

Date: Tuesday 28 June 2022 at 3PM
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, R W Coplestone, J M S Erwood, A K Harris, M McKay, W J Sandford and G M Webby.

Via audio visual link: Councillor P S Dalziel

In attendance

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director Assets – Mrs V Araba, the Director Community Services – Ms K Whareaitu, the Committee Advisor and Executive Assistant – Mrs E Bishop, the Communications Manager – Ms G Gibson, the Environmental Health Manager – Ms R Otter (*part meeting*), the Corporate Accountant – Mrs C Craig (*part meeting*), the Roading Asset Manager – Mr S Bowden (*part meeting*), the Services Asset Manager – Mr J Cooper (*part meeting*), the Community Development Manager – Mr C Julie (*part meeting*), three members of the media (Stratford Press and Taranaki Daily News) and one member of the public.

Via audio visual link: the Director Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland and the Director Corporate Services – Mrs T Radich (*part meeting*).

1. Welcome

The opening karakia was read.

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

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

2. Apologies

It was noted a leave of absence had been approved for Councillor V R Jones.

3. Announcements

There were no announcements.

4. Declarations of members interest

Elected members were asked to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda.

Councillor Erwood – Item 12 – TET Funding Application 2022

The Deputy Mayor – Item 12 – TET Funding Application 2022

It was noted that the District Mayor would undertake the role of Chair during this item.

5. Attendance Schedule

The Attendance schedule for Policy and Services Committee meetings, including Hearings, was attached.

6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Policy & Services Committee – 17 May 2022 (Hearing) D22/17704 Page 12

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee Meeting, to hear and consider submissions to the Draft Annual Plan and Draft Revenue and Financing Policy, held on Tuesday 17 May 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

HARRIS/VOLZKE
Carried
P&S/22/81

6.2 Policy & Services Committee – 24 May 2022 (Hearing) D22/17942 Page 21

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee Meeting, to hear and consider submissions to the Draft Rates Remission Policy, held on Tuesday 24 May 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

WEBBY/McKAY
Carried
P&S/22/82

6.3 Policy & Services Committee – 24 May 2022 D22/17943 Page 25

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 24 May 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

SANDFORD/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/22/83

7. Matters Outstanding D16/47 Page 31

Recommendation

THAT the Matters Outstanding be received.

WEBBY/SANDFORD
Carried
P&S/22/84

The Chief Executive noted that the discussion regarding the old swimming pool complex will be undertaken prior to the next Annual Plan.

8. Information Report – Pre-Election Report 2022
D22/20690 Page 32

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

ERWOOD/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/22/85

2. THAT the Pre-Election Report 2022 be received.

COPLESTONE/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/22/86

Recommended Reason

The Pre-Election Report is required, under the Local Government Act 2002, to be completed and published no less than two weeks before nomination day (nomination closing date), which in the 2022 election year means published by 29 July 2022. This report gives elected members the opportunity to acknowledge the document before it is published in the public domain.

The Chief Executive noted that council was legally required to publish this report and was presented to elected members for their acknowledgement. The report gives potential candidates a 'state of the nation' overview and has been produced within council but with input from the electoral officer.

9. Information Report – Waste Data Report from the Stratford District SWAP Survey
D22/20291 Page 62

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/SANDFORD
Carried
P&S/22/87

The Services Asset Manager noted there had not been a lot of change from the draft report which was circulated prior to the survey being complete. He noted organic waste was one of the main items found in the bins.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The Deputy Mayor noted the amount of organic waste going to landfill.
- Councillor Boyde questioned if there had been an increase of fly-tipping happening and requested that a cost analysis for cleaning this waste up. Add to matters outstanding.
- It was clarified that the majority of the plastics found during the survey was unrecyclable but that there was recyclable plastics and aluminium cans found.
- It was noted there has not been a cost analysis completed to determine the costs of organic waste going to landfill and a separate green waste collection as there is currently not another avenue to take the green waste. The Deputy Mayor noted the investigation into the regional organic waste facility is ongoing and that a regional facility would save a lot of money in transportation costs.

