

MINUTES

Policy and Services Committee

F22/55/05 – D24/24718

Date: Tuesday 14 May 2024 at 10.00am
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

To hear and consider submissions to the

- Draft Significance and Engagement Policy
- Draft 2024-2034 Long Term Plan

Present

The Deputy Mayor – M McKay (the Chairman), 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, W J Sandford, V R Jones (*part meeting*) 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 – Community Services – Ms K Whareaitu, the Committee Advisor and Executive Assistant – Mrs E Bishop, the Communications Manager – Ms G Gibson, the Projects Manager – Mr S Taylor, the Property Officer – Mrs S Flight (*part meeting*), the Parks and Reserves Officer – Mrs M McBain (*part meeting*), the Roding Asset Manager – Mr S Bowden (*part meeting*), the Sustainability Advisor – Ms V Dombroski (*part meeting*), the Communications Advisor – Mrs S Clarkson (*part meeting*), the Planner – Ms C Marner (*part meeting*), the Services Asset Manager – Mr J Cooper (*part meeting*), 24 members of the public (*throughout the hearing*) and two members of the media (Taranaki Daily News (*part meeting*) and Stratford Press)

Via audio visual link: the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland and one member of the public.

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 V R Jones and an apology received from Councillor C M Tongaawhikau.

Recommendation

THAT the apologies be received.

BOYDE/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/24/128

3. Announcements

The Chief Executive noted the incorrect graph had been included in the agenda for the TSB Pool Complex options. Hard copies were circulated at the meeting.

The Deputy Mayor reiterated the process for the hearing and clarified how the discussion would be structured.

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 declared.

5. Attendance Schedule

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

6. Acknowledgement of Submissions

Submissions – Pages 71-511

Attached were the 2 submissions received to the draft Significance and Engagement Policy and the 80 submissions received to the draft 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.

Recommendations

1. THAT the submissions to the draft Significance and Engagement Policy and draft 2024 – 2034 Long Term Plan be received.

HARRIS/ERWOOD
Carried
P&S/24/129

2. THAT the submitters be advised of the outcome of their submission and notified that the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee Meeting, and subsequent meetings, will be available on Council's website.

BOYDE/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/24/130

Recommended Reason

So that each submission is formally received and the submitter provided with information on decisions made.

7. Submitters To Be Heard – draft Significance and Engagement Policy

There was one submitter wishing to speak.

Each submitter will be allocated five (5) minutes to present their submission and allowed five (5) minutes for questions.

Submission #	Name	Organisation	Page Number
1	Lynsi Latham-Saunders	Parihaka Network – Nga Manu Korihi	18
Mr Rob Green of Heritage Taranaki noted an apology for the submitter and that he would be presenting on her behalf.			
Points noted in presentation:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The event brochure for Heritage Month was circulated. This includes Parihaka Day on 15 November.• Support was requested last year, with a specific request for support for Parihaka Day. He noted his disappointment that they had received no support for this and had to pay for the hire of the War Memorial Centre to put the event on in Stratford.• He noted supporters from the Stratford Park project were present today to support the submission as Heritage Taranaki are forging a relationship with them to see what they can do to celebrate their significant history in Taranaki.• This is an appeal for support from council. He understood times are tough but there must be some way to help Stratford be part of the cultural landscape of the province and to ensure they are not forced to leave Stratford out altogether.			

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde asked if council had supported the events through publicising them? The Director – Community Services clarified that this would mean promoting events through our channels. Mr Green said this would be good but that they were looking to have more involvement from Stratford for the celebration of who we are in Taranaki.
- The District Mayor asked if the group had approached Whakaahurangi Marae regarding their views on an event for Parihaka Day being held here, and if so did they support it? Mr Green noted a good relationship was being formed with the marae and the proposal has been taken to their committee but they have not been informed on what their position is, however encouraging noises have been made.

The Deputy Mayor noted this submission seeking support was better to be considered as part of the Long Term Plan (LTP) discussions. It was agreed that this submission would be held over and considered during the deliberations for the LTP.

8. Decision Report – Significance and Engagement Policy Adoption

D24/7187 Page 8

Council needs to consider submissions as part of the consultation process.

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/HALL
Carried
P&S/24/131

2. THAT the submissions received on the Significance and Engagement Policy be considered, and the policy adopted, with the re-instatement of the climate change section under 2.3 significance, for inclusion in the Long Term Plan 2024-34.

HALL/BOYDE
6 for
4 against
Carried
P&S/24/132

Recommended Reason

This is part of council's review of policies related to the Long Term Plan process. Section 76AA of the Local Government Act 2002 requires Council to adopt a Significance and Engagement Policy.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde noted there has been quite a bit of discussion around climate change. He noted the sustainability policy had not yet been received but acknowledged there is a place for climate change or adverse weather events but was reluctant to do it now prior to the sustainability policy being adopted. It was clarified this could be added at a later date but the change would require a full review process. Councillor Boyde noted council was recognising climate change through its audit and risk committee but questioned if it needed to be included now or after the adoption of the sustainability policy.
- Councillor Hall appreciated that the definition of climate change for Stratford had not yet been agreed upon, however this does not stop it being included in this policy as it would add substance when the sustainability policy was created. She noted that it is considered elsewhere with the way council works and the way decisions are made.
- The District Mayor noted the clause had been taken out prior to consultation but throughout the LTP process there have been a number of people referencing climate change and that it should be included. He noted officers were considering climate change and adverse weather already such as replacement stormwater pipes being bigger to allow for adverse events. He felt the clause should be reinstated to give supporting documentation to our practices.
- It was clarified there was a process in the Local Government Act to identify strategic assets. It was noted that the most important element of this assessment is how council treats the assets in the future as they are classed as a significant asset from the moment they are determined as one.

- Councillor Harris supported reinstating the climate change criteria particularly as it has the ability to affect a lot of the community. She requested that housing for the elderly be updated to housing for older persons.
- The Deputy Mayor agreed that this clause would end up in this policy but felt uncomfortable attaching this to the decision making process until such time that it is defined what it means for Stratford. She would prefer to see the outcome of the sustainability policy before adding it to the significance and engagement policy. She would be voting against its inclusion. Councillor Beck supported this.
- Councillor Boyde noted that climate change was already open to discussion when considering a matter and that it would eventually need to be included in this policy. As long as the sustainability policy was coming soon then he was comfortable including the criteria in the significance and engagement policy.

Councillor Jones joined the meeting at 10.26am.

9. Submitters To Be Heard – draft 2024-2034 Long Term Plan

There are 13 submitters wishing to speak. One withdrew the request and there were three additional requests to speak following the acknowledgement of submission.

Each submitter will be allocated five (5) minutes to present their submission and allowed five (5) minutes for questions.

Submission #	Name	Organisation	Page Number
11	Chris Carrick		102
Points noted in presentation:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Carrick noted he was here to discuss the targeted roading rate for forestry. He and his family had bought a block in Pohokura that contains an old railway station. The block is solely used for forestry with some cattle and sheep. • The objective was to get all the trees out by train which would allow access to any port, however the line was closed. The next option is via State Highway which can access any port but it is more expensive, however he did not need to go via council roads. • He felt an exemption was required if local roads were avoided. • He noted his rates had doubled last year as a forestry block, his trees are registered in the ETS system and the trees do not need to be harvested. • He noted that as the trees don't need harvesting and he won't be accessing council roads then he won't be paying for it. • He understood that trucks used the road before the cemetery but that was not his concern as the farm owner can put it in the forestry contract a set direction and route that is to be used. • He noted this was user pays and he was not using. 			
Questions/Points of Clarification:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Boyde noted it was good point that a route can be established in a contract as he notices the logging trucks turning down Beaconsfield Road to go to New Plymouth. Mr Carrick noted there was no guarantee but you can put it in the contract that they have to go a certain way. • Councillor Boyde asked if he thought it would be fair to charge a catch up fee to carbon farmers who decide to harvest their trees? Mr Carrick noted that anyone who is using a council road for logging should be paying for the high density loads that are going, but that monitoring this was not his role. If he was using the roads then he would be happy to pay for this. He noted that if everyone who was harvesting informed council what roads they were using then it could be targeted on the truck tonnage rate or what is coming out of the block. His only concern was making sure council was charging the right people. • The Director – Environmental Services noted that council did not have control over the transportation routes the trucks would take but they are meant to be notified in terms of harvesting. He noted notification was very rare. • The District Mayor acknowledged that the rate is a very blunt tool depending on the classification of the land, but that it was the only tool available to council to use. • Mr Carrick clarified that being registered under the ETS did mean he could harvest at anytime, however he would be required to repay all the carbon credits. Therefore the chances of harvesting are very slim. 			

- The District Mayor noted that one of the issues if a remission was applied was being able to recover the rating shortfall if the trees were harvested. Mr Carrick noted he was unsure how to deal with that but reiterated that he was not using the road, so should not be charged a roading targeted rate.

16	Peter Reed	111
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Points noted in presentation:

- Mr Reed noted he was speaking about the suitability of the glockenspiel given the price for the seismic upgrade, upgrades for which things tend to blow out quite a bit.
- Mr Reed queried if the 16th century Elizabethan Tudor design was the appropriate architecture for the town. Especially as Stratford wasn't here in the 16th century.
- He suggested a design referencing the original clock and noted the New Plymouth was an excellent example of how this can be achieved. He noted the Edwardian clock tower was the first town clock for Stratford and should be in the appearance of the new clock.
- He appreciated the Shakespeare connection means a lot but that this was referencing a multi-block structure that never existed in the first place.
- The glockenspiel is compromised within the structure and the views are interrupted from the traffic so he noted this would be better moved to a location across the road.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde agreed that it should be in Prospero Place.
- The District Mayor noted that the proposal to strengthen the glockenspiel was in Year 10 so there will be more LTP processes before this change is made. There will be plenty of time to discuss changing the style or location.
- Councillor Beck asked if Mr Reed was suggesting a council or public review? Mr Reed clarified that this would be whatever appropriate to ensure the feedback represents what is appropriate. He felt there was a risk of it looking like something out of Disneyland. The clock that was there was a nice piece of architecture and was pulled down in the 1960s, he understood the Elizabethan/Shakespeare connection but was it really the best architectural design? Councillor Beck noted the public review question in ten years may be whether to keep it or not.

