

F22/55/05 – D23/48069

Date: Tuesday 28 November 2023 at 3.00PM
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

The Deputy Mayor M McKay (the Chairperson), the District Mayor N C Volzke, 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 – Corporate Services – Mrs T Radich, the Director – Assets – Mrs V Araba, the Director – Community Services – Ms K Whareaitu, the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the Committee Advisor and Executive Assistant – Mrs E Bishop, the Communications Manager – Ms G Gibson (*part meeting*), the Parks and Reserves Officer – Mrs M McBain (*part meeting*), the Property Officer – Mrs S Flight (*part meeting*), the Graduate Asset Engineer – Ms K van Hout (*part meeting*), the Communications Advisor – Mrs S Clarkson (*part meeting*), the Roading Asset Manager – Mr S Bowden (*part meeting*), the Projects Engineer – Mr S Taylor (*part meeting*), the Services Asset Manager – Mr J Cooper (*part meeting*).

Via audio/visual link: The Environmental Health Manager – Ms R Otter (part meeting)

1. Welcome

The Deputy Mayor welcomed Elected Members, members of the public, staff and the media to the meeting.

The opening karakia was read.

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

2. Apologies

An apology was received from Councillor C M Tongaawhikau

Recommendation

THAT the apology be received.

BOYDE/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/23/166

3. Announcements

The District Mayor noted that LGNZ have called a special general meeting for councils to vote on the Future by Local Government Consensus Paper on Monday 11 December 2023. Therefore he has requested, and had approved, an extraordinary meeting on 5 December 2023 for council to discuss the paper.

4. Declarations of members interest

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

5. Attendance Schedule

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

6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Policy and Services Committee –24 October 2023 (Hearing) D23/44400 Page 11

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee Meeting, to hear and consider submissions to the Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan and Level of Service Change, held on Tuesday 24 October 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

HALL/ERWOOD
Carried
P&S/23/167

6.2 Policy and Services Committee –24 October 2023 D23/44400 (PE) D23/44732 (Open) Page 17

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee Meeting, including the public excluded section, held on Tuesday 24 October 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

HARRIS/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/23/168

7. Matters Outstanding

D16/47 Page 24

Recommendation

THAT the Matters Outstanding be received.

BECK/WATT
Carried
P&S/23/169

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

DUDLEY/BODYE
Carried
P&S/23/170

2. THAT the committee approve the amendments to the *draft* Easter Sunday Trading Policy 2023.

3. THAT the *draft* Easter Sunday Trading Policy 2023 and statement of proposal be released for public consultation on 15 January 2024 to allow for the Christmas holiday period.

McKAY/HALL
Carried
P&S/23/171

Recommended Reason

The recommendation of the Council is required to initiate the public consultation process required by sections 82 and 83 of the Local Government Act 2002 on the *draft* Easter Sunday Trading Policy 2023.

The Environmental Health Manager noted the following points:

- This legislation was brought in to give councils a choice to either allow Easter Sunday trading or not.
- The current policy allows businesses to open if they choose to open, there is no enforcement related to this policy.
- Council can choose not to allow trading on Easter Sunday or can specify an area that trading is allowed.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was clarified that South Taranaki District Council had recently gone out to consultation on their policy and were allowing businesses to trade on Easter Sunday in the proposed policy.

Points noted in discussion:

- It was requested that the submission form heading be amended to Easter Sunday Trading Policy.
- The Deputy Mayor noted it was good to give people the option if they open their business and did not think it was council's role to dictate that. Staff have to be given the option to work.

The Environmental Health Manager left the meeting at 3.09pm.

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

ERWOOD/SANDFORD
Carried
P&S/23/172

2. THAT the Council Activities/Activity Groups for the Long Term Plan 2024-34 (“LTP”), be approved as presented in 7.4 of this report.

3. THAT the draft Service Levels, Performance Measures and Targets for each Council activity be approved for the LTP, subject to any changes that may affect the Economic Development activity.