The Corporate Accountant joined the meeting at 3.11pm.

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

COPLESTONE/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/22/88

- ~~2. THAT the committee consider feedback received from special interest groups.~~

- ~~3. THAT the committee consider the matters outlined in option 1 of this report, and release the attached draft TAB Venue Policy and Statement of Proposal for public consultation.~~

3. THAT the committee consider the matters outlined in options 3 and 5 of this report and release the draft Class 4 Gambling Venues Policy and Statement of Proposal for public consultation.

4. THAT a report be presented to a future council meeting to release the Draft Class 4 Gambling Venues Policy for public consultation incorporating a sinking lid (as per Option 4) and retaining the relocation section.

BOYDE/WEBBY
Carried
P&S/22/89

Recommended Reason

The Class 4 Gambling Venues Policy and TAB Venues Policy are required to be reviewed every three years in accordance with legislation. Prior to the public consultation of the policies, special interest groups were invited to provide feedback on the current policies as required by legislation.

The Council is now required to consider the feedback received from special interest groups and approve the draft Class 4 Venue Gambling Venues Policy and the TAB Venue Policy, together with the Statement of Proposals, for public consultation.

The Environmental Health Manager noted the following points:

- The memorandum circulated to elected members was noted. This changed the recommendation from reducing the cap to 27 as it this was no longer an option. She noted the officer recommendation was now to incorporate a sinking lid which is used in many other districts to control gaming machine growth.
- The policy objective and legislation require council to consider the growth of gambling and its current and future effects on the community while noting a big shift in the deprivation index.
- She noted that the majority of other councils have retained the relocation policy in the event a current operator cannot operate in their current premises for reasons such as fire or unrepairable deterioration or the building is earthquake prone.
- It was acknowledged that a small amount of the proceeds from gaming machine profit is returned to the Stratford Community and this was detailed in the report. However she noted that in addition to gaming machine grants, the Stratford community has the opportunity to apply to organisations such as the Taranaki Electricity Trust, the TOI Foundation, TSB Bank, Creative New Zealand, Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund, Fonterra Grass Roots and Ministry for Culture and Heritage just to name a few.
- It was noted that if the committee accepted the amendment to the proposed recommendations an updated policy can be supplied at the Ordinary Meeting of Council in July

The Roding Asset Manager joined the meeting at 3.16pm.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde noted that having a capped number meant everyone knew where the level was set at. He noted the report stated there was no level of gambling harm in the community. He questioned is there was a number in mind that would be fit for purpose for Stratford and noted that at 36 there was no significant harm and a low level of gambling harm documented. Ms Otter noted that the statistics provided were from 2018 but indicated that communities were going towards a higher deprivation level, she noted since then Covid-19 had also had an impact and there are no figures that show the results this have had. She reiterated her recommendation was to have a sinking lid but noted this could be reviewed if numbers reached an acceptable level to be capped. She noted that she was unsure of the level of monitoring that was undertaken by the Department of Internal Affairs.
- It was clarified that a sinking lid restricts the transfer of game licenses and the relocation policy means their license would be considered if moving premises.
- It was noted Stratford was now at its full capacity of 36 machines.
- It was reiterated the policy could be reviewed within its three year period if required.
- The District Mayor noted that during the previous review it was intended to reduce the cap to 27 but had been left at 36 in anticipation of the reopening of the Stratford Club. The addition of gaming machines at the Midhirst Tavern last week meant the District was now at its cap. He supported a sinking lid to allow for numbers to decrease to an appropriate level and then set a new cap.
- The District Mayor also noted that problem gambling was only one extreme of the total harm caused by gambling. The Ministry of Health states there is considerable harm specifically in areas of high deprivation. He acknowledged the argument by the gambling machine companies that money is returned to the communities but noted that in 2020 there was \$1.35 million taken out of the Stratford Community and only \$71,000 returned. He felt that the amount taken from the community was an outrageous volume which could have not not caused some harm in the community. He requested the report be brought back at the next Ordinary Meeting with the policy amended to have a sinking lid.
- It was noted there were no changes to be made to the TAB Venues Policy.
- Councillor Boyde noted that the statistics within the report noted no significant harm and that online gambling has a much bigger impact than gaming machines.
- It was noted that Waitara has a sinking lid, New Plymouth has a capped number and so did South Taranaki District.
- The District Mayor noted he had no issue with a relocation policy, particularly if there had been a fire or similar situation, however he acknowledged it had been exploited in some areas where a buyer wants to purchase the license of the machines and then seeks to relocate to a more built up area.