27	Laurie Gooch	156
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Points noted in presentation:

- Mr Gooch asked what part carbon credits play in climate change and for an explanation on that. And what part of CO2 is in the scope of things.
- He noted the picture in the consultation document of the Matau slip which was caused by severe weather events, these were happening all the time when we are getting heavy rain and everyone is blaming this on climate change however he noted the major fault is breaking the 45 degree rule and having put a cutting through an almost vertical embankment.
- He agreed with the increased forestry differential targeted rate as the land owners need to be accountable for the damage from the trucks and rubbish left to wash away in the storms.
- The roading contractors need to show more professionalism in their work. He would like to see how these companies apply for these contracts by showing a detailed plan and cross section plan to show how they would do the work. What they are doing now is unacceptable.
- He felt if the earthquake prone buildings were due for collapse then they shouldn't be allowed for this type of work. He requested a break down of the \$14 million repair work as it seemed ridiculous for a reasonably new building such as the TET. The War Memorial should only require bracing frames. The clock tower is just a box over top of another one that wasn't particularly good inside of another one.
- The TSB Pool Complex – he understood why council wants to get rid of it. He felt that to save money on this you could tender it to clear the site which would cost council nothing and the tenderer takes all on the site.

76	Brian Jeffares	487
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Points noted in presentation:

- Mr Jeffares noted his concern around the disengagement of the community in terms of the submission process. One of his suggestions for this was leaving off the council's preference for a particular project and allowing the community to decide when they submit.
- Generally submissions are a negative thing. By proposing something positive then hopefully they will see it as an opportunity for them to participate.
- One of the key themes is that councils have a preconceived idea of what they are going to do, so why submit?

- The document itself is good. There are bullet points of what the 15% is made of so you can see quickly where it lays. An amenities breakdown between ratepayer funded services and user pays as a percentage would be interesting and it would be helpful to see the optimum level you are hoping to achieve with this.
- The aquatic centre is a significant cost. Anyone who doesn't pay rates here would have the opportunity to have 5 swims a fortnight and still pay less than I would on my rates.
- He queried the arrangement that council used to have with powerco where they would advise council when power lines or poles were past their use by date and then council would seek funding through the TET to fund the difference changing from overhead to underground lines. He felt this could be reinvestigated.
- He noted this was the most significance difference in valuations between urban and rural that he has noticed. It is difficult when council signals a 15% increase and then when the bill arrives it is a 24% increase. It is difficult to explain as well. He noted the Taranaki Regional Council runs an equalisation funding mechanism so that it flattens out. He suggested talking with them to get an insight of how this works.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde noted that in the last LTP process there were 3 big changes from the submissions so council did not have preconceived ideas. He noted that dairy farms had gone up 20% plus in the last valuations so he agreed equalisation was a good suggestion.
- Mr Jeffares noted the Brecon Road bridge discussion was occurring when he was mayor and that it was a generational funding issue and he did not see how council will get full funding for it.
- The District Mayor noted that Mr Jeffares had changed the rating system to this model as part of his election platform in 1999. He noted this had served council reasonably well but with valuation fluctuations ranging from 3% for dairy and 38% for sheep and beef was it now disproportionate? Mr Jeffares noted when it was first introduced it was just a small urban/rural split but now it is split out further and the difference is significant. It was the conservative approach and valuations never fluctuated more than 5% but now it is really making a difference. This system had served well but it's not saying it can't be done better.

46	Kate Dawson	Cancer Society of New Zealand	268
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Points noted in presentation:

- The Cancer Society is a charitable organisation working towards reducing incidents of cancer through prevention and support. Most cancer can be prevented by changing simple behaviours.
- This submission is to make sure council decision making considers the impacts they may have outside of health organisations. We need to strengthen our positions as smokefree and sunsmart communities. They would like to see outcomes throughout the documents that support community wellbeing to be physically active and sunsmart.
- Cancer prevention starts at childhood. We have the highest figures of skin cancer deaths in the world and Taranaki is double the national average.
- Skin cancer is 90% preventable. Radiation builds up over our lifespan so we need to prevent sunburn in childhood. One of the key things for this is shade. Playgrounds are an important area for shade as they are used during peak UV hours.
- She asked council to develop a sun protection policy.
- She noted council's smokefree policy was not punitive and it was hard for the community to know it existed. She noted that signage was the key and this can be done without creating a signage overload.
- She noted the fresh air project was launching in May and is about getting venues to sign up as smokefree/vape free dining inside and out. This has been run since 2015 in other cities and 96.4% of people say they would go back to a business if it was smokefree inside and out. It helps create less smokers as it is not in your face and the venues are healthier for our people and children.
- It was noted that alcohol causes cancer as well and this should be noted within the next Local Alcohol Policy.
- Health and wellbeing of the community needs to be at the heart of the decision making process.

The Planner and Parks and Reserve Officer joined the meeting at 11.13am.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was noted that UV exposure was also from sunbeds and UV lamps used to dry nails. Essentially it is the sun that causes skin cancer but the society has worked hard to reduce the popularity of sun beds. The statistics are so high in Taranaki due to a high level of farming and work outside. A strong campaign was run a few years ago so awareness higher and likely the cause of the spike in cases.

- Ms Dawson noted that with the smokefree policy being a non-punitive one it is about communication with the community and the community backing each other and keeping each other in check. If there is a sign then that will potentially stop people doing something they shouldn't. Enforcement would be better but if it is not possible then there are easy ways for the community to keep each other in check and signage is key. She was not sure it should be enforceable as it is also about free will but it is about having fresh air and not being subjected to someone else's not fresh air.
- The District Mayor noted the Local Alcohol Policy was a joint policy with New Plymouth and was currently under review. The purpose of the act is to minimise harm from alcohol and asked if that was adequate within the policy? Ms Dawson noted that just mentioning physical health impacts in policies needs to be covered. There is no point in having these policies if we are not covering these elements.

50	Nathan McDonald & Brian Bailey	Stratford Eltham Rugby Sports Club	286
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Points noted in presentation:

- The objection to demolishing the TSB Pool Complex was noted. They would rather see it used as an indoor training facility for sports organisations. This could be for rugby, cricket, soccer, hockey, netball – any outdoor winter and summer sports. Cricket currently travels to do inside training. It was suggested that the pools be filled and an artificial turf laid to take the pressure of the green outdoor spaces. With the wet weather the grounds come under extra pressure during the winter seasons.
- It was requested that the \$200,000 budgeted for Victoria Park Field 2 in 2025/26 be brought forward to 2024/25. The jury is still out if the work on field one has been successful and this winter it has been lucky it hasn't been impacted weather wise but it is hard to know if the drainage problems have been fully solved. There was real issues last year with field 2 and pooling problems that have never been seen before. They noted they were just asking for fields that will drain away and handle our weather conditions.
- Council was asked to put more priority on the Page Street grounds. A lot of facilities were lost with the removal of the field on Regan/Cordelia Street and it was disgraceful to have to ask the stockcars to use their grounds as a lighted area when Page Street was not available. More lighted areas are needed.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde asked if the club was happy to pay for an increase in levels of service. New Plymouth is currently double the price that Stratford pays for the fields, but he asked if they were double the level of our fields? Is the current level of service sufficient or do you believe the fields are not up to standard? Mr McDonald noted there is a reason they are not up to standard, council is closing them and saying they are not handling what they are being used for. The club is asking for safe and usable fields. The pool complex doesn't cover its costs. He noted that the club had paid \$100,000 for the installation of the lights at the field. He also noted it was about being smarter with costs. The club would like to see the grass a bit higher which would help with the surface issues and therefore costs could be reduced by not mowing as frequently.
- Mr Bailey also noted that volunteers had offered to help with the drainage issues and a farmer willing to help with the costs, but the offers were not taken up.
- Councillor Boyde noted that the hockey turf was closed 7 times last year due to excess water and that can run water away easily. So he noted that adverse weather events do make it difficult.
- Mr Bailey noted that Page Street is highly used as it is the only area with lights. That puts a lot of pressure on the field.
- Councillor Harris asked if the current footprint of the TSB Pool complex would be prohibitive for different sporting codes? Mr McDonald noted it had a high ceiling and it would be good enough for indoor training. He saw it being available for all sporting codes.
- Councillor Harris noted that Victoria Park seemed to be performing well this season, but she acknowledged it was an exceptionally wet season last year.
- It was confirmed that if a rugby field could fit in the footprint of the grass area beside Wai o Rua – Stratford Aquatic Centre then it would make sense to use this area.
- Mr McDonald confirmed the club has used the tennis courts for alternative training locations but had not been aware that the synthetic turf was available and was looking into the bookability of it.

54	Josh Best		298
Mr Best did not attend the hearing.			
24	Dr Christine Sumner	SPCA	129
Points noted in presentation:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Sumner noted this submission was to talk about desexing and microchipping cats. • The benefits of desexing cats were noted in the submission but include better habits, less roaming, improved lifespans and health improvements. It also helps keeping unwanted litters down. • Making sure companion cats are desexed is super important to help address the cat population. • Microchipping increases the likelihood of reuniting cats with their families and decreases the time a lost cat may spend in centres which helps reduce the costs as an organisation for housing the cat. • This national desexing and microchipping programme, 'snip n chip' provides vouchers to help people with the costs. Council is being approached to see if it is willing to work with the SPCA and help provide funding for the programme. • It was noted this programme had the ability to target specific areas and helps reducing feline behaviour issues in the community. 			
Questions/Points of Clarification:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Hall asked if the Taranaki Regional Council had been contacted and what their role would be in this work? Dr Sumner noted there had mixed reactions from regional councils with a few being approached during this LTP season. It is evolving and some regional councils may have plans that companion cats are required to be desexed and microchipped. It is also companion cats that contribute to the stray cat populations which is why councils should have a role in this work. Areas with high biodiversity can be targeted to protect wildlife. She was optimistic that in time more regional councils will want to support this. Councillor Hall noted the impact on biodiversity and wildlife was why she thought this would sit in their space. 			