HARRIS/McKAY
Carried
P&S/23/173

Recommended Reason

To confirm council activities and set the performance measurement framework for all activities for the next ten years, and enable council to continue with the preparation of the LTP and ensure timeframes are met.

The Director – Corporate Services noted the following points:

- This report is to approve the draft activities that council will have in the Long Term Plan for the service levels, performance measures and targets.
- These will form part of the consultation document that will go out in February/March.
- Some of the changes include:
 - Merging the Library and iSite into one activity for better financial and performance monitoring.
 - Renaming the Library and iSite activity.
 - Renaming the pool activity from TSB Pool Complex to Wai o Rua – Stratford Aquatic Centre.
- Council still has not worked through the Economic Development performance measures and targets so the option is either accept what is there or leave them for a separate discussion.
- This will also be adopted as part of the full Long Term Plan document following consultation.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The District Mayor suggested two wording changes:
 - Library Hub – change level of service to: *To provide a multiuse community hub facility that is well utilised, accessible and engaging*
 - Democracy – change performance measure to *“Agendas and associated reports are available in accordance with statutory timeframes”*
- It was clarified events had been removed from Community Services Level of Service as the activity provides opportunities with enabling community groups but events are a part of this outcome.
- It was clarified that metal dressing and grading of metal roads are two distinctly different activities. Metalling is reported on as a key performance measure and grading is operational. Mr Bowden clarified the target for metal dressing was based on the amount of cubic meters spread on the unsealed road network. The internal target for grading was typically two and a half rounds a year.
- The Deputy Mayor asked if the smooth travel exposure being reduced to 60% was a realistic target given the continued budget restraints council is under. Mr Bowden noted a request for more funding for sealed road maintenance has been submitted, however it would be more difficult to achieve the previous target.
- It was requested to add *cemeteries* to the level of service under Cemeteries, Parks and Reserves.
- It was clarified the target had been reduced for satisfaction of cemeteries to 70% due to complaints and ongoing vandalism. Councillor Harris noted she wanted to ensure this was not being reduced to just achieve the targets as it is important that the facility meets the community requirements so would like to see it remain at 80% satisfaction. Mr Hanne noted that this would need to met with funding allowances. The District Mayor agreed that lowering the expectation seems to be lowering

to meet the levels achieved rather than improving it. The Deputy Mayor felt if the complaints were because of vandalism then it would shine through as an issue. Agreed to increase back to 80%.

- It was agreed to leave Economic Development in there until that discussion has been held.

10. Decision Report – Review of Draft King Edward Park Reserve Management Plan

D23/45922

Page 50

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received

JONES/BOYDE

Carried

P&S/23/174

2. THAT the *draft* Reserve Management Plan for the King Edward Park be approved, with amendments as noted, and formally released for public consultation, pursuant to Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977

BOYDE/DUDLEY

Carried

P&S/23/175

Recommended Reasons

The approval and release of the *draft* Reserve Management Plan for the King Edward Park for public consultation is to seek public submissions on the feedback collated in the first round of public consultation in August 2023, as required by the Reserves Act 1977.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The Projects Manager clarified the difference between grade 1 and 2 for walking paths were down to accessibility for mobility scooters and wheelchairs. This would include removing tree roots where possible, smoothing out pathways and improving accessibility generally.
- The incorrect sign for cycling permitted in the appendix was noted.

The Communications Manager left the meeting at 3.25pm.

Points noted in discussion:

- The District Mayor noted there were a number of actions in the plan that have been discussed as part of the Long Term Plan considerations and removed from the budget. The Deputy Mayor agreed that if council does not intend to commit to these in the Long Term Plan process then it shouldn't ask for feedback. Councillor Hall felt this would be misleading if there was no intention to complete them. Mr Hanne noted that elected members had the decision to include these in the plan or not, he noted not everything in the action plan of the current management plan was completed. It was agreed to go through the summary of actions one by one.

The Graduate Asset Engineer left the meeting at 3.30pm.

