

Date: Tuesday 26 March 2024 at 1.00 PM

Venue: Council Chambers, Stratford District Council, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

The District Mayor N C Volzke (the Chairman), the Deputy Mayor – M McKay, Councillors: S J Beck, G W Boyde, A M C Dudley, J M S Erwood, A K Harris, E E Hall, V R Jones, W J Sandford and M J Watt.

In attendance

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director – Assets Mrs V Araba, the Director – Corporate Services – Mrs T Radich, the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the Communications Manager – Ms G Gibson, the Committee Advisor and Executive Assistant – Mrs E Bishop, the Corporate Accountant – Mrs C Craig, the Property Officer – Mrs S Flight, the Parks and Reserves Officer – Mrs M McBain, the Graduate Assets Engineer – Ms K van Hout, the Communications Advisor – Mrs S Clarkson, the Asset Management Coordinator – Mrs N McLeod, the Projects Manager – Mr S Taylor, the Services Asset Manager – Mr J Cooper (*part meeting*) the Finance Officer – Mrs R Lowen (*part meeting*), one member of the public (*part meeting*) and one member of the media (Stratford Press).

1. Welcome

The District Mayor welcomed Elected Members, staff and the media to the meeting.

1.1 Opening Karakia
D21/40748 Page 6

The opening karakia was read.

1.2 Health and Safety Message
D21/26210 Page 7

The District Mayor reiterated the health and safety message and emergency procedures.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor E E Hall (lateness) and Councillor C M Tongaawhikau and noted from the Director – Community Services – Ms K Whareaitu.

Recommendation

THAT the apologies be received.

VOLZKE/BOYDE
Carried
CL/24/40

3. Announcements

The Chief Executive noted that most recent version of the consultation document was to be tabled and had been circulated to elected members along with a summary of the changes. Hard copies were available at the meeting.

4. Declarations of Members Interest

Elected members to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda. There were no conflicts of interest declared.

5. Attendance Schedule

The attendance schedule for Ordinary and Extraordinary Council meetings was attached.

6. Decision Report – Adopt draft Supporting Information and Consultation Document for Long Term Plan 2024-34

D23/11923 Page 9

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/SANDFORD
Carried
CL/24/41

2. THAT the following draft supporting information, relied on by the content of the Consultation Document for the draft Long Term Plan 2024-34 be adopted and released for consultation:

- Vision and Community Outcomes
- Significant Forecast Assumptions
- Levels of Service and Non-Financial Performance Measures and Targets by Activity
- Financial Strategy
- Infrastructure Strategy
- Revenue and Financing Policy
- Fees and Charges 2024/25 (amended)
- Development and Financial Contributions Policy
- Financial Statements
- Accounting Policies
- Funding Impact Statement
- Waste Water Asset Management Plan
- Stormwater Asset Management Plan
- Solid Waste Asset Management Plan
- Property Asset Management Plan
- Rooding Asset Management Plan
- Water Supply Asset Management Plan
- Parks, Reserves & Cemeteries Asset Management Plan

VOLZKE/HALL
Carried
CL/24/42

3. THAT the Consultation Document, including any tabled amendments, for the draft Long Term Plan 2024-34 be adopted and released for consultation.

VOLZKE/BOYDE
Carried
CL/24/43

4. THAT the Chief Executive be given delegated authority to approve any final edits and design changes prior to distribution, or make any minor amendments as required for accuracy or as directed by Deloitte (auditors).

WATT/McKAY
Carried
CL/24/44

Recommended Reason

It is a statutory requirement that the Long Term Plan is consulted on through the Consultation Document, and that all supporting information to the Long Term Plan is publicly available at the same time for review.

The Services Asset Manager joined the meeting at 1.04pm.

The Director – Corporate Services noted the following points:

- These documents are a combination of work that has been underway since 2022.
- The supporting information is required to be adopted first as it provides the underlying information to build the Long Term Plan.
- The auditors have been on site and have continued working with officers remotely.
- It was noted there were two changes:
 - The net debt formula line was incorrect and has been updated to factor in investments.
 - It was proposed to change the aerodrome strip hire tonnage fee to \$10 per tonne and increase the MBIE building application levy to reflect the raised threshold which was changed after the fees and charges had been adopted.

The Chief Executive noted that elected members had been part of the Long Term Plan journey from the first moment and all the way through. He noted that staff had aimed for a shorter document but that auditors had increased the document size with their suggestions, the officer recommendation is to include those additions from auditors. He clarified that any changes made today would require to be sent back to the auditors.

One member of the public joined the meeting at 1.08pm.

The Director – Assets noted there had been two changes to the Infrastructure Strategy (page 96 and 97 of the agenda) to change the waste water resource consent renewal budget to reflect what had been approved in the Long Term Plan budgets.

Councillor E E Hall joined the meeting at 1.09pm.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was clarified that should the Housing for the Older Person policy be adopted the final Long Term Plan document will be updated to reflect the change in the name.
- Councillor Boyde noted that the change to the commercial strip hire fee was recommended by the Farm and Aerodrome Committee as comparing to other facilities it was too high. The Stratford Aerodrome is not a covered facility and needs a lot of work and this should be considered when setting the fee. There were no objections to this change.
- Councillor Boyde noted that on page 688, 6.3.1, the farm performance target for milk solids had not been met. He suggested the wording be amended to note that it has financially returned a lot more than previous years. The farm produces a good return which goes into rate mitigation and he felt that it should note the financial return was much better. It was suggested that he could email the wording and officers will determine if it is appropriate to add this to the document at this stage.

Points noted in discussion:

- Councillor Dudley noted that revenue was down for the civic amenities by \$20,000 for the year and asked if this had been taken into account or if it was worth looking at the fees and charges before releasing for consultation? It was clarified the fees and charges had reflected elected members' request to not make any changes, and if these were changed they would impact other budget models in the document. It was noted that the \$300 bond for all bookings had been removed as this was potentially causing users to cancel their bookings. The District Mayor noted that elected members were aware of the number of cancellations and the price barriers when setting the fees and charges.

The Finance Officer left the meeting at 1.19pm.

- It was clarified that the application for 10ha blocks for the forestry differential would be for blocks of 10ha due to the efficiencies required when QV apportionments and values the blocks. It would not be applied for a property that had 10 one hectare blocks.

- Councillor Boyde congratulated staff and elected members for the effort and time that has gone into the preparation of the Long Term Plan.
- The District Mayor noted that he had presented at the recent Positive Ageing forum and the most feedback he had received was on the fact that 1% of rates equates to about \$160,000 in the Stratford District compared to 1% being roughly \$1 million in the New Plymouth district which highlighted the differences this council faces.

7. Questions

There were no questions.

8. Closing Karakia

D21/40748 Page 1292

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 1.27pm

N C Volzke
Chairman

Confirmed this 9th day of April 2024.

N C Volzke
District Mayor