As the presentations finished earlier than anticipated the committee agreed to deliberate on the submission from the Parihaka Network at this point.

Parihaka Network

- Councillor Boyde asked if council provided any in-kind work as there is a reasonable amount of support that can be provided through this, such as the electronic sign. The Director – Community Services noted that this was offered to the group last year as in general any community events are offered basic communications. She noted the bond had been waived for the hire of the war memorial centre. The library does do events leading up to Parihaka Day directly with schools such as planting seeds and making flags and banners and this work had been outlined to Heritage Taranaki/the Parihaka Network last year.
- Councillor Hall asked for clarification on the relationship between Heritage Taranaki and the Parihaka Network. The District Mayor noted they worked in tandem and there were several visits from the groups last year. He noted that the answer to his question about discussing this event with Whakaahurangi Marae had received a very vague answer. He noted it had been questioned if it was appropriate to celebrate Parihaka Day away from Parihaka. He did not support providing financial assistance but would support administrative or communication support. Councillor Erwood agreed.
- Councillor Boyde noted that in-kind support was still a financial contribution as it took up resource time. Ms Whareaitu noted that to provide this support it is important that the organisation provides the right information in a timely manner, and in which case there would be minimal costs associated with this support.

Adjourned at 11.53am and reconvened at 12.35pm.

Submission #	Name	Organisation	Page Number
57	Michael Carr & Marina Healey	Sport Taranaki	306
<p>Points noted in presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This submission is about continuing the conversation around regional leadership around Taranaki. • There are exciting developments in the council's LTP. • It was important to take advantage of the Taranaki Facilities Consortium (TFC) that has members from all the councils and funders to bring to life the facilities strategy. He reiterated what a great opportunity this was for partnerships. Sport Taranaki have been asked to be the operational arm of this group. The TFC provides a great opportunity to get a detailed view of a project and take it out of an emotive state. • The maintenance of the facilities identified in the plan are an important part and Sport Taranaki supports the TET Multi Sports Centre and the War Memorial Centre being maintained. • Sport Taranaki urge council to always look for physical activity opportunities including through transport, three waters, housing and town centre upgrades. This highlights the fact when doing something like this there is the opportunity to consider walking and cycling trails and thinking of how to use this to promote active activity. Sport Taranaki are happy to work with council on this and help council promote the importance of physical activity. • Mr Carr acknowledged the King Edward Park reserve management plan and that it had been great to be part of the process and see some of the tweaks made as a result of the consultation process. • It is important to see active communities and making sure infrastructure is efficient, connected and sustained. • Ms Healey noted the support for community partnerships need to have robust planning before they go seeking funding, which is where the TFC can help. The group has evolved and is about to announce an independent chair. Work is starting to meet the vision for a collaborative network of facilities across the region. It is also setting direction for regional facility plans which have been done for equestrian and are being undertaken for aquatics. <p>Questions/Points of Clarification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Hall asked how many Stratford community groups had touched base around building facilities or establishing their own space? Ms Healey noted they were working with the Stratford Park on their projects to be able to really understand the project and what the other areas are that they need to dive deeper into. • Councillor Boyde noted the comments in the submission that the fees and charges for Wai o Rua – Stratford Aquatic Centre were cheaper than other pools around the region. Mr Carr congratulated the team who were trying to be really innovative in ways to activate that space. Ms Healey noted that she travelled from Waitara to be able to access the aqua cycles. 			
67	Dr Neil de Wet	National Public Health Service - Taranaki	335
<p>Points noted in presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main objective today is to provide a bit more context on public health and the rationale for the thinking in the submission. • The organisation has been restructured and is now the National Public Health Service within Health NZ. Taranaki is part of the Te Manawa Taki region. • Public Health and the National Public Health Service is about health that happens outside of the hospital and healthcare system. Public health is a science and art of preventing diseases and improving the health of a whole population through the organised efforts of society. It is about looking at a community as a whole, and what society does as a whole. It is very much around an environment that helps communities and what helps produce the health outcomes. Health care services contribute 25% to shaping health, where social, economic and environmental factors are about 60%. • It is 'doing for health what an individual can not do on their own'. • Public health started with sanitary engineering and progressed to biomedical and primary care, environmental risk assessment and management, health promotion and social determination of health. • The whole concept shows that council has a lead role as a key agency in shaping health outcomes for communities now. Public Health very strongly supports the activities that will help shape health outcomes. 			

69	Ben Ingram	Taranaki Housing Initiative Trust	464
<p>Points noted in presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The trust was established with a goal of unlocking more affordable housing options and working with partner agencies. • He commended and acknowledged council being proactive in the housing space particularly with the council led subdivision. • We have an ageing population, over 65s make up 19% of the total population in Stratford but by 2035 it is expected to make up over 24% of it. If council was to continue with its current level of service the minimum number of housing units by 2024 would be an additional 3 units but this doesn't address the wait lists. To match South Taranaki and New Plymouth's levels, Stratford would require another 20 units. • Council is a critical piece of the housing puzzle and needs to consider what we can do rather than what we have to do. • The public housing register has grown from 9 in December 2018 to 45 in December 2023, a rate increase of 400% and is one of the highest growing in New Zealand. This does not reflect the real need and could be about half the true figure. • Could council enable and incentivise more community housing? Partnering long term with community housing providers, waiving consent fees or selling council land to housing providers with specific parameters according to community housing need. These incentives would not have a significant impact on rate payers. • A scale development with a percentage of the development being for community housing will result in a mixed typology, some houses are sold on the private market, some for social housing and some for older people. This is all achievable. • It is important to create solutions for current housing issues now. This is about housing our people. • Mr Ingram noted he was looking forward to continuing work with council to explore opportunities with developers and housing developers. He urged council to consider how safe, warm, affordable housing contributes to a safe, vibrant and resilient community. <p>Questions/Points of Clarification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Hall noted the newness of the trust and asked how they have been partnering with the neighbouring councils? Mr Ingram noted the first thing that was done was meeting with the community housing providers and then the trust was tasked with setting up a new register of community housing providers. A partnership agreement was formed with Habitat for Humanity and looking for ways to unlock affordable housing for rental as well. We need to get community housing providers here. The trust is taking a regional approach as the issues are equal across the board, however Stratford is growing faster. New Plymouth District Council does not own much residential land so Stratford and South Taranaki are in a better position to enable growth in this sense. It is not about council owning the housing issues but an enabling and collaborative approach. • The District Mayor asked how many Kainga Ora houses were built in Stratford in the past few years. Mr Ingram noted the figures were on a regional level and he would provide specific Stratford figures by email. It was important to keep central government accountable for housing in our area. • Mr Ingram noted the benefits of community housing providers is they can vet who is on the list and there are also more opportunities to look at purchasing to move to the next level. This removes the stigma around community housing. 			
72	Mark Hooper	Taranaki Federated Farmers	472
<p>Points noted in presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As representatives of the farming community they appreciate the difficult situation in which this plan has been formed. They supported the less than 5% rates increase last year but noted that the 15% proposed this year speaks to the extraordinary times of the past few years. • They support the back to basics principles. • Focussing on good expenditure is essential. • Rooding rates are a big impact on farmers, at more than \$10,000 per annum for dairy farms it shows how much reliance council has on these rates for these services. • The change in valuations for sheep and beef farms are a market distortion credited to a few forestry sales rather than capital increases. This will be difficult for these farmers. They urge council to consider introducing differentials to smooth the differentials between urban and rural communities as council currently only has the UAGC to smooth the inconsistencies. • It is good to see regional emphasis on the planning behind three waters. 			

- The raw water delivery line upgrade seems reasonable to plan for but the comments about tunnel collapse seem misplaced given nothing substantial has happened.
- Concern was noted about the considerable expense that can go into developing a sustainability policy which was a nice to have.
- Urged investment in clear infrastructure that keeps our region productive and active.
- Have previously agreed and supported the differential on forestry but noted concern on the plan to expand to farmland with 10 or more hectares of forestry and see this having the potential to add to an already major rates bill for farms in this situation.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Harris noted it was tricky to distinguish differentials for different industries but that the problem was the rating system and would welcome support from Federated Farmers for any high level advocacy for a change.
- It was clarified that if a 200ha block had 10ha of forestry the differential would only be charged on the portion that was forestry. For the rating purposes these areas will be split from the properties and revalued.
- Mr Hooper noted that Federated Farmers on a national level was very involved with rating system discussions. He noted there is a significant amount of variations on how the rates are applied throughout the country. Coming into the 2025 elections, Federated Farmers will be developing a local election platform with a recommended plan for a lobby base for councils. This will provide a better understanding of what the opportunities are.

77	Graeme Green		493
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Mr Green did not attend the hearing.

58	Justin Salisbury	Stratford District Youth Council	316
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Points noted in presentation:

- Advertising for youth week began last week. This is a week where youth are acknowledged and celebrated for who they are. There are three awesome and engaging events planned and each year it gets bigger and better.
- To make these events happen the Youth Council received funding and has dedicated support from a council officer. These two avenues of support are key pillars that help the Stratford District Youth Council stand strong and proud for 21 years.
- Pathways for youth councillors have included working within a political sector with former youth councillors working for councils and parliament.
- Over 21 years the Youth Council has been an integral part of council and has commented on and made submissions to plans. Its most recent submissions are to this LTP and the Whanganui District Council for which a youth councillor is travelling to present at their hearing.
- The Youth Council has also made submissions on changes to the district and by actively engaging on projects such as the bike park they can accurately pass on views to council.
- An invitation to all youth council meetings was made to all elected members. These are held the first Tuesday of the month from 4.30pm – 6pm.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde noted the Stratford District Youth Council is hugely respected and every councillor was extremely proud of it.
- Councillor Hall noted that they have heard from other councils the value that we get from having a youth council so it goes beyond our district. She asked if the decision in Whanganui to remove the youth council really highlighted the value that they have? Mr Salisbury noted that what the youth council does here is really important and really significant. To last for 21 years means they are doing something right and improving the Stratford community. Hearing that Whanganui is discontinuing their youth council has been really discouraging.