Centennial Bridge

- Councillor Boyde noted this was still fit for purpose, within its lifespan expectancy and had no structural issues. He felt removing the poles would make it fit for purpose for bikes and mobility scooters.
- The Deputy Mayor noted that this had been pushed out to align with the next safety check of the bridge. She asked what was the consequence of taking it out of the plan now if council then wanted to do work on it later. Mr Taylor noted if it is removed from the plan and it becomes unsafe then a request would be brought back to council for approval. There was currently no budget for a new bridge.
- Remove.

Replace Lime Chip to Concrete on path from netball courts to Rhododendron Dell

- Leave in.

Replace staircase on Regain Street/Brecon Road walkway

- This is now at the end of its life.
- Agreed to leave in.

Provide alternative mobility access where required for all users

- This is for a couple of places where there is an alternative route that goes along the track. The Charlie Clemow walk will be prioritised.
- Agreed to leave in.

Weed Control – Phase out the current use of chemicals with a natural weed control option

- The Deputy Mayor asked if this was accepted how will council see the options of maintaining weeds? Mr Hanne noted there were two options, the first being providing options on how officers could reach this outcome and the costs as a separate investigation. The second is to leave this on the list and officers will still do the same investigation and include the budget in an annual plan.
- The Deputy Mayor felt it should stay in as a P1 because it was included in the plan due to community feedback. Councillor Beck supported this.
- Councillor Boyde asked for clarification of the P2 process as he thought this should be P2 as there were three submissions. P2 means it is a project council wants to do but won't start until 2027. There would be cost implications on the maintenance contract. It was clarified that this element of the contract is an operational discussion.
- It was noted that the review of the management plan is usually five yearly, but it is being reviewed now due to so many changes in the park.
- The District Mayor supported the idea of phasing out the use of chemicals but his concern was regarding not knowing the cost implications of the natural weed control options. He would like to see more information to give guidance on the implications so council could decide if it was willing to pay those costs. He also noted that the weed control plan was written under each activity and asked that it be changed to just one place as a goal. Mrs Araba noted that costings could be brought back at deliberations.
- It was clarified there is an opportunity for further discussion on the plan and amendments can be made at the hearing. Councillor Boyde agreed there would be cost implications with this and did not feel council could make a decision when they haven't been provided with all the information for this.
- Councillor Hall noted if it was P1 then investigative work would begin this term and if it was P2 it would be next term. She acknowledged council was not committing to anything more than looking into this so was happy to keep it as P1 knowing a decision will need to be made at a later date.
- Councillor Beck asked if investigation could include what other councils are doing for alternative weed control.
- It was agreed to leave this in the plan as a P1 to allow for investigation to begin.

Bridge replacement x 2

- Mrs McBain noted officers were working with a consultant to get further reports on these bridges.

Lighting through three bridges trail and trees of significance

- It was noted this had been carried forward from the previous reserve management plan.
- Take out.

Upgrade trail where necessary to remove tripping hazards

- Agreed to remain.

Alternative route for accessibility users at Page Street

- Agreed to remain.

Compacted lime chip in Charlie Clemow walk

- Agreed to remain.
- It was clarified that the Charlie Clemow Walk goes from the retention pond through to Brecon Road. There is no lime chip path there at the moment.

Compacted lime chip path on northern side of lake in McCullough Rhododendron Dell

- Agreed to remain.

Obtain power connection – from three bridges lighting trail and add power box to space

- This is to run power from Brecon Road to add power to that space.
- This will be grant funding.
- Remain in plan but remove reference to lighting.

Add stairs to section of walkway from Rhododendron Dell to the river

- This is on the pathway that connects the dell to the western bridge. The pathway is quite steep and narrow and gets very boggy in winter.
- Agreed to remain.

Re-route of walkway to include trees of significance

- This is to complete the last section of lime chip.
- Agreed to remain.

Compacted lime chip path – Trees of Significance

- This is before the re-route bit where more lime chip needs to be added to complete the space and then compact.

Retaining Walls along Western Loop

- There has been a bit of feedback received about making this a shared cycle trail as well, however the management plan is to keep it at status quo. Either way retaining walls are required as it is exposed to the elements and bits are falling down.
- The last retaining wall at the start of the western loop was \$6,000.
- This will be part of the improvements of walkways budget in the Long Term Plan.
- Agreed to leave in.

