

MINUTES

Policy and Services Committee

F22/55/06 – D24/53930

Date: Tuesday 26 November 2024 at 3.00pm
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

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

In attendance

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director – Assets – Mrs V Araba, the Acting Director - Corporate Services – Mrs C Craig, the Acting Director – Community Services – Mrs E Bishop, the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the Committee Secretary – Ms E Coulton, the Roding Asset Manager – Mr S Bowden, the Parks and Projects Manager – Mr S Taylor, the Communications Manager – Ms G Gibson, the Community and Economic Development Manager – Ms S Azal (*part meeting*), the Community Development Officer – Ms L Browne (*part meeting*), the Community Engagement and Development Lead – Ms A Cranne (*part meeting*), the General Manager Economic Development - Venture Taranaki – Ms J Patterson and one member of the media (Stratford Press).

1. Welcome

The opening karakia was read.

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

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

2. Apologies

An apology was received from Councillor C M Tongaawhikau and an approved leave of absence noted for Councillor J M S Erwood.

Recommendation

THAT the apologies be received.

DUDLEY/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/24/254

3. Announcements

The District Mayor announced that Minister Reiti will be visiting Stratford this Thursday to officially open the new development at the Stratford Health Centre.

The District Mayor shared that the Council has received a letter from the Police, thanking Wai o Rua for hosting their road patrol rewards day, and to Council being a continued support of the initiative.

The Chief Executive noted that item 9 will be withdrawn due to incorrect numbers found within the report, this item will be presented at a future meeting.

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. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Policy and Services Committee – 22 October 2024

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 22 October 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

BOYDE/HALL
Carried
P&S/24/255

The Committee Secretary undertook to make the following amendments:

- Councillor Dudley noted that she sought clarification on the decline in booking cancelations, not the decline in bookings in general.

7. Matters Outstanding

Recommendation

THAT the Matters Outstanding be received.

BOYDE/HALL
Carried
P&S/24/256

- Councillor Sandford noted that he has heard a number of complaints regarding the carparks adjacent to the new pedestrian crossing, he questioned if the parking by-law would be an appropriate place to discuss placing restrictions on these parks. The Chief Executive noted that this can be discussed with the by-law.

8. Quarterly Report – Economic Development Quarterly Report – Quarter One 2024/25

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

SANDFORD/HARRIS

Carried
P&S/24/257

The Acting Director – Community Services noted the following:

- This is the first quarter where the results will be presented in this manner. The full regional quarterly report will be available once adopted by New Plymouth District Council.
- Quarterly data results will be presented by a representative of Venture Taranaki as soon as possible after the quarter has finished.
- Council Officers are currently in the final stages of negotiating the new partnership contract with Venture Taranaki. This will include a provision for more Stratford presence by having clinics here.

Ms Patterson noted the following:

- The presentation is a snippet of things from the quarter one report.
- The strategic areas Venture Taranaki focus on include energy, food and fibre, destination and enabler and emergent.
- Within the food focus, Venture Taranaki have been working alongside Massey University to develop new agritech, more specifically looking into agrivoltaics which experiment with the use of solar energy for food production. It was noted that Stratford may be used as a trial site for this but is in its early stages currently.
- The branching out initiative have their year 2 trials underway with year 1 producing great paddock to product success stories through the likes of Juno Gin etc. Year 2 will see Ngāti Maru obtain a trial site as well.
- Destination has been tracking well with Venture Taranaki working alongside a group of Taiwanese travel agents and opening up connections with them.
- Venture Taranaki have also been working with Ahipara who are a New Zealand based luxury travel agent. Working with Ahipara allows for kiwis from around the country to visit us, with a few groups having successfully completed a trip booked through Ahipara already.
- Taranaki summer events are ramping up with Te Matatini in February, Americarna and WOMAD in March. She noted that these are strong events and the region should be preparing accordingly.
- Through the enabler and emergent focus category, Venture Taranaki have recently assisted Taranaki Fieldtorque obtain their intellectual property with their newly engineered road cone system.
- The Venture Taranaki team recently came to Stratford to work together with the Stratford Business Association to do some workshops and hold some conversations.
- There is lots coming up for Venture Taranaki including another cruise ship being docked in port and their adjacent podcast season 5 being underway.
- Ms Patterson modelled some new merch scheduled to be released as a collaboration between Game Changer and Venture Taranaki. She noted that this merch can be a retail opportunity for all business and is available to be stocked by any business.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The Acting Director – Community Services noted that next month a workshop is scheduled for Elected Members to go over and learn about the Tapuae Roa refresh.

