MINUTES
Extraordinary

TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

F22/55/05 – D25/12402

Date: Tuesday 15 April 2025 at 3.00pm
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

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

In attendance

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director – Assets - Mrs V Araba, the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the Director – Corporate Services – Mrs R Johnson, the Director – Community Services – Ms K Whareaitu, the Committee Advisor and Executive Assistant – Mrs E Bishop, the Communications Manager – Ms G Gibson, the Corporate Accountant – Mrs C Craig, one member of the media (Stratford Press) and one member of the public.

1. Welcome

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

The opening karakia was read.

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

2. Apologies

There were no apologies.

3. Announcements

There were no announcements.

4. Declarations of members interest

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

5. Attendance Schedule

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

6. Decision Report – Adoption of Consultation Document for Water Services Delivery Options

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Recommendations

1. <u>THAT</u> the report be received.

VOLZKE/McKAY
<u>Carried</u>
<u>CL/25/30</u>

2. <u>THAT</u> Council adopts the Consultation Document for Water Services Delivery Options.

3. <u>THAT</u> the District Mayor and Chief Executive be given the authority to undertake minor or editorial changes if they arise.

4. <u>THAT</u> Council releases for public consultation the Consultation Document for Water Services Delivery Options once design work has been completed.

BOYDE/McKAY
<u>Carried</u>
<u>CL/25/31</u>

Recommended Reason
The adoption of a Consultation Document for Water Services Delivery Options as part of Local Water Done Well is an essential element of legislative compliance.

The District Mayor noted the draft design version was tabled. However, the version within the agenda will be used for the discussion to eliminate any confusion as the material within the two documents is the same.

The Chief Executive noted the that this document has been developed regionally with the regional delivery model as the preferred option for all three councils. He acknowledged the significant amount of work that staff have contributed towards this document and the delivery plan.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde noted that the in-house status quo had been referred to as an 'enhanced' model through all discussions and this was what elected members voted on.
- The District Mayor noted that the purpose of this document was to seek feedback from the community but it was important to note that this was not asking for voting on the decision. This is to seek ideas, criticism or alternatives for the delivery of the service. It is important that the community has their say but it is important to remind them that it is not a vote.

The Consultation Document was reviewed page by page. Page numbering refers to the page in the agenda. Changes and discussions were as noted below

- Page 12
    - change to "Have your say on the future delivery of water services in Stratford"
- Page 13
    - The Deputy Mayor noted her concern that the message says that both options are financially viable and meet government requirements. She noted we won't know this for sure until government approval is obtained from the minister. Mr Hanne noted this was written from the in-house assessment undertaken against the delivery criteria however it is understood that it may not be approved as there has been no assurance that a model will be approved even if it meets the criteria. Agreed to note that these options are still subject to the ministers approval.

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- Councillor Boyde noted the paragraph stating working together offers real opportunities and requested that it also note there are also disadvantages. The District Mayor will review this.
- Page 16 – noted in the designed version the word toilet has been added to the waste water image.
- Page 19
  - It was clarified that the new water storage unit at $9.4 million is an additional unit and the wording will be made clear to note that this is additional expenditure and not a replacement.
  - The total drinking water supplied has been amended to state the figure is per year.
  - It was agreed to add the move the Waste Water Treatment Plant to key investments in the next 10 years, however it was acknowledged that this would not impact rates until Year 11.
  - It was clarified that all these items in the key investments have already been committed to within the Long Term Plan.
- Page 20
  - Agreed to make it very bold and to ensure it stands out that the government has to be satisfied with the preferred plan. It is a significant part of the information that the community needs to understand.
- Page 22 – approved that the Chief Executive and Communications Manager work through the document to either re-name the in-house model as ‘enhanced’ or a similar word to ensure it is clear that this is different to what there is currently.
- Page 23 – noted that some of the Stratford District is not included in this map where it is part of the Horizons region.
- Page 24 – It was requested that it clearly state that for Option 1 stormwater will remain with council.
- Page 26 – It was clarified that Stratford would have two votes on the board as currently proposed.
- Page 27
  - Amend “*costs of remaining council services will increase to cover shortfall …*” replace with “*Cost of other council services will increase to cover expenses*”.
  - Amend “*retains council officer knowledge”* to “*retains knowledge of current staff*”
- Page 29 – Expand SDC and IBU to full words (Stratford District Council and In-house Business Unit).
- Page 30 – Add in that stormwater has been left out of the comparison as it will remain in-house and explain this further.
- Page 34
  - It was noted that all usual media outlets would be used for engagement including antenno, social media, website and Stratford Press. Additionally a joint radio campaign will be run by the three councils. Public meetings and drop in sessions could also be arranged.
  - Councillor Beck felt that a public meeting should be held at the War Memorial Centre. Councillor Boyde agreed noting this was the most significant decision council would be making and should also include meetings in Toko and Midhirst to give the public the opportunity to show up. The Communications Manager noted that South Taranaki and would be doing public meetings. Councillor Hall noted that attending a meeting can be intimidating and the District Mayor agreed that some people do not like asking questions in these forums, he also noted the last public meeting held had no attendance.
  - Councillor Hall asked if turning up where people already are had been considered, such as at the SERSC home games or Stratford Toa games. The District Mayor noted that council does this at the A&P Show and has very little public engagement as a result, he had better results from attending community group meetings.
  - Councillor Sandford supported the District Mayor presenting to community groups as it keeps it on task. He also supported library drop ins but not a public meeting which will impact staff time.
  - The District Mayor would approach clubs and organisations to host a presentation and would extend an invitation to councillors to attend these as well. Drop in sessions will be held at the library and elected members will need to let the Communications

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Manager know their availability. A public meeting will be held if there is a desire from the public.

7. Questions

There were no questions.

8. Closing Karakia

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The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 4.17pm.

N C Volzke
Chairman

Confirmed this 13th day of May 2025.

N C Volzke
District Mayor