The Director – Corporate Services left the meeting at 3.34pm

The Environmental Health Manager left the meeting at 3.35pm

11. Decision Report – Naming of the new Aquatic Facility

D22/20026 Page 143

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/22/90

2. THAT the name “Wai o Rua - Stratford Aquatic Centre” be adopted for the new aquatic facility.

ERWOOD/DAZLIEL
1 against
Carried
P&S/22/91

Recommended Reason

The new aquatic facility is nearing completion and a name for the facility is needed.

The Director – Community Services noted the following points:

- This report looks to adopt a name for the soon to be opened swimming pool and is one of the last decisions required.
- Council has no formal naming policy so officers were tasked to find a suitable name while working to retain naming rights to ensure alignment with the brand and reinforce positive experiences across our facilities.
- After ongoing discussions, the name gifted by the 3 iwi, with marae endorsement is "Wai o Rua". Directly translated it means "Water of Rua". Rua being the name of two tupuna and Rua also meaning two. The name references:
 - two tupuna (Rua Taranaki being the mountain and Ruaputahanga being a female chief or princess)
 - two water bodies that Stratford draws from being the Patea and Konini
 - nicely lends itself to the two viewing windows in the design of the buildingOverall iwi thought the name was inclusive, easy to say, playful and appropriate for such a facility.
- Stratford Aquatic Centre has been used throughout the process and it is felt this should also be part of the bilingual name.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was confirmed that the name would be shown on the building in the order "Wai o Rua – Stratford Aquatic Centre" which is best practice for government agencies and in accordance with our branding.
- Councillor Sandford noted that he felt the English name should be on top and the māori beneath.
- Councillor Dalziel congratulated the team and felt it was an excellent name, easy to say, short and easily pronounceable.
- Councillor Coplestone noted he had looked into the words Wai O Rua and found a number of different meanings across different dialects – including being the name of a mental health service in the Hawkes Bay. He noted the ambiguous part of *rua* is what concerned him. He noted the pool had been built for the next generation and noted he would like to see schools produce a name each to be considered.
- Councillor McKay noted she really liked the name and the stories behind it. She noted the iwi would have given this real consideration and that giving a name in māori culture was much more than just its definition. She felt the name was reflection of Stratford, easy to say, short and consistent with the brand by using the māori name first.
- Councillor Erwood noted his support for the name noting that the stories are our stories.
- The Chief Executive noted that it had been quite a journey to find the name and gave credit to iwi for coming up with this.
- The Deputy Mayor noted he liked the ease and meaning behind the name but would be happy to go to the community to ask them as he felt it was a big deal for council to decide.
- The District Mayor supported the name noting he there were two things he looked for in a name – what is it, where is it. Stratford Aquatic Centre does both. He liked how Wai o Rua flows off the tongue and is easy to say and spell and the story behind it is great.
- Councillor Erwood felt it would be insulting to have consulted with iwi and then not accept what they have suggested.

The Deputy Mayor and Councillor Erwood left the table at 3.48pm. The District Mayor undertook the position of chairman.

12. Decision Report – TET Funding Application 2022
D22/20089 Page 148

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/22/92

2. THAT Council's funding application to the Taranaki Electricity Trust (TET) for \$329,000 is approved to be submitted.

BOYDE/DALZIEL
Carried
P&S/22/93

Recommended Reason

The opportunity to have projects externally funded will reduce the rating impact for ratepayers.

The Director – Community Services noted the following points:

- This is an annual report which seeks the approval for the Taranaki Electricity Trust funding application.
- Council is able to apply annually by 15 August.
- There are five projects totalling \$329,000.
- The projects have not been prioritised but officers could represent priority within the application if elected members request it.