9. Information Report – Solid Waste Analysis Protocol (SWAP) Survey

Recommendations

THAT the report be received.

10. Decision Report – Adoption of 2025 Meeting Schedule

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/JONES
Carried
P&S/24/258

2. THAT Council confirm the 2025 Meeting Schedule as presented but with the following amendments:

- April being the Policy and Services Committee to be moved to 29 April 2025.
- Annual Plan Hearing 3 June to be moved to 20 May.
- Farm and Aerodrome Committee amended to Farm Committee.

BOYDE/BECK
Carried
P&S/24/259

Recommended Reason

Meetings are required to be held to effectively and efficiently conduct Council business in a clear and open manner.

It is the intention of this resolution to hold two-monthly Audit and Risk Committee Meetings, monthly Ordinary Council meetings, monthly Policy and Services Committee meetings and three times a year Farm Committee meetings, to ensure efficiency of implementing decisions made by all Committees and to minimise meetings falling on the same day.

The Chief Executive noted the following:

- This decision report is to confirm the meeting schedule for 2025.
- The June 3rd meeting set for annual plan discussions requires to be moved to the 20th of May.
- The meeting on the 22nd April is amongst Easter week and Anzac day, he is anticipating a low head count of both Elected Members and Council Officers if this meeting was to go ahead. He noted that he believes we would be able to facilitate this meeting, however if there is appetite to move the meeting we can.

The Community and Economic Development Manager and Ms Paterson left the meeting at 3.33pm.

Questions/points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde noted that the meeting schedule notes the Farm and Aerodrome Committee, however due to their name change this requires to be changed to Farm Committee.
- Councillor Harris suggested the Easter meeting could be brought forward to the 15th of April. Councillor Boyde noted that it may make more sense to move it to the 29th of April as this follows a similar timeline of breaks between meetings.
- It was noted and agreed upon that the April 22nd meeting will be moved to April 29th.

11. Decision Report – Te Ara o Maru Walkway Stage Two, Whangamomona

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

SANDFORD/VOLZKE
Carried
P&S/24/260

2. THAT Council confirms its appointment as the Controlling Authority for Stage 2 of the Te Ara o Maru Walkway and authorises walking and mountain biking as permitted activities, **subject to** formalising a maintenance agreement between Council, Taranaki Trails Trust and Kingheim Limited.
3. THAT Council authorises the Chief Executive to sign all necessary agreements with the Walking Access Commission, Taranaki Trails Trust, and Kingheim Limited.

BOYDE/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/24/261

Recommended Reason

The Taranaki Trails Trust and Kingheim Limited have requested that Stage 2 of the Te Ara o Maru Walkway be opened for walking and mountain biking activities. This walkway will connect Mangare Road through to Whangamomona township. To facilitate this, the Walking Access Commission requires that a Controlling Authority is appointed as per Section 35 of the Walking Access Act 2008.

Although an easement has been lodged for walking and mountain biking activities, the Walking Access Commission is requesting Council's approval, to formally permit mountain biking activities, in addition to the existing authorisation for walking on this section.

The Projects Manager noted the following:

- The Taranaki Trails Trust and Kingheim have approached SDC to enquire as to whether they are able to open stage 2 of the walkway as not only a walkway but a cycling trail as well.
- The decision report has three options presented, not confirm to be the controlling authority, confirm to be the controlling authority for walking only or confirm to be the controlling authority for all, subject to formalising a maintenance agreement.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Harris queried as to how long is the length of stage 2. She noted it states 12km but is unsure if that is just stage 2 or the entire walkway. The Projects Manager noted that it would be safe to assume that the 12km encapsulates stage 1 and 2.
- The District Mayor noted that he likes the idea of a cycle trail however, is concerned on the cost moving forward. He expressed that he is aware that they have indicated that they will front all