

Date: Tuesday 23 July 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, J M S Erwood, A K Harris, E E Hall, W J Sandford, A M C Dudley, V R Jones and M J Watt.

### In attendance

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director – Assets – Mrs V Araba, the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the Director – Corporate Services – Mrs T Radich, the Acting Director – Community Services – Mrs E Bishop, the Committee Secretary – Ms E Coulton, the acting Executive Assistant and Committee Advisor – Mrs C Reynolds (*part meeting*), the Roading Asset Manager – Mr S Bowden, the Sustainability Advisor – Ms V Dombroski, the Projects Manager – Mr S Taylor, the Service Asset Manager – Mr J Cooper (*part meeting*), the Parks and Reserves Officer – Mrs M McBain (*part meeting*), the Property Officer – Mrs S Flight (*part meeting*), the Special Projects Manager - Mr N Cooper (*part meeting*) and one member of the media (Stratford Press).

#### 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

An approved leave of absence was noted for Councillor G W Boyde and an apology noted from Councillor C M Tongaawhikau.

#### Recommendation

THAT the apologies be received.

ERWOOD/DUDLEY  
Carried  
P&S/24/188

#### 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 A K Harris declared interest in item 9 decision report – Stopping of Part Whangamomona Road and Addition to Whangamomona Domain.

## 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 –25 June 2024  
D24/32049 Page 11

### Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 25 June 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

HARRIS/BECK  
Carried  
P&S/24/189

The Committee Secretary undertook to make the following amendments:

- Amend Councillor V R Jones to present.
- It was noted that Councillor Tongaawhikau had moved the resolution to confirm the minutes for the Policy and Services Committee Meeting – 11 June 2024 (hearing) as a true and accurate record. However Councillor Tongaawhikau was not present at that meeting. Councillor Hall moved that the minutes were a true and accurate record and Councillor Jones remained as the seconder.

## 7. Matters Outstanding

D16/47 Page 21

### Recommendation

THAT the Matters Outstanding be received.

WATT/JONES  
Carried  
P&S/24/190

The Chief Executive noted:

- The Parking Bylaw review has been seen by elected members in a workshop but will stay as a matter outstanding until a formal report has been presented to elected members.

## 8. Decision Report – Proposed Changes to Refuse Transfer Stationing Opening Days and Hours

D24/33401

Page 22

### Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

DUDLEY/ERWOOD  
Carried  
P&S/24/191

- ~~2. THAT the Committee approve Option 2, the new hours of operation proposed at the Refuse Transfer Station.~~

### Recommended Reason

To allow the closing of the Refuse Transfer Station in the quiet period (midweek) and extension of the hours across the other open days, to create broader opportunity for customers to utilise the site, maximising revenue and the opportunity for waste diversion.

The Services Asset Manager noted:

- Stratford District Council were contacted by the new solid waste contractor with the proposal of altering opening days to have the transfer station closed on Wednesdays and Thursday to assist the lone worker running the transfer station.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Sandford noted that he has talked to the lone worker at the Refuse Transfer Station, she has expressed that very few patrons visit the transfer station on boxing day and new years day, he asked if it has been discussed about closing on those days to assist the lone worker. The Service Asset Manager noted that whilst it has not been discussed, he will look into this further.
- The Director – Assets noted a correction for page 23, she expressed that table 2: Proposed Stratford Refuse Transfer Station Opening Hours, states that Wednesday and Thursday have total of 3 hours, it should say 0 hours.
- Councillor Beck questioned the volume of patrons that attend the transfer station on the proposed closed days. The Services Asset Manager clarified that the proposed closed days are the slowest days and typically average a total of 6 patrons. Councillor Beck noted that he had a concern about isolating specific members of the community such as shift workers by closing midweek but expressed that due to the numbers provided maybe it will not be as isolating as he previously thought.
- Councillor Jones sought clarification on whether this proposal falls under operational or governance as they are operational hours. The Chief Executive clarified that technically it is classified as an operational matter but was brought to elected members as staff believed it was a sensitive matter and if it was not brought to elected members it would have been brought up regardless.
- Councillor Hall believes that this is an operational matter and has appetite to move option 2.
- Councillor Harris acknowledges that it is an operational matter but has a concern with the earlier opening hours being dropped off with the removal of the Wednesday opening hours. She expressed that she would like to see the early opening hour reinstated on another day. The Services Asset Manager noted that this can be looked in to.
- Councillor Hall withdrew her previous motion and proposed a new motion.