The Deputy Mayor and Councillor Erwood returned to the table at 3.51pm. The Deputy Mayor resumed his position as Chairman.

The member of public left the meeting at 3.52pm.

13. Monthly Reports

13.1 Assets Report
D22/18994 Page 153

Recommendation

- THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/WEBBY
Carried
P&S/22/94

The Director Assets noted the following points:

- There are pictures within the report that demonstrate the impact of logging on our roads. During the forestry targeted rate discussions it was implied the roads are not fit for purpose, however the purpose is not logging trucks which damage the roads.
- The second trunk main deadline has been extended to 31 December. There have been a number of delays including weather, materials and resourcing.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde noted that Toko School had continuously asked for something to be done regarding the speed limit outside their school, he questioned when Waka Kotahi would be looking at reducing the speeds on state highways? The Rooding Assets Manager noted that this had been one of the topics at a meeting attended today and State Highway 43 would not be looked at until the next NLTP 2024-27
- The Deputy Mayor requested the addition of the Pembroke Road entrance for Taranaki Diocesan School be added to the review of speed limits outside schools. He noted this entrance was largely used for both bus and car drop offs.
- Councillor Sandford noted his appreciation that Dunns Bridge was now on the rooding projects list.
- Councillor Sandford questioned where the soft plastic collection was processed. The Services Asset Manager noted this was undertaken by New Plymouth District Council and that he would investigate further. Councillor Sandford noted a lot more education was required regarding these soft plastic collection bins as the one situated at Countdown had been used as a rubbish bin and had also had live mice and nappies put in it.

The Services Asset Manager left the meeting at 3.59pm

13.2 Community Services Report
D22/19104 Page 191

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

ERWOOD/VOLZKE
Carried
P&S/22/95

The Director – Community Services noted the following points:

- The Youth Council did a really good job holding a number of events for youth week.
- The application to the infrastructure fund for the housing development had been unsuccessful, however it has been forwarded to the Māori Infrastructure Fund for consideration.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The District Mayor noted that funding had been confirmed for the continuation of the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs project although the official confirmation had not yet been received an email from LGNZ was received confirming the programme will continue.
- The Chief Executive noted the application to the infrastructure fund was not a perfect match for the local issue of creating affordable housing and the fund was oversubscribed. The Māori Infrastructure Fund is written exactly around infrastructure within development so is a much better fit for the project. It was noted that as a technicality this has been submitted as council as the applicant but with Iwi as core collaboration.

The Community Development Manager left the meeting at 4.08pm

13.3 Environmental Services Report
D22/18298 Page 200

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/COPLESTONE
Carried
P&S/22/96

The Director – Environmental Services noted the following points:

- The report provides explanation on priority buildings that are potentially earthquake prone and are defined as likely to be needed in an event of an emergency, or used for education or childcare services.
- It was noted that work is beginning to slow down but this has not yet been reflected in terms of consents.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was clarified that the costs to ensure the War Memorial Centre is up to standard as a priority building would not be known until the reporting is complete and identifies if any upgrade work is required.

13.4 Corporate Services Report
D22/20952 Page 207

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

JAMIESON/VOLZKE
Carried
P&S/22/97

The Chief Executive noted that expenditure was over budget for a couple of reason including unsubsidised roading expenses and additional external support required due to the huge demand on building services.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was clarified that the Civic Financial Services shares were associated with insurance for underground asset and was created, and owned by all councils, as there was no commercial operator willing to insure these assets. There are no returns from these shares but they do change in value.
- The Corporate Accountant clarified that the infringements were parking, dog and building infringements and noted all these were with the courts. Mrs Craig noted all infringements went to the courts after 60 days and council has no control over the process, how much is paid or if the debt is written off.
- It was clarified that reserves are cash backed by investment where possible but can be debt backed if required.

14. Questions

There were no questions.

15. Closing Karakia

D21/40748 Page 226

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 4.19pm.

A L Jamieson
Chairman

Confirmed this 23rd day of August 2022.

N C Volzke
District Mayor