Regrade approach of path in Centennial Park from Fenton Street

- This is the access down to the bridge via the Centennial Restrooms to make it part of the accessibility plans.
- Agreed to leave in.

Outdoor Pool Additions to the space north of Wai o Rua

- Councillor Sandford noted that they had been advised the outdoor doors could not be opened for controlling the climate in the pool. He said this was a nice to have but unaffordable for ratepayers. Council did not have the finances to do this or the ongoing maintenance.
- Councillor Dudley noted her opposition to an outdoor water park.
- Councillor Harris asked if it could still be an option for the future if it was removed from this plan? Mr Hanne clarified that the plan can be brought back for updating if required but separate consultation would be required for a change. Councillor Harris asked if simple additions like picnic tables would require to be brought back? It was confirmed that it wouldn't for tables.
- Councillor Boyde did not support this project.
- Mrs McBain noted that this was one of the comments that came through from the community. Councillor Boyde asked how many comments do they receive before a project is added in.
- Remove.

Relocation of Croquet to the green space next to Wai o Rua

- Councillor Beck asked what the cost to do this would be. Mr Hanne noted that council did not anticipate paying for a potential relocation, however he warned that this would remove the option for hydrosides in the future.
- Councillor Erwood supported removing project 18 (outdoor water addition), 19 (Croquet relocation) and 20 (Dog Park) from the plan. Councillor Hall supported that due to it keeping future options open. The District Mayor agreed that there were no future plans for this space at the moment but future projects were still an option.
- Remove.

Dog Park Facility next to Wai o Rua

- Remove

Install up-lighting to enhance the Malone Gates

- The current lights have been vandalised and the proposal is to use the lights that highlighted the old bell tower. It is hoped because of the structure and size of these lights it might prevent people damaging them.
- Councillor Erwood did not support this project.

- Councillor Sandford noted the costs of up-lighting the trees out of town were horrendous. This is a nice to have but has a huge on-going cost associated with it.
- Councillor Hall noted this was the largest memorial to a single soldier in the country which was paid for by his soldiers. It is significant and a way to honour him. She supported being able to upcycle the lights as well.
- Agreed to leave in – 7 for, 4 against

Replace older playground equipment

- Agreed to leave in.

Extending playground into the TSB Pool Complex as an undercover playground centre.

- This was to put an idea in there for elected members to consider before consultation.
- Councillor Hall noted that without the information on the building it would be misleading to put an option that the community might not actually have.
- The District Mayor noted he was totally opposed to an undercover playground centre.
- Remove.

Upgrade Page Street Sportsground Facilities

- Agreed to leave in.

Upgrade of Lighting (Netball Taranaki)

- It was noted that Netball Taranaki will fund this upgrade, however it needs to be in the management plan for them to apply for funding.

General

- Remove – providing toilets at the end of Brecon Road.
- Western Loop into Mountain Bike track – looking to keep the status quo.
- Officers to ensure the action table aligns throughout the document.
- Change 'unleashed' to 'uncontrolled' in terms of dogs as there is a lot of commentary in the plan that talks about control.

11. Decision Report – Deliberation and Adoption – Proposed Solid Waste Level of Service Change

D23/44239

Page 113

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

ERWOOD/WATT
Carried
P&S/23/176

2. THAT the committee considers submissions received as part of the public consultation process and decide on Option 4 for the Level of Service for the new solid waste services contract.