31	Mike Procter		168
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Points noted in presentation:

- Mr Procter fully supported the slogan of back to basics and being realistic. The rates increase show a very difficult times and shows councils expenditure becoming unsustainable. He noted despite the slogan he did not see any mentions of services being reduced or cut. He had asked an officer and the response was the closing of the AA desk on Saturday mornings which he did not think would have made much of a difference.
- Radical and bold leadership is needed. Council should not punish rate payers.

- The contribution to Venture Taranaki and the Stratford Business Association should be cut to zero. The Percy Thomson Trust contribution should be cut by 50% - its put on interesting exhibitions but the cost to Stratford is too high.
- The Aerodrome should be user pays as he questioned the benefit to the community.
- Council needs to cut back on expenditure and cut out nice to haves,.
- He understood the need to strengthen buildings such as the TET Centre but noted this is a perceived risk. He asked what council did when the legislation was being drafted to point out Taranaki does not have the same earthquake profile as Wellington? An eruption was more of a risk.
- He asked what due diligence had been undertaken in 2019 when the council took ownership of the TET to identify shortcomings before they took over a building, given that the building act came in in 2017. Option 4 could be done for a savings of three quarters of a million dollars. Do we really need a civil defence base? It is good enough for people to be using it on a day to day basis. He asked a number of people who lived in Stratford when the last state of emergency was declared and no one could remember it ever being declared, nor could he find any records of it being declared. He would like to revisit the needs to the building.
- One of the submitters, Stratford Park, states the park should be included in the plan as it will require roading, sewer and water services that the council will provide. This will be expensive for the rate payers. Why was this not included in the plan? Or the economic impact report for the park? He asked where he can obtain those details from, or the contact details of Philip Macey.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was noted that the Covid-19 response was the last emergency here, with the June 2015 flooding events before that.
- The Chief Executive clarified that the IL4 requirements for a Civil Defence facility were notably higher than IL3. IL3 is for normal everyday use, IL4 includes everything from roof loading to seismic assessments. This level is for buildings you would expect to spring into action after an event rather than waiting for a structural engineer to clear the building for use.
- It was clarified that roof loading was the additional weight on the roof from ash or snow.
- Councillor Hall noted the comments regarding the cost cutting in the budgets. She asked if clarification was able to be provided as councillors went through a very intense process to cut everything they could. She asked how this can be reflected back when we consult in the future? Mr Hanne noted the meeting minutes recorded this activity. There had been many meetings where councillors and officers went through budgets line by line to find savings. He would support reflecting this better in the future.
- Mr Procter acknowledged that a lot of work has been done but it is not evident to us reading the documents or supporting information that this work has been done.

The meeting adjourned at 1.40pm and reconvened at 2.00pm.

The Property Officer, Roading Asset Manager, Parks and Reserves Officer, Sustainability Advisor, Communications Advisor, the Corporate Accountant and the Services Asset Manager joined the meeting at 2.00pm.

The Deputy Mayor noted that councillors had received the full submissions. The submission summary and management response was available in hard copy as well. The structure for deliberations will be to start with the identified key issues. Councillors will go through the submission summary for questions and points of clarification for each item.

10. Consideration of Submissions

Attachments

- 10.1** Long Term Plan timing – overview **page 33**
- 10.2** Option Summary **page 34**
- 10.3** Submission Summary and Management Feedback **page 37**
- 10.4** Public Submissions **pages 71 - 511**
- 10.5** Stratford District Council Internal Submission **page 512**

Discussion

Council needs to consider submissions as part of the consultation process.

Categories for Discussion

Key Issues

- Earthquake Prone Buildings
 - TET Multi-Sports Centre
 - War Memorial Centre
 - Glockenspiel
 - TSB Pool Complex
- Maintaining our Rooding Network
- Maintaining Resilient Water Infrastructure

Other Matters

- Town Centre upgrade
- Brecon Road bridge
- Forestry Differential
- Support for External Organisations
 - Stratford Business Association
 - Percy Thomson Trust
 - Stratford Park Project
 - SPCA
- Fees and Charges
- Internal Submission
- Other matters raised in submissions

Earthquake Prone Buildings – General

- Councillor Hall asked for clarification on the TSB Pool Complex and if it was more cost effective to demolish rather than to retain it? Mr Hanne noted that even with retaining the building for another purpose the cost of demolition will not go away. The building stays with council as it is on reserve land and it will just delay the time where council has to cover that cost. Council could sell the infrastructure without selling the site however officers do not see an opportunity for a successful and economically viable way to repurpose the building which would not result in a failure. A failure in this would see it return to council ownership as it is on reserve land. Going by the history and state of the building he did not see it as an option. The building is identified as earthquake prone and if the new facility had not opened this would have been seen as not fit for purpose and a notice to fix issued. These issues would be faced by any future user of the building.
- Councillor Boyde noted the three words used for this building were 'end of life'. He could not see any point in repurposing it for the amount it would cost.
- Councillor Jones asked for more clarification on the liabilities and risks that council would face if it was to sell the building? Mr Hanne noted the most likely risk was the fact it remains on council land, the operational risk would transfer to a future owner but if the entity was unsuccessful and financially not able to operate the facility it would then come back to council ownership. Council could go through a reserve revocation which would have to go through public consultation and then to the Minister of Conservation and then it could be sold freehold.
- The Deputy Mayor noted that submission 8 referred to alternative locations for a civil defence facility and asked if there had been any conversations or other options explored to go into partnership for this type of facility? Mr Hanne noted there had not been any conversations with the Taranaki Regional Council, but council has had discussions with Fire NZ who would be open to a joint development however the cost for the extra requirements and operational elements would fall on council and it would not be financially viable compared to incorporating this into a facility council already owns.
- The District Mayor noted that the TET building as a civil defence building also has the availability of catering facilities, shower and toilet blocks and in a worst case scenario it could provide temporary accommodation. None of this would be possible at the regional council. Mr Hanne noted this was correct as council is looking to provide a place to respond out of and a welfare centre that the community can access if required. The reason the council admin building is not designated is that in any response the district will still need its council to function, particularly councillors meeting to receive information. This would be the same at the regional council.
- Mr Hanne noted that a long term building cannot be designated as a civil defence facility if it is not at IL4. If an earthquake occurred now then full checks of the building would be required before it could be used, this could take days. However in a flooding event a response could be run out of there.

- Councillor Beck asked if it would be doing a disservice to the community to not have a building ready to operate? Mr Hanne said it would be.
- The Deputy Mayor referred to submission 15 and noted it would be valuable to get comment around the process for how a building is deemed earthquake prone and where the information is taken from? Mr Hanne noted this was anchored in legislation and sets a specific percentage requirement of current building standards to be met to not be identified as earthquake risk or earthquake prone. The assessors are structural engineers who have done specific qualifications and also comply with conflict of interest regulations to ascertain their independence and objectivity.
- Councillor Boyde noted that there had been suggestions for a more appropriate location for the glockenspiel. Mr Hanne noted this had been discussed with elected members who have decided the most appropriate location. There are two more LTPs to go so it would be more appropriate for the generation of the time to make the decision on location. Councillor Boyde noted he did not want to see money and time wasted on Prospero Place when the community may feel that repurposing the glockenspiel into that area was a good option.
- It was clarified that the glockenspiel has been closed to the public and is only accessed for scheduled maintenance. The War Memorial Centre now carries a sign on the door noting its current status.
- The District Mayor noted there was a common theme throughout the submissions questioning the validity of the engineer assessments. There are also a number of comments of 'if they are so dangerous why don't we close them now?' or 'don't see the issue they haven't fallen down in the past'. He questioned if council should put some emphasis on the fact these are building code regulations in response to government legislation and our role is to administer and implement the rules. It is not council's function to question this and this should be explained to our submitters.
- Councillor Hall noted there had been a lot of learnings in this space since the Christchurch earthquakes. Mr Hanne agreed noting that one of the key elements of the design of the TET stadium was an acceptable design pre-Christchurch but that the design has been found to have caused issues there, it is a learning experience for the industry. Councillor Hall noted that after such a traumatic event people fear, and loose trust in, the system that is set up to ensure people are safe.
- Mr Hanne noted that engineers have stated the War Memorial Centre does not meet the requirements to be brought up to IL4. It would be a more suitable building if there was not inherent flaws within the design of the building.
- Removal or demolition of the TSB Pool Complex would need to go out for tender.
- The Deputy Mayor asked if there was the ability to lift the TSB Pool Complex and move it to a new location if someone wanted to repurpose it? Mr Hanne noted the portal frame was the only part that could be considered to be moved but this would be a significant effort to free the frames from the concrete. None of the Perspex cladding would survive being moved as it is 40 years old and extremely brittle. Tenderers would need to consider how they could make a revenue streams from the salvageable bits.
- A public tender could be run for removal, but it would need to be very clear on the health and safety requirements given that it is located within a reserve, as well as the expectation of what the site was to be left like.
- Mr Hanne noted he would be fundamentally uncomfortable leaving this work until Year 9 as the council could not demonstrate it has made the best effort in protecting people.
- The TET stadium could be used in a civil defence emergency as long as it was not an earthquake.
- Councillor Boyde asked if the design of the TET building should be considered at the same time to make it more fit for purpose? Mr Hanne noted that additional budget requirements would be needed. If there were any potential improvements identified then these could be brought back for council consideration, but additionally there might be improvements that could be done for no additional costs.
- It was noted that the TSB Pool Complex security costs were not significant, however vandalism repairs were costing more.
- Councillor Boyde confirmed the TSB Pool Complex could not be a herd home for the council farm.
- Demolition of the TSB Pool Complex will be competitively tendered so locals will be able to tender.