## Recommendation

2. THAT the Committee approve Option 2, the new hours of operation proposed at the Refuse Transfer Station with the request that officers discuss with the contractors to have an earlier opening time one day a week to counter the loss of the current Wednesday morning timeframe.

HALL/HARRIS  
Carried  
P&S/24/192

*Councillor Harris left the table at 3.15 pm.*

## 9. Decision Report – Stopping of Part Whangamomona Road and Addition to Whangamomona Domain

D24/33880

Page 27

## Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.
2. THAT, subject to the consent of the Minister of Lands, Council proceeds to stop under the provisions of either Section 342 of the Local Government Act 1974 or Section 116 of the Public Works Act 1981, that portion of Whangamomona Road containing approximately 9,280 square metres (subject to survey) on the northern side of the road adjacent the Whangamomona Domain campground.
3. THAT, following the stopping, that portion of the road stopped in Recommendation 2, apart from a 20-metre strip that will automatically become Local Purpose (Esplanade) Reserve, be vested in Council as Recreation Reserve, and added to the Whangamomona Domain to be managed by the Whangamomona Domain Board Incorporated on behalf of Council.

ERWOOD/VOLZKE  
Carried  
P&S/24/193

BECK/HALL  
Carried  
P&S/24/194

## Recommended Reason

A large proportion of the infrastructure on the Whangamomona Domain (originally a school site) is built on or over the boundary of the domain, encroaching on a legal road adjacent the Whangamomona River. This potentially creates an issue in terms of future resource consents. The recommendations will rectify this legal situation.

- The Services Asset Manager noted that the Whangamomona Camp Ground prior to the grounds becoming a council reserve, was a school that was built without consideration to legal boundaries. He expressed that due to this, a planned section of work encroaches on the legal boundary of a road that is classified as a road but is unformed. He noted that due to the legal yet unformed road there are issues with boundary lines and building and expanding is going to be an ongoing issue with resource and building consents. The way to resolve this issue is to stop the road.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The Services Asset Manager clarified that it was anticipated this work would cost about \$9,000 for the survey and legal work and the Gazette notification between \$600-\$1,200

Councillor Harris rejoined the table at 3.20 pm.

## 10. Decision Report – Draft Sustainability Policy - Approval

D24/33825

Page 34

### Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

WATT/McKAY  
Carried  
P&S/24/195

2. THAT the Policy and Services Committee approves the *DRAFT Sustainability Policy*.

HALL/DUDLEY  
Carried  
P&S/24/196

### Recommended Reason

The adoption of this policy, will enable consideration of sustainability in decision making across Council, activities, services, and functions.

The Sustainability Advisor noted that sustainability is a journey and not a destination. Therefore the policy will grow overtime with further discussion and trial and error.

## 11. Monthly Reports

### 11.1 Assets Report

D24/32566

Page 40

### Recommendation

- THAT the report be received.

ERWOOD/DUDLEY  
Carried  
P&S/24/197

The Property Officer and the Parks and Reserves Officer joined the meeting at 3.23 pm.

- Councillor Sandford noted that the ceremony for the Ron Bray memorial bench seat was a beautiful morning and Ron's wife Averil Bray was very happy with the outcome.
- Councillor Dudley noted that she has been in contact with Mrs Araba regarding page 57 and the Centennial Restrooms, TET and War Memorial and loss of recent patrons. She contacted Mrs Araba asking if she would be able to provide a income outline as to how much the facilities are making. She has since been notified that whilst patronage is down, income is up. Councillor Dudley noted that she will circulate the received information to the elected members.
- Councillor Jones expressed that he was under the impression that council is no longer undertaking the use of Diatomix as it was not working. The Services Asset Manager noted that

the Taranaki Regional Council are in tomorrow to discuss the next step. He expressed that we are likely using the product we have left and then not re-purchasing.

- Councillor Erwood asked if there were any updates on the Page Street Sportsground damage. The Parks & Reserves Officer noted that since the initial report another incident has occurred where the same family have returned to the grounds and re-damaged the sportsground. She has spoken to 105 and this incident has been recorded and added to previous complaints.
- The Deputy Mayor mentioned that in previous instances of vandalism, the communications team had posted images of the incidents on social media and Antenno. She suggested that this approach might encourage residents of the Page Street area to report any repeat incidents to the police. The Parks & Reserves Officer clarified that a local resident has been promptly notifying her when acts of vandalism occur. She mentioned ongoing discussions with the communications team regarding a plan of action. Councillor Erwood recommending asking the resident to notify police as the first call and to ring 111 not 105.
- Councillor Beck expressed his concern regarding illegal dumping and the cost it is causing council. He asked if the rise in illegal dumping may have a correlation to the suspension of bins? The Services Asset Manager noted that he believes the rise in illegal dumping is due to a person advertising rubbish removal and taking it away and illegally dumping it.