McKAY/HALL
Division
For 4
Against 7
Lost
P&S/23/177

Recommended Reason

The potential changes to Level of Service have both gone through the public consultation process required by Sections 82 and 83 of the Local Government Act 2002. The committee is now required to consider the submissions, the cost of the service options, and make recommendations to the full Council meeting scheduled for 28 November 2023.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was clarified that the 40% of identified organic waste in the assessments was by weight and not volume.
- It was clarified that it would be essentially the same cost to have a 120litre or 140litre bin with the only difference being the capital of getting new bins and disposal of the old bins.
- It was noted that the current 120 litre bins require replacements every week – this is on-going.
- It was clarified that available grant funding was only for the purchase of food waste bins.
- It was noted that South Taranaki District Council had just adopted to move to fortnightly collections of 140 litre bins and a weekly food waste collection.
- It was clarified that council staff costs associated with solid waste were additional to the per household prices as presented.
- The Deputy Mayor asked what the operational impact would be if food waste was introduced now and fortnightly collection phased in to give people time to make changes. It was noted it could be done but it would come with extra costs from another truck and more staff.
- Councillor Boyde stated that through the feedback it was evident that people do not want to change the weekly collection. The Services Asset Manager noted that New Plymouth District Council received the same feedback when they made the change but in reality there had been no issues with the change.
- Councillor Boyde noted there were three private collectors for green waste so there is great choice and service for this already. He thought food waste could wait until 2027 or review it very year to see what is happening. People like to have a choice with green waste collection and to do what they like with food waste. Mr Cooper noted that with the waste levy going up if food waste collection is not mandated then it will be encouraged through the high waste levy.
- It was confirmed the foodwaste would be shipped out of Taranaki until the organic facility is complete. Councillor Dudley felt this should be held off for a couple of years and then review annually. Mr Hanne noted that Year 1 was the only year for the potential subsidy on food waste containers.
- The District Mayor noted that an extra \$12,000 of waste levies would only work out to \$4.86 per year per resident.
- It was noted that last Monday 30 bins were damaged due to the age of the bins. Council owns the bins and replaces them unless they are damaged by contractors.

Points noted in discussion:

- The Deputy Mayor noted this will need to happen at some point. There is the opportunity for subsidies for the bins at this stage. She was very mindful of people's behaviour around rubbish, recycling and waste but that reducing the collection frequency and introducing a food waste collection aligned with the strategic vision in the WMMP. She noted her support for Option 4.
- Councillor Hall agreed that food waste collection should start soon. Council will have to do and should be doing it especially with the opportunity for funding. She noted there was always pushback for change but also that this could provide motivation for change. She was supportive of Option 4. There will also be other opportunities for education and waste recycling to help with this and noted that soft plastics were a big part of waste collected.
- Councillor Boyde felt that after reading the submissions this did not fit with what the community is telling us. Green waste – people want a choice and they have this now. He agreed people need to be more sustainable and promote recycling. He noted the submissions also did not want organic waste so why should council impose a cost on them when they might want to do it themselves in their back yard. Mr Cooper noted an opt in food waste collection would be logistically impossible. Councillor Boyde did not support Option 4, the submissions clearly show the majority do not want this and as a councillor he felt it would be negligent to not listen to the ones paying for the service.
- It was clarified the options are just for food waste, although green waste was a major problems in the bins. There are no tools to allow council to manage green waste unless each bin was policed and this would require a change to the bylaw. Currently the truck won't lift a bin over a certain weight. Councillor Sandford felt there should some tools to enforce this as council has been told that it is a major problem.
- Councillor Dudley did not support bringing in food waste at the moment. She noted she had seen the bins blown around in New Plymouth recently and food was everywhere. She also noted she didn't support it due to the food waste being shipped out. If option 4 was adopted then the recycling bins should be collected the same week as the waste bins otherwise the recycling bins will be used for general waste.
- Councillor Harris supported option 4. She noted that 75% of the feedback had supported option 1 but an equal amount supported reducing the frequency with a larger bin. She felt learnings could be taken from other councils to provide the opportunity to change behaviour.
- Councillor Watt felt to fully utilise the food bins then everyone would still have to reduce their weekly waste by 30% which he thought would just lead to more contamination in the recycling bin, more

dumping and more burning. He noted option 1 had a proposed saving of \$150,000 but this was not a true reflection of the savings as council was not going to be spending less per year as it will be paying for the new service.