TET Multi Sports Centre

- Councillor Jones asked for clarification on the obligation of having a civil defence centre and the cost of going to IL4 vs the potential building of a dedicated civil defence centre. Mr Hanne noted that we are not obligated to have a civil defence facility but we are required under legislation to be in a position to support our community during an adverse event and it is up to council to define how that looks. If council chooses not to have a dedicated building then the first thing to be done after an event is to try and find a suitable location. After an earthquake there could be a multi day delay to find a suitable location when the community needs support and help in the first 6 hours. Council needs to be able to justify and live with the decision it makes at the time. Based on the current assessments it would not be cheaper to build an IL4 facility, in fact it would be notably higher. By

investing the money in a facility that is already used on a daily basis then it would make that facility sufficient and assist with insurance and depreciation.

Recommendations

1. THAT the decision recommended regarding *Earthquake Prone Buildings* – the TET Multisports Centre be **Option 1** *Focus on this building first. Strengthen the whole building to meet the building standard and, in addition, strengthen at least the Stadium component of the building to the highest level so it can be used as a Civil Defence facility in Year 3 (2026/27)*

BOYDE/HALL
Carried
P&S/24/133

Points noted in discussion:

- Councillor Boyde noted this was the best option going forward and did not require any more discussion.
- Councillor Hall noted that knowing the state of our buildings is key in decision making so councillors know the risks. She noted she struggled with the timeframes but believes council has an obligation with the knowledge of the condition of the buildings and it was important to keep people safe asap. She did not think people should look to the past for the likelihood of an event as the future is very different and planning should be done accordingly.
- The District Mayor noted that most of the submissions against this option were based on doubts on the engineering levels. There is no evidence to show the engineering reports are wrong. The other consideration is financial and given this will be loan funded the rating impact will be the cost of servicing the loan over time.
- Councillor Harris supported the preferred option. Reactive measures and learning from other events should be the very least our community should expect. This decision is largely based on perceived risk and the fact it hasn't happened does not mean it won't happen. Council needs to look at what could happen to our community and at the knowledge that there are elements in that building that failed. Additionally council is unable to fully insure the building at the moment, so if there was a fire the community would be at risk of losing that asset completely, or facing extra financial burdens to replace it.
- Councillor Beck supported option 1. He did not want to see our civil defence have to go out of our area if we can't comply after a major earthquake.
- Councillor Erwood supported the motion.

War Memorial Centre

- Councillor Jones noted there had been discussions about why two facilities were needed so close together. He asked if there was any significant heritage to the building and if it was worth spending the budget all on one building. Mr Sutherland noted the War Memorial Centre was not listed in the district plan as a heritage building. Mr Hanne noted an exercise could be undertaken to clarify the different individual tasks the buildings fulfil.
- Councillor Sandford noted that when planning the build of the TET Multi Sports Centre, basketball had been asked to come in, however the War Memorial Centre was very much their home with any overflow going to the Stratford High School. This hall also serves a purpose for bigger groups and functions.
- Councillor Jones noted the TET Multi Sports centre had spent a bit of money for basketball. He clarified he was questioning if the War Memorial was potentially another end of life building and the funds could be allocated to make the TET a multiuse building.
- Councillor Beck noted he would like to see this as the status quo. He believed most residents would have the same view and it is iconic and serves a purpose for large funerals, weddings etc. There was another Long Term Plan process before this investment.
- It was clarified that Option 1 was to get the building to above 66% of the required standard, option 3 would be to get it to above 34%.
- Mr Hanne noted that if council only brings the centre up to the minimum level (option 3) then there was a chance the requirements could change and the centre would not be compliant at a later date. Strengthening it to a higher level provided a better chance of staying within the compliant levels and provided better value for money.

Recommendations

2. THAT the decision recommended regarding *Earthquake Prone Buildings* – the War Memorial Centre be **Option 1** *Strengthen the building to the minimum level to no longer be considered Earthquake Prone and Earthquake Risk and limit Council's exposure to future seismic strengthening legislation changes in Year 5 (2028/29).*

HALL/BECK
Carried
P&S/24/134

Points noted in discussion:

- Councillor Hall noted how well utilised this facility was and that it has tremendous value to the community.
- The District Mayor noted this building has been there since the 1950s and has served the community well. There is a difference in the function of the War Memorial Centre as it is used for large scale functions, displays, shows and all sorts of large gatherings. The two small rooms are regularly used for smaller scale meetings. He would hate to see the building disappear as Stratford would simply not have enough facilities. He noted that if the minimum earthquake strengthening was achieved (option 3) then it would still eliminate some potential usage in the future. The preferred option gives some degree of future proofing and a long term approach. This is the most practical, realistic and strategic response.
- Councillor Erwood supported the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 3.13pm and reconvened at 3.49pm.

The Parks and Reserves Officer, Sustainability Advisor, Communications Advisor and the Services Asset Manager left the meeting at 3.13pm.

Glockenspiel

- Councillor Sandford noted that some really good points had been raised by Mr Reed in his submission. He would like future councils to be able to see what was raised during this consultation. Mr Hanne noted this could be included in the resolution.
- Councillor Boyde noted his concern that the community should decide where it is located. If Prospero Place is being improved then there should be the provision for the glockenspiel to be shifted. His preferred option was to push the work out.

Recommendations

3. THAT the decision recommended regarding *Earthquake Prone Buildings* – the Glockenspiel be **Option 1** *Strengthen the building to the minimum level to no longer be considered Earthquake Prone and Earthquake Risk and limit Council's exposure to future seismic strengthening legislation changes in Year 10 (2033/34), alongside a review of the location and design of the Glockenspiel.*

BOYDE/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/24/135

Points noted in discussion:

- Councillor Dudley noted that there were comments in the submissions that the glockenspiel needed to be tidied and painted as it is looking shabby.

TSB Pool Complex

Recommendations

4. THAT the decision recommended regarding *Earthquake Prone Buildings* – the TSB Pool Complex Centre be Option 1 Demolish the existing structures and return the area in King Edward Park back to green space in 2024/25 in Year 1 (2024/25)

DUDLEY/HARRIS
2 *against*
Carried
P&S/24/136

Points noted in discussion:

- Councillor Dudley noted that while she would love to see it repurposed and agreed that an indoor training facility would be great, the building is past its use by date and is unsafe. She noted that if a community group could fund its own indoor training facility on that space then that could be considered in the future.
- Councillor Harris noted that councillors had talked about the potential to recover or have the building removed as part of the tender process. Mr Hanne noted this was the opportunity to include this in the recommendation.
- Councillor Harris noted she was supportive of the removal of the building and distinctly remembered the public comments on how poor the condition of the building was when it was in use. She thought it was surprising how many thought it could be reused.
- The District Mayor supported removing the building. He noted he liked the suggestion that parts of it could be moved and was happy to let that happen first before reinstating the site. There were a number of requests for it to be repurposed and a number of suggestions for alternative use. He noted the officer responses noting that outwardly the building looked ok but that it was deteriorating and that once inside it was in worse condition with the additional challenge of the concrete pools. There was a suggestion of leaving the small outdoor pool to use the area as a dog park which he was supportive of given there was already fencing and parking there. Having a dog park could also result in removing the privilege of having dogs off their leashes elsewhere in the park which would be of benefit to past submitters. He requested that items such as the small pool be considered prior to demolition. Mr Hanne noted that unless the councillors wanted to include a dog park in the LTP the resolution was currently fine. If there is a strong desire for a dog park and there are any elements that could be retained then budget will need to be allocated. It was requested that a discussion be held on what infrastructure could be suitable for a dog park.
- Councillor Jones noted there were a lot of submissions for repurposing. He had started to question selling the building off, but being reserve land and the building reverting back to council if a project falls over means the council will still be liable for the demolition costs in the end.
- Councillor Erwood noted it was a facility that could potentially be reused and felt it would be remiss to not explore those options further. He would be voting against this motion.
- Councillor Jones reiterated if council sold the building but the project fell over the demolition costs would realistically still be there. Delaying the demolition would still have the same risk and cost to council. Mr Hanne noted that apart from normal cost escalation, if a purchaser filled in the concrete pools then that could significantly add to the demolition costs. The project could be moved to the next LTP process to allow a group to do something with it. Councillor Jones requested an amendment to put the building out for sale to remove council's liability, but if this fails then council could still demolish. If there is no interest in the building then it is still set for demolition but if there was a viable option then council should pursue it. Councillor Beck noted this would need to have a timeframe attached to it.
- Councillor Sandford noted there were three words for this building 'end of life'. He felt councillors needed to be realistic as they know how bad the building is inside.
- Councillor Jones noted the sale of the building could then cover some of the demolition costs if the purchaser walked away.
- Councillor Boyde noted the idea was attractive and a facility would be fantastic but that the Stratford Park was looking to build options for other sports. He absolutely supported the preferred option and felt this was wasting time and resource discussing it.
- Mr Hanne noted that there had not been any groups approach council about buying the building to repurpose, however he was aware a number of councillors had been approached by sports groups.

- The District Mayor noted that the cost to get the building up to standard would need to be covered by any group wishing to repurpose it. That would be before refilling the pools and redressing the floor.
- Councillor Jones noted he was happy to move an amendment to the motion as this was a result of the feedback received in submissions.

Recommendations

Amendment to motion:

5. THAT the decision recommended regarding *Earthquake Prone Buildings* – the TSB Pool Complex Centre be to tender the building for sale for recreational use, in situ with a suitable lease to be negotiated with the successful buyer. If Council was unsuccessful in the sale within six (6) months, demolition of the building is to proceed.

