays. An official community opening will be held when the entire park is complete, and when Alert Levels permit, but on Friday 1 October there will be a small blessing by local iwi with minimum numbers.

Council Organisations and Council Representatives on Other Organisations

- Councillor Webby noted that the Percy Thomson Trust is holding its AGM in October. She noted that Covid-19 had disrupted exhibitions but that the gallery director had been busy and found ways to create pop up exhibitions when needed. There is presently a pop up exhibition at the moment where local artists were invited to display in the gallery. The gallery is also getting ready for the Taranaki Arts Trail.
- Councillor Boyde noted that the Lower North Island U15s Hockey tournament was being held in Stratford this weekend (10 teams).
- Councillor McKay noted that the Romeo Awards had moved to be held digitally rather than postponing or cancelling due to Covid-19. Winners will begin to be announced this Thursday and a small invite only event will be held with winners. Councillors were urged to congratulate the winners when they are announced.

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/VOLZKE
Carried
P&S/21/144

The Director – Environmental Services noted the following points:

- The effects of the lockdown are visible in this report and it was a bit early to see how much of a rebound may occur, however it was updated that requests were bouncing back to pre-lockdown levels fairly quickly.
- On page 134 the building inspection measure notes 12 that went over the 24 hours timeframe as these were booked at the time of the country going into Alert level 4.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was clarified that some preliminary work had been done identifying earthquake prone buildings and the next step is to let owners know. The timeframe for repairs begins upon owners receiving notification.

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.
2. THAT the Committee acknowledges that the Investment with Counterparty limit breach has been authorised by the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee, and the Mayor, in accordance with the Treasury Management Policy.

DALZIEL/COPLESTONE
Carried
P&S/21/145

The Director – Corporate Services noted the following points:

- The resolutions include acknowledgement by Council of the breach of the investment policy in terms of having more than \$4 million with one bank at the moment.
- The operating revenue and expenditure is tracking close to budget, some variations have been noted and are due to grants not having been spread out evenly throughout the year.
- The Waka Kotahi funding has been approved for the next three years but is \$3 million less than budgeted.
- The legal enforcement for rates collection noted in 2.1 on page 142 has been put on hold and will be brought to the Policy and Services Committee in October.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Regarding the reduced funding application from Waka Kotahi it was questioned what happens now with the sealed road resurfacing and minor works. It was requested that the Director – Assets brings the adjusted budget back to this committee with the new forecasted expenditure for the activity and adjusted works programme. The budget has been signed off by Council through the Long Term Plan process, however the re-prioritising of projects is done at the operational level.
- It was requested that the Taranaki Regional Council be followed up in regards to the valuations of Stratford properties still being at the 2017 valuations on their website.

- Councillor Boyde noted that the level of debt weighted average is 2.1% but that the average for the financial investment was 1.26% and he questioned keeping the higher level of debt? Mrs Radich noted that the debt was fixed for longer periods with the investments being on staggered periods of mostly 120 days. This was aimed to have councils reserves financially backed by liquid investments. She noted some councils were delaying investments into water and infrastructure investment but were still depreciating the assets. If that asset fails then council will need accessible money which is why the reserves are being backed in this manner. There are also grants in this total investment figure that have been received but not yet spent.
- It was noted that the outstanding debtors was largely due to the due date for rates falling during the Alert Level 4 lockdown. Residents were given an extension till Level 2 to be able to come in to pay their rates. This was largely caught up by two weeks into Level 2.

The Communications Manager and Community Services Manager left the meeting at 5.08pm.

14. Questions

There were no questions.

Media left meeting at 5.09pm

15. Resolution to Exclude the Public

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

Agenda Item No: 16

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 to each matter	Grounds under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Facility Sponsorship	The withholding of the information is necessary for commercial sensitivity	The withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information. Section 7(2)b(ii) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

BOYDE/SANDFORD
Carried
P&S/21/146

*The Deputy Mayor and Councillor Erwood departed the table at 5.09pm
The District Mayor assumed the position of Chairman.*

16. Public Excluded Item

Recommendation

THAT the open meeting resumes

SANDFORD/DALZIEL
Carried
P&S/21/149

*The Deputy Mayor and Councillor Erwood re-joined the table at 5.43pm
The Deputy Mayor resumed the position of Chairman.*

The meeting closed at 5.43pm

A L Jamieson
Chairman

Confirmed this 26th day of October 2021.

N C Volzke
District Mayor