- The District Mayor noted it was difficult to make a decision when only 65 out of 2,600 people responded to the survey. This did not give a good sample to give a good steer. The submissions were reasonably repetitive and mostly about their own circumstances. They were personally orientated and not future driven. He felt option 2 could be ruled out. Option 3 – there were a lot of people who asked for an increase in size if reducing the frequency and the costings were the same for Option 1 and 4 and both made sense but in terms of the big goal to reduce waste to landfill then Option 4 did that best.
- Councillor Jones asked if Option 4 could have an amendment to the start date as he felt it was taking away capacity but not giving them anywhere to put it. The District Mayor noted that this would only be about 70litres less capacity and the educational element would be needed for this.

A division was called.

Those voting for the motion: Councillors Harris, Hall, the Deputy Mayor and the District Mayor

Those voting against the motion: Councillors Sandford, Watt, Boyde, Beck, Dudley, Erwood and Jones.

The motion was lost.

Recommendations

2. THAT the committee considers submissions received as part of the public consultation process and decide on Option 1 for the Level of Service for the new solid waste services contract.

VOLZKE/BOYDE
Division
For 8
Against 3
Carried
P&S/23/178

Points noted in discussion:

- The District Mayor noted there was not much difference between Option 1 and 4. Option 3 cut the volume of bins in half by collecting fortnightly which is contrary to the feedback. This moves that it remains at status quo until 2027.
- Councillor Boyde noted that the feedback was very clear. He asked with a timeframe of 2027 could this be revisited and added back in? Mr Hanne noted that any change would require significant lead in to advise the contractors. Councillor Boyde supported option 1.
- The Deputy Mayor noted that council sits here and gets frustrated when the government forces us to make a change. She noted in the last Long Term Plan the community said they wanted to see this but it didn't get across. This is now being pushed to 2027 and Stratford will be the only District Council in the region not doing food waste collection. She felt it meant Stratford was dragging behind the times.
- Councillor Hall agreed and noted it was disappointing to set a strategy about how council will reduce waste and now it feels like councillors are playing with words and not actions.
- It was clarified only the food waste bins are subsidised not the change in general waste bins. An application could be made for funding to purchase the food waste bins early but it may not be successful as council wasn't implementing the service at this time.

12. Monthly Reports

12.1 Assets Report D23/44836 Page 300

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/23/179

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was clarified there has been no feedback on the transport choices designs as the whole thing has been put on hold. Councillor Hall noted this was disappointing given the amount of effort put into this project over the past 18 months by staff. Mr Bowden noted it was also members of the community who were waiting on decisions as they had put off contracts in anticipation of being part of the transport choices work.
- It was noted that the waste water was no longer being tested for covid due to the amount of staff resourcing this took up.
- Councillor Hall requested the speed management submissions be circulated earlier than the hearing in March to allow councillors time to read this.
- Councillor Hall noted the lack of use at the trade waste facility. Mr Hanne noted this was likely to be as a result of the heightened fees and charges and the limitation to only servicing this district.
- It was clarified that the \$58,000 cost from City Care for work at Victoria Park was the final invoice expected from them. There are further discussions to be had around this. It was noted that the field is being prepared now for cricket. Councillor Boyde noted this whole job had been terrible and has been hearing this from ratepayers and user groups. Mr Taylor noted there was still the investigation on the hydrology side to receive which the original design had not adequately addressed. It was clarified that the total budget was \$130,000 with \$60,000 through the Annual Plan budget and \$70,000 from the Better Off Funding.
- It was requested that online advertisements/listings be looked into for the Whangamomona Walkways as it this is completely undiscoverable at the moment.
- The District Mayor noted the trade waste facility was well used by campervans, however commercial operators will go to the cheapest location to dispose of their waste.

The Property Officer, Parks and Reserves Officer and the Services Asset Manager left the meeting at 4.59pm.