JONES ERWOOD
3 for
8 against
Lost

- Councillor Watt asked if it was legal to have a clause in a sale contract that if it is not done then it will be demolished. Mr Hanne noted that a suitable lease with future renewal of the lease dependent on certain outcomes would be the appropriate approach. If an entity was to buy it and was unable to complete the work then it was likely they would walk away.
- Councillor Harris asked if any successful applicant would be required to present a case and were they permitted to construct within the building as any additional construction would add to the demolition costs. Mr Hanne noted that property rights are quite clear and that once someone takes ownership as long as they are operating towards the intended purpose of the reserve, council could not insert themselves into that.
- Councillor Hall noted that a set timeframe would be a deciding factor for her. It was suggested to allow the initial lease to run 2 – 3 years for allow for meaningful improvements but the renewal could be dependent on the beneficial use of the facility.
- It was noted that an approximate cost escalation for a 3 year delay in demolition could be between 5-10%.
- It was noted that as this was reserve funded there was no impact to rates if the demolition was moved to Year 2.

The Property Officer left the meeting at 4.23pm.

Maintaining Our Roading Network

- The District Mayor noted that council officers were currently discussing with NZTA the potential location for two crossing points between the round-a-bouts on Broadway. This would include the removal of the existing cross in the centre. This is all yet to be determined but council has until 30 June to have a commitment to this in place.
- It was noted that the 45 degree rule was not a given. Every soil type has its own slope that you work to and sometimes the site has to be allowed for.
- Councillor Boyde noted it was evident that a lot of people still don't realise the difference between local road and state highways.
- The Roading Asset Manager noted the defect liability for a spot contract was 12 months and 6 months for the maintenance contract. If the road surface fails then the contractor is liable to redo the work at their cost. It was not clear to residents that this repair work was often done at the contractors expense. It was in their best interest to do the job properly, once.
- Councillor Boyde highlighted submission 31 noting that it was deplorable that NZTA were dumping the responsibility of special roads and requested that the District Mayor provide this feedback to them.
- Councillor Dudley noted there were quite a few comments regarding contractors and requested this be shared during the regular meetings with them.
- The District Mayor noted the overwhelming feedback that the roads need to be well maintained.

Recommendations

6. THAT the decision recommended regarding *Maintaining Our Roading Network* be **Option 1 Retain the level of service for our roads and footpaths at existing or similar levels to 2023/24. This results in a 14% increase to our operational maintenance budget and requires \$4.2million in targeted rate funding in Year 1 of the LTP. While it is an increase to our ratepayers, it allows us to maintain a safe and connected transport network for all users.**

VOLZKE/HALL
Carried
P&S/24/137

Points noted in discussion:

- It was noted that the Financial Assistance Rate was reviewed every 2-3 years.

Recommendations

7. In accordance with Standing Order 4.3, it is acknowledged that the meeting has continued for six (6) hours (including adjournments) and it is recommended that the meeting continue

BOYDE/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/24/138

- Councillor Jones noted he supported continuing with the meeting, however he noted his concern that continuing late can affect decision making and staff wellbeing. It was agreed that this would be reviewed as the meeting continued.

Maintaining Resilient Water Infrastructure

- It was noted that fluoridation is a central government decision.
- It was clarified that stormwater is rated district wide.
- The District Mayor noted it was important to clarify that the three waters reforms were still happening, it would just be under another name.
- Councillor Jones noted the submission about delaying electronic water meters. Mr Hanne noted he would advise against this or not continue with meters as manually reading the meters is labour intensive and creates errors.

Recommendations

8. THAT the decision recommended regarding *Maintaining Resilient Water Infrastructure* be **Option 1 To future-proof Stratford's water supply, Council plans to replace the approximately 100 years old raw water delivery line to the Stratford Water Treatment Plant in Year 1 (2025/26) and Year 2 (2025/26)**

BOYDE/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/24/139

- Councillor Boyde noted that water is a scarce commodity and this will put Stratford in a much stronger position for local water done well.

Forestry Differential Targeted Rate

- It was clarified that council had already adopted a draft decision to expand the definition and increase the amount. Unless there are any changes proposed then it will go through to the final document as proposed. The Rates Remission policy is currently out for consultation and will be deliberated at a later date. Now is the time to change any element of the amount or targeted property.
- Councillor Jones noted about the ability to add transportation routes to forestry contracts but that council has no control over that or the ability to police it and therefore it was a factor that could not be considered.
- Councillor Harris supported the proposed rate remaining and consideration be given for remissions as part of the Rates Remission Policy.
- Councillor Boyde supported retaining the proposed rate.
- The District Mayor endorsed what has been decided to date and the discussions about properties who think they should be exempt should be addressed with the Rate Remission Policy.
- The District Mayor noted it was not clear who was being charged and how much is being charged. Communication needs to be clearer that this differential only applies to the portion of the farm that is forestry and not the entire farm.
- Councillor Harris noted that a number of other councils are looking at a similar rate. This validates what has been done so far and revealed a massive gap in the system. It is important to strongly advocate for some strong movement by central government to fix this. She noted this differential was nowhere near enough to equalise what is happening but it is moving in the right direction.

Internal Submission

Fees and Charges

- Currently the Learn2Swim instruction is charged as an activity fee and a separate entrance fee. Staff have been very clear they would prefer a combined fee of the two. Any entries that have been purchased can be credited back.
- Councillor Dudley noted she did not support this fee. She understood it was easier for staff but when you are paying up front for 10 weeks that is a charge you cannot get back if a child is sick and therefore away from swimming.
- The Deputy Mayor asked if staffing was based on the enrolments and if kids are away sick then council was still paying the staff. The Director – Community Services asked if a refund process was also introduced with proof such as a doctors certificate? Councillor Dudley noted this would be difficult in terms of going to the doctors for a certificate. She also noted the charge was quite a big hit when paid in one amount.
- Councillor Boyde noted the concerns discussed but agreed that some empathy needed to be shown by staff. He felt this was a management call but there should be a provision for refunding if they are paying up front. He did support the reasoning behind this change.
- It was clarified there are payment options to spread the cost across the term such as direct debits.
- Councillor Sandford supported this change. This is clean and precise. If your child can't attend that that's it. This is a flat fee and is nice and easy.
- Councillor Hall supported the change but also supported giving management discretion for applying a refund as appropriate. She felt it would need to be considered for circumstances where a child may be away for 6 weeks (as an example).
- The District Mayor agreed that one fee is a much simpler process but noted his concern about paying \$145 up front, especially with multiple kids. It's important that people know they can pay in instalments.
- It is proposed to amend the Private Hire fee for Wai o Rua – Stratford Aquatic Centre to include the multipurpose rooms.
- It was noted that there are no longer any facsimile services in council and it was requested to remove this from the fees and charges.
- It was requested that the War Memorial hourly rates be amended to *per hour or part thereof*.
- It was requested that the Aerodrome commercial strip hire be amended to \$10.00 per tonne of fertiliser as recommended by the Farm and Aerodrome committee.
- The Roding License to Occupy rate of 5.75% of land value per annum has been uncollectable. It is requested to amend this to \$260.00 per annum.

Recommendations

9. THAT the Learn 2 Swim Instruction Fees and Charges be amended to \$145 Per Term including entry.
BECK/BOYDE
1 against
Carried
P&S/24/140
10. THAT Private Hire (Wai o Rua – Stratford Aquatic Centre) be amended to include the multipurpose rooms.
HALL/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/24/141
11. THAT facsimile fees and charges be removed from the Fees and Charges schedule.
ERWOOD/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/24/142
12. THAT the War Memorial Centre hourly rates for hire be amended to include *per hour or part there of*.
BOYDE/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/24/143
13. THAT the name of the Housing for Elderly activity be updated to Housing for Older Persons.
HALL/BECK
Carried
P&S/24/144
14. THAT the Aerodrome commercial strip hire be amended to \$10.00 per tonne of fertiliser.
ERWOOD/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/24/145
15. THAT the Roding License to Occupy Rental be amended to \$260.00 per annum.
BECK/ERWOOD
Carried
P&S/24/146

Better Off Funding – Town Centre Projects

- Council has been notified that the Better Off Funding needs to be reallocated to water related work. Councillors will need to decide what to do with those projects that will no longer have funding associated with them because of this.
- It was clarified that officers were reasonably confident the Prospero Place will be in council ownership by the end of Year 1. The Deputy Mayor noted it has been loud and clear in the public feedback that people want to see things happening there. Mr Hanne confirmed that the plans will require community engagement.
- It was noted that this was currently allocated to be funded by grants, however loan funding can be obtained if required and would not be drawn down unless it was needed.

Recommendations

16. THAT Officers proceed with planning and provide budget for minor works for the Stratford 2035/Prospero Place/Broadway projects but leave majority of budget decision for Annual Plan – \$300k (Year 1) – loan funding if required (Option C).
HALL/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/24/147

Better Off Funding - Brecon Road Bridge

- At the moment the development of the business case required to apply for NZTA co-funding and preliminary site investigation and design work is budgeted for in Year 4 and was based on Better Off Funding. Councillors need to consider if they wish to continue with this or stop the project at this point.
- It was noted that \$7,000 had been approximately spent on a entry point business case outline. This is then sent to NZTA and if approved the next step is the single stage business case to apply for the 63% funding, this will cost about \$150,000. If NZTA decline it in the early stages then it will become a council decision to proceed or not.
- The entry paper is not a detailed plan and the structural design will be wholly dependent on the ground condition, therefore there are no cost adjustments at this point.
- It was clarified that if co-funding was obtained and the project was brought forward the impact on rates would be: Year 1 (unaffected), Year 2 (unaffected), Year 3 (increased to 5.1%), Year 4 (increase to 5.5%), Year 5 (increase to 5.9%), Year 6 (reduced to 4.3%), Year 7 (reduced to 2.2%) and Year 8 (neutral).
- Councillor Hall noted that this bridge has been in the plans for a long time and while she acknowledged there was not a lot of feedback to bring it forward she felt that people were not talking about it as we haven't asked about it a lot. It doesn't have a big impact if it was brought forward to Year 2.
- Councillor Boyde asked what had happened with the costs in the last three years. The Project Manager noted that bridging costs have increased quite dramatically. Councillor Boyde noted he had always been against this project, one of the reasons is costs and no guarantee for funding, and then there is not much support for this through the submissions. He felt it would be taking a huge risk to borrow the money to do this and would be very surprised if NZTA would support this. He noted a Miranda Street crossing had been suggested previously and would be less cost.
- Councillor Jones noted he had thought the development plan was to investigate all potential crossings. Mr Taylor noted that there was only one option that would be submitted for consideration.
- It was clarified that if co-funding was not obtained then the funding can be altered through the annual plan process.
- Councillor Harris noted that this was a listed project in the Regional Land Transport Plan and because of this it was at its best possible chance to receive funding from NZTA.