11.2 Community Services Report  
D24/32710 Page 64

#### Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

McKAY/HARRIS  
Carried  
P&S/24/198

The Acting Director – Community Services noted the following:

- The Puanga events held in June were reflected on. The Starry Night event attracted over 600 people and in addition to the event being free there were whānau ora (health), Tamariki kai (snacks) and māra kai (vegetable seeds) provided to each family in attendance by Ngāruahine Iwi Health Services. The event had a positive indoor-outdoor flow with the facility being used in its entirety. The Stratford District Youth Council and the District Mayor were kept busy cooking the free sausage sizzle all night. There has been a great deal of positive feedback received from the community and both council, and Ngāruahine Iwi Health Services are pleased with the event and the collaboration.
- The Library also had an exceptional week seeing 223 tamariki attending the Puanga programme led by the Children's and Youth Librarian.

*The Acting Executive Assistant and Committee Advisor joined the meeting at 3.33 pm.*

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Sandford noted the misspelling of Midhirst on page 70.
- The District Mayor reiterated that the Starry Night event was super successful, and he noted the positive impact from the collaboration with Ngāruahine Iwi Health Services and Council.
- The District Mayor noted that the Mayoral Forum has been meeting and engaging in discussion surrounding the refresh of Tapuae Roa. He expressed that the draft refresh will come to council within the next 6 weeks for endorsement and is happy to meet individually with elected members to discuss it.

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

JONES/McKAY  
Carried  
P&S/24/199

The Director - Environmental Services noted:

- At the previous P&S meeting it was discussed to chase the local alcohol policy review along and get in contact with NPDC. NPDC has responded and have notified us as to why there have been delays in moving along with this. STDC have recently also indicated an interest in joining the policy, so a meeting has been booked in for the next couple of weeks to discuss these matters. He expressed that whilst not much has changed since last meeting, there is progress being made.

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

ERWOOD/HARRIS  
Carried  
P&S/24/200

The Director – Corporate Services noted the following:

- A mistake has been made and the wrong report has been uploaded, she circulated the correct report.
- There has been work done on creating preliminary end of year results, but it is expected to not be finalised until later in July as processing of the final valuation is yet to be done.
- Capital works delivery was at 55% last financial year with over half the projects completed. She noted that a summary of year 1 of the LTP has also been included with a breakdown of \$18,516,000 to be spent.
- There has been new budget authorisation to upgrade the audiovisual equipment within the chambers. She noted that it is looking to be slightly more expensive than previous quotes due to the time period left between obtaining the quotes and proceeding.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Sandford noted that page 96 indicates a frightening figure, he asked what this figure was comprised of. The Director – Corporate Services clarified that the figure he is referring to is the invoice total. She expressed that \$250,000 of that amount is loan associated.
- Councillor Harris noted the audiovisual upgrades that are set to be underway within the chambers, she asked if it is set to cost more than anticipated in previous quotes and if it is out by a significant amount of money, it will come back to elected members for consultation. The Chief Executive noted that if it was known at the start of a project that it could not be completed within the assigned budget, it would come back to council for discussion.
- Councillor Harris thanked The Director - Corporate Services for her contribution to the council and the committee, she noted that she will be missed.
- Councillor Beck noted that the end of June debt ratio was at 94, he highlighted that under tough times it is commendable that it is under 100. He expressed that it is looking healthy.

- Councillor Jones noted that capital expenditure spend is 55%, he highlighted that it seems to be an ongoing issue and asked why projects are not being completed. The Chief Executive noted that there has been an impact from external activities no longer proceeding. He noted significant activities such as the subdivision, Prospero Place and transport choices. He emphasised that internal resourcing is not the issue.
- Councillor Jones noted the talk surrounding the subdivision and wetlands and the reduction in the number of sections, he asked if we are aware of the financial impacts as of yet. The Chief Executive clarified that the financial modelling has not been done yet.
- The District Mayor clarified that the 55% mentioned by Councillor Jones refers to 55% of the budget having been used, not projects completed. He noted that 72% of projects have been completed with 16 cancelled or postponed.

## 12. Questions

There were no questions.

## 13. Closing Karakia

D21/40748

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The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 3.52 pm.

M McKay  
**Chairperson**

Confirmed this 27<sup>th</sup> day of August 2024.

N C Volzke  
**District Mayor**