12.2 Community Services Report D23/45314 Page 320

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/DUDLETY
Carried
P&S/23/180

The Director – Community Services noted the Stratford Youth Event with Zeal had not happened due to the weather. This will rescheduled to join in with Childrens Day.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde noted the amount of patrons at the swimming pool was really cool, as was having seven schools undertaking swimming lessons. He noted a letter of concern had been sent to councillors from one of the schools and asked if this had been addressed? Ms Whareaitu noted a response had been sent. Councillor Boyde requested the response be circulated to all councillors.
- 2.1 Council Organisations and Council Representatives on other Organisations

- Councillor Harris noted there had been a real focus from the Central Taranaki Safe Community Trust on AED availability in the Stratford District. This is to look at these being open to the public with options for lock boxes outside of buildings. They have also been promoting CPR lessons and have recently secured a new patrol car. An interesting study was done on pedestrian crossings and she noted she had circulated this to councillors.
- Councillor Harris noted that the Te Wera Campgrounds had just installed a new waste water treatment facility and are waiting on compliance for that. They are hosting the BA5 on 13 December and she extended an invitation to councillors to attend.
- Councillor Hall acknowledged the scarecrow trail as such a positive community event creating connectedness and a great initiative.
- Councillor Hall noted the Percy Thomson Gallery sign on Broadway is due for a paint, but the trust has been told this has to wait to be part of the Stratford 2035 work. As the Stratford 2035 work has been held up due to the delay in purchasing the land. Mr Hanne instructed the Assets team to work directly with the trust to find a solution.

The Director – Assets, the Projects Manager and the Roding Assets Manager left the meeting at 5.05pm.

- Councillor Erwood noted he had attended the Sport Taranaki Sports Awards and Stratford had been well represented with Jack Jordan winning Sportsman of the year and Zoe Hobbs winning Sportswoman of the year and Sports Person of the Year.

12.3 Environmental Services Report

D23/43873 Page 328

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/23/181

The Director – Environmental Services noted that since this report was written the Building Control team have received the draft report from the IANZ audit which has categorised Stratford as low risk. There were seven general non compliance issues, three were addressed while they were on site and the remaining four are on-going work.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was clarified that it should be eight resource consents were received in digital form.
- Councillor Dudley noted the Pembroke Road numbering was getting very confusing and asked if there was a way to get those who have no changed their numbers to do so? The District Mayor noted the Environmental Health Manager does have a plan to approach those houses. He acknowledged there had been a bigger issue where online organisations do not recognise the new addresses yet.

12.4 Corporate Services Report

D23/46937 Page 335

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/ERWOOD
Carried
P&S/23/182

The Director – Corporate Services noted the property rating revaluations have now all been approved by the auditors. The letter is expected to be in mailboxes tomorrow. Any objections must go back to QV by 19 January 2024.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Harris noted the oxidation pond fencing was still listed separately on the capital expenditure summary and that it had been agreed to merge that into the treatment plant upgrade to reflect the remaining balance for the plant upgrade more accurately.
- The District Mayor noted the comment regarding the aquatic centre and that there was a report forthcoming. He reminded councillors to let Ms Whareaitu know if there were any issues they specifically wanted covered in the report.
- It was clarified that the Waka Kotahi subsidy was over budget due to the budget being spread equally across the year, however the claim is based on total roading expenditure.
- The Deputy Mayor noted the expenditure on 3 waters was over budget due to resource consent compliance and asked if this was due to an infringement? Mr Hanne noted this was the oxidation pond operation and sometimes the timing doesn't align with the spread of the budget, he confirmed there were no infringements.
- The Deputy Mayor noted the pool was already \$172,500 over budget and asked about the anticipation for the future with this. Mrs Radich noted it was a conversation to have when the whole financial outlook was presented for the activity, she noted it was important to remember the swim school had come in after the staffing budget had been set.
- The Deputy Mayor asked when it was anticipated that council would reach the net debt limit and if it was possible to get a forecast out further to 20 years? The Director – Corporate Services noted this was the objective to get the capital works projects sorted to forecast what the debt will look like over the next 10 years. The Infrastructure Strategy is over 30 years. She noted a 20 year forecast for debt would require assumptions which would most like be wrong and could be misleading.

13. Questions

- Councillor Sandford noted the under verandah lighting from TSB Bank to the Clocktower was not working.

14. Closing Karakia

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The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 5.21 pm

M McKay
Chairman

Confirmed this 23rd day of January 2024

N C Volzke
District Mayor