Recommendations

17. THAT funding for the Brecon Road Bridge project in the Long Term Plan be re-allocated from Year 2 with further progression being conditional on co-funding being sourced.

HALL/ERWOOD
Division
For 8
Against 3
Carried
P&S/24/148

- Councillor Sandford noted that the projected rate increases for the coming years will change from what has been planned in this long term plan.
- The District Mayor noted the actual increase in the construction of bridges was 28% over the last three years. This project has been around as long as he could recall and every time it gets pushed out it gets more expensive. If it doesn't happen his time he did not believe it would ever get done. He supported the motion.
- Councillor Erwood noted that this bridge will give connectivity and open up future subdivisions.
- Councillor Boyde spoke against the motion. He noted every submitter wanted the rates to go down and he could not support something council cannot afford.
- Councillor Beck could not support the rate rise year on year for another 7 years for this project. He did not want to see any budget allocated to this now the funding has been lost.
- Councillor Watt noted that this motion went against the 'back to basics' and spending money on only the essentials. This would be a multi million dollar bridge that we do not need.
- Councillor Jones supported the motion, but only if funding was sourced.
- Councillor Dudley noted this would be massive for people living on the other side of Stratford. It is a massive effort to get through the roundabouts, particularly at 3pm when school is out. This bridge will make a huge difference, but only if co-funding is obtained.
- Councillor Hall noted that this motion gives the opportunity to seek the funding in the first place.

A division was called:

Those voting for the motion: Councillors Dudley, Erwood, Hall, Harris, Jones, Sandford, the Deputy Mayor and the District Mayor.

Those voting against the motion: Councillors Beck, Boyde and Watt.

The Corporate Accountant left the meeting at 5.50pm.
The meeting adjourned at 5.50pm and reconvened at 6.09pm.

The Chairman noted that during the adjournment there had been further discussion regarding continuing the meeting. There were concerns regarding staff time, elected member decision making and audit time frames. The draft LTP document is required by Audit on Thursday to allow for adoption in July. Further delays to this could push adoption into August which would impact the striking of rates and other funding issues. It was proposed to continue the meeting and reassess at regular intervals in an effort to complete the deliberations and meet audit time frames.

- Concern was noted that the change to the funding and timeframes of Brecon Road bridge had not been adequately consulted on.
- It was noted that there were at least two submissions requesting that the project be brought forward and it was not new information purely a change in which year it was being started.
- Councillor Beck, Boyde, Jones and Watt voted for the motion to be revoked, however a revocation of a motion requires 75% in agreeance and this was not obtained. The motion stays.

Stormwater – De-Silting Retention Pond – Victoria Park

- This is a carryover project to complete the project to dry and spread out the silted material.

Recommendations

18. THAT a budget line of \$100,000 be included to allow for the completion of the De-silting of the Retention Pond – Victoria Park.

VOLZKE/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/24/149

Wastewater – Reticulation Capacity Increase

- This is a carryover project to complete the work to guide where the capacity increase is required.

Recommendations

19. THAT a budget line of \$100,000 be included to allow for the completion of the Reticulation Capacity Increase.

BECK/ERWOOD
Carried
P&S/24/150

Water Supply – Water Meters

- This is to carry over the unspent amount of \$446,851 for the completion of this project.
- The District Mayor noted there were a few submissions opposing water meters. However this is delivering on a decision that was previously made and meters do effectively reduce the use of water.

Recommendations

20. THAT \$446,851 be added to the Water Meters budget for completion of the project.

HALL/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/24/151

Water Supply – Raw Water delivery Line and Grit Tank

- It was requested to increase this budget by \$70,000 to complete the design work. The design work has already been commissioned but as it won't be completed until the new financial year budget is required for it.

Recommendations

21. THAT \$70,000 be added to the Raw Water delivery line budget for completion of the project.

BOYDE/DUDLEY

Carried

P&S/24/152

Parks and Reserves – Whangamomona Septic Tank Replacement

- This is to increase the budget by \$75,000. This is the cheapest option and is still dependent on a resource consent.
- It was clarified that this was a mix of carry over and additional budget. There is not a cheaper way of solving this issue.
- It was clarified that the system needs to be modelled on the maximum usage per day. This system is future proofing and will meet the Horizon Regional council resource consent conditions.
- It was noted that although it is currently compliant, a new system needs to adhere to the new regulations.
- The Director – Assets noted that instruction had been given that it needs to be the cheapest option, however there are rules and regulations that need to be followed and they guide the design. She noted this work had been ongoing for two years now.

Recommendations

22. THAT a new budget line of \$75,000 be included to allow for the completion of the Whangamomona Septic Tank replacement. .

ERWOOD/BECK

Carried

P&S/24/153

GIS Software

- The current GIS system is reaching the end of its life and will no longer be supported by the vendor from October 2025.
- Work is currently being undertaken on investigating shared services, and GIS is one of the three identified by the councils to look into.
- This request is for budget to be added to Year 2, this can be discussed at the Annual Plan but officers felt it was important to note this now as it is an anticipated cost.

Recommendations

23. THAT the \$100,000 allocated for GIS Software be moved to Year 2 with an additional \$125,000 of operational budget annually from Year 2.

HALL/BOYDE

Carried

P&S/24/154

Procurement Software

- It is proposed to move this project from Year 1 to Year 2 and an additional OPEX line of \$25,000 per annum from year 2 onwards to allow for the ongoing support of this software.
- It was confirmed that New Plymouth District Council made the change to this software as part of their covid response. It has made huge improvements in their paper trails for audit purposes and efficiencies.
- Mr Taylor noted this was mostly to improve audit requirements. Three internal audits have been failed due to procurement processing and this will improve this.
- Councillor Jones noted he would move the motion because software simply does improve how we do things over time. He did note his concern that the software annual costs could be increased by the provider.
- Councillor Beck did not support this item he felt it was a nice to have and it was not getting back to basics.
- Councillor Boyde noted the Section 17a reviews had talked a lot about future proofing ourselves and how things could be done better and he agreed this was going to benefit council in the long term.

Recommendations

24. THAT the procurement software budget be moved to Year 2 with an additional \$25,000 to be added to the budget annually from Year 2 onwards.

JONES/HALL
1 against
Carried
P&S/24/155

Updates to Funding Impact Statement and the Revenue and Financing Policy

- The Director – Corporate Services noted that a legal review was undertaken of the two documents and the resulting tracked changes were included as attachments to the internal submission.
- It was clarified that as both documents are included in the LTP, only one needed to have the SUIP definition included.
- It was noted that the most recent rating units were updated.
- The change to the SUIP definition is already how it is being applied so there will be no changes to the practice.

Recommendations

25. THAT updates to the Funding Impact Statement and Revenue and Financing Policy, as presented, be approved.

DUDLEY/BECK
Carried
P&S/24/156

The Roding Asset Manager and the Projects Manager left the meeting at 7.03pm.

Print Advertising

- The Communications Manager noted she had been instructed to look at options to reduce the print advertising budget. Reducing the frequency of Central Link had been one of the options, however when testing this against the requirements for public notices vs the content that goes into Central Link the recommended option is to retain the original budget of \$45,000.
- Ms Gibson also noted that through submissions to the communications and engagement strategy there had been submissions noting that print advertising was their key way of receiving information.
- It was clarified that digital advertising was not meant to replace print advertising. These do not necessarily engage with the same people.
- Councillor Boyde noted that a lot of people raise issues with not receiving the Stratford Press and suggested advertising less, or looking at a half page to save costs. Ms Gibson felt this would be doing a disservice to the community by taking this away.
- Councillor Boyde noted his preference to move to half page Central Links.
- Councillor Sandford noted the public bins at his work, holding the Stratford Press, are emptied within a day and a half each week.
- Councillor Hall noted she had initially supported a reduction, however after seeing the options presented and keeping engagement with the community in mind, she supported maintaining the status quo for now.
- Councillor Dudley noted she had initially supported dropping this budget, however looking at the prices council would be paying more for half page adverts. She noted that with all the media issues at the moment she would hate to see council pulling its advertising resulting in the loss of our local paper.
- The deputy Mayor noted the cost was not going to go down in the future and it was important to keep encouraging people to access other channels, because it is potentially what our community will face in the future anyway.

Recommendations

26. THAT the print advertising budget be retained at \$45,000 for Year 1.

HALL/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/24/157

The Director – Corporate Services noted the current rates increase was at 15.47% at this point in the meeting.

Support for External Organisations

- It was clarified a resolution was only needed if a change was to be made to the current proposal.

Stratford Business Association

- It was noted there were a number of submitters commenting on not funding external organisations. The current Long Term Plan only has funding for the Stratford Business Association in Year 1.
- Councillor Boyde noted his concern that the strategic plan on the future of the association had not been done. It was acknowledged this had been put on hold due to the Section 17a reviews which he noted his concern had been the reason a number of plans had not been completed. He noted his disappointment that they had not worked out what the future holds for them.
- The District Mayor noted the submission was a different message to what was presented to him when attending the meeting. He noted there was a lack of recognition that the contribution from council will terminate in 12 months. There is a need to have a conversation with them to say what happens when this support ends and what would you do to make council change its mind. There were a number of references within the associations minutes about the need to engage and to tell council about the funding future of the association.
- It was agreed to retain the funding for Year 1 but ensure they are aware discussions are needed on their future.
- Councillor Jones noted that he had received concerns that the submission had been written by a council staff member and the committee had not reviewed the submission before it was presented on their behalf.
- Councillor Boyde felt these discussions should already have been held with the committee. The District Mayor noted the feedback he received was that they are too busy, don't have time to do these things and that the consultation timeframe did not meet their meeting times. He noted they had the same month timeframe as everyone else.

- The Deputy Mayor noted the submission was signed off by the co-chairs. Councillor Jones noted they were not signed and felt the information had not flowed from the staff member.
- Councillor Harris noted that council had extended an invitation for the association to come and discuss the funding beyond Year 1. A public forum is the perfect opportunity to come and present as they are held every month, have minutes taken and are public.
- No changes to be made.

Percy Thomson Trust

- No changes would be made as the trust was undergoing discussions about its future, although this is unrelated to this decision whatever they decide will have an impact on the funding.

Stratford Park project

- It was noted that better explanation was required to show that this loan does not impact, or cost, our rate payers.
- There will be a meeting in the next few weeks for discussions on the plan of attack for the loan.
- It was noted that the submission was seeking support to establish buildings.
- No change.

SPCA

- It was noted that discounts were offered through local veterinary clinics and the scratching post.
- No support.

Taranaki Cancer Society

- It was noted there were good points around physical wellbeing. Going forward this will be taken into consideration for policies and capital development.
- Councillor Hall noted there were other elements that council needs to consider when looking at developments or improvements to facilities, she felt there needed to be a tick box exercise to check off all considerations such as physical wellbeing and accessibility.
- The Chief Executive confirmed staff were already provided with protective clothing.
- Shade will also be a consideration in future developments.

Taranaki Housing Initiative Trust

- Councillor Harris asked if elected members saw themselves in the role of housing.
- The District Mayor noted that there have been talks at the Mayoral Forum level around housing for the elderly on a local and regional level. There are a couple of strategies being developed and these are not far from being presented. Consideration will need to be given to whether, and how, council will buy into this regional strategy. Council is also currently doing a couple of other housing projects such as the subdivision and supporting iwi with another project. He felt council was doing enough at this point to satisfy Mr Ingram's request.

Fees and Charges

- No additional changes to what was presented in the internal submission.

The meeting adjourned at 7.43 and reconvened at 8.05pm.

Wai O Rua – Stratford Aquatic Centre

- The Chief Executive reminded councillors that this discussion should only be in relation to the LTP.
- Councillor Boyde noted that a number a lot of the submitters had the same grievances about the percentage of rate funding the aquatic centre receives. He noted that councillors had not seen a breakdown of cost savings to see what has been taken out of the activity. Officers are working on a business plan but this still hasn't been presented to councillors. He did not feel that councillors have had the opportunity to look at what council is doing and improving. He noted there are submissions thinking the centre is fantastic but it is the second biggest cost to council next to roading and there hasn't been a genuine discussion as to why this is. Mr Hanne noted that officers are working on the business plan but have had the LTP at the same time. The Director – Corporate Services has spoken about insurance and depreciation which take up the largest part of the total costs and staffing costs had been reduced by \$100,000. He reminded councillors each activity had been presented during the LTP process. Councillor Boyde felt if he had the operating budget of the pool he could make changes but couldn't as he hasn't got it.
- The Deputy Mayor noted the first submitter had mentioned the temperature in the hydrotherapy pool and it was noted that this was not happening as it defeats the purpose of that pool.
- There are comments about a spa, sauna, gym and outside playing areas and these would be part of future development plans.

- The District Mayor noted a lot of the points raised are operational matters rather than LTP discussions. He requested that officers be made aware of the submissions and act on these if able.
- Councillor Dudley noted the comment regarding parking at the pool and the fact that cars are continuing the park in the removed parks. She asked if yellow lines could be painted on these to alleviate this issue. Mr Hanne to action and ensure the parking bylaw covers this area.

Broadway shop fronts

- Councillor Harris noted that council had tried funding towards tidying up shop fronts before, and also a targeted rate, both of which were not supported. She noted the suggestion to incentivise through a targeted rate set up similar to dog registrations and felt this should be noted for a discussion at a later stage as it is too late to include in this plan. However if councillors wished to see work done she felt it logically fell within the Stratford 2035 project.
- It was clarified that out of the 15 reports received for Broadway buildings, 10 were earthquake prone.
- Councillor Hall noted it would be good to include this conversation as part of the Stratford 2035 work as the public doesn't understand what is stalling this project.

Elected Member Catering

- Councillor Harris noted this had been mentioned quite a bit and needed to be spoken about.
- The Deputy Mayor noted the theme that people in a working environment not being fed is accurate.
- Councillor Sandford noted that people in a working environment are pulling in probably \$40,000 to \$50,000 more than elected members. He noted the elected member hourly rate was low when they are averaging 20 hours a week on council work. He did not feel like he was abusing the rate payer when he has a meal, noting that today was a classic example. He does the role to help the district and was happy to justify a meal when he is there.
- Councillor Erwood agreed and noted his job was at his place of work. This feels more like a hobby that he does for love and it is hardly a meal, more of a snack.
- Councillor Harris noted she could understand where the comments have stemmed from. The small amount of food is also extended to other members of the chamber as well. It was also good will to the local cafes in Stratford.
- The District Mayor noted that if council attempted to be frugal where there are days that are short meetings, or in the later part of the day, then it could be pulled back and be minimal on other days when they are full day meetings. The compromise could be to make an effort to minimise any costs that do incur and not over order. He noted the Mayoral Reception was going to be held every two years and will take on comments for events such as the citizen awards and citizenship ceremonies.
- Councillor Hall noted that perception vs reality and this is what council is perceived to be doing. Councillors have put a lot of time into this LTP over the past 8 months and gone budget line by budget line to cut costs, however it is clear today that this work isn't obvious. It could be good to show we cutting costs by being frugal.
- It was clarified that the \$7,500 budget noted in the officers response was purely for council meetings and not events.

Stratford Eltham Rugby and Sports Club

- Councillor Harris noted this submission requested to bring funding forward.
- Councillor Jones noted that the Toko Rugby lights are now operational so that provided an alternative venue for night practices.
- Mr Hanne noted that there may be school fields willing to have lights installed if a sponsor was found. These fields are not used after hours.
- Councillor Hall noted that the bike park had meant the lighted area was removed from their accessibility. However it was important to note that the user pays component of this is quite significant so if they want better they will have to pay for better. She felt that conversations about multi use areas could be had.
- It was noted there was the potential for lights to be installed at the land next to Wai o Rua – Stratford Aquatic Centre. However Councillor Erwood noted this would not be sufficient for training a full team.
- Councillor Harris reiterated that the request was to move budget forward for both Page Street and Victoria Park. Victoria Park is currently \$20,000 (Year 1) and \$200,000 (Year 2 – field 2 drainage) and Page Street is \$500,000 (Year 4).
- Councillor Erwood noted that some of this work was corrective actions but that the original budget had been \$60,000 and it is still not right.
- The District Mayor noted that the issue raised is that they would like additional training areas. It is in council's interest to facilitate this in some way as it will take the pressure off Page Street which is suffering from over use. It would be good to look into what options are available including Midhirst

and Toko, the synthetic turf and schools. He was interested to hear that the high school trains at Page Street and agreed there could be the option of putting lights at the high school.

- The request to bring the funding forward was declined.

Urban households installing water tanks

- Councillor Beck noted that there used to be a rate mitigation for installing a water tank to do your washhouse and toilet. Mr Hanne noted that from a public health perspective it is counterintuitive to do that. When the water meters come in residents with tanks for garden use will automatically get a discount by not using the public water supply. It was noted there is stormwater retention in the subdivision for the slow release of water to not overload the systems and there was nothing stopping residents from installing a water tank.

Stratford Shakespeare Society

- This is a request for funding.
- The Deputy Mayor asked if officers were supporting these events internally?
- Councillor Hall noted the comments in the submissions about moving away from the Shakespearean theme.
- It was noted the Stratfords of the World occurs every second year and has been hosted here once in 2010. The Director – Community Services noted that in the past the mayors have hosted lunches or dinners and in-kind support could be given such as covering the cost of the War Memorial Centre.
- Councillor Boyde noted his concern that council was funding Kapa Haka when it is not even in this area.

Old Post Office Building

- Mr Hanne noted this was part of a long-standing conversation with chorus. It is the most complained about building in the district and there are parking pressures by swimming pool users.
- The District Mayor noted there was no intention to spend money on it if acquired, only to demolish and potentially sell off the land to cover the demolition cost. It is not significant and will not trigger the significance threshold.

Subdivision

- It was noted that there were comments to delay the subdivision. The District Mayor noted that submitters stated there were a huge number of sections available in Stratford but he was unaware of any of a significant number of comparable sections. In terms of the timing there is an obligation to provide services to the neighbouring development as part of the purchase agreement and a whole lot of consenting processes to get through. This will probably take 12-18 months and then council can decide what stages to do this in. He was happy to keep it going until this point.

Bike Park

- Submission 40 - It was noted that the officer response incorrectly states that the bike park was loan funded. This is to be amended to grant funded.

Prospero Place

- Councillor Jones noted that the district still doesn't know what council's plans are. Mr Hanne clarified that the plan will be done in year 1 along with the purchase of the land. The community will see the plans then.

Consultation Document

- There were a number of comments that state the document was positive and easy to read and engage with.

Rainbow Crossing

- Submission 21 suggests a rainbow crossing on Miranda Street between the War Memorial Centre and Prospero Place.
- Councillor Hall felt this was definitely achievable.
- Councillor Beck noted his objection to this.

Stratford District Youth Council

- Will carry on supporting the youth council.
- It was requested that the submission to the Whanganui District Council on the discontinuation of their youth council be forwarded to councillors.

11. Closing Karakia
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The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 8.49pm.

M McKay
Chairman

Confirmed this 28th day of May 2024.

N C Volzke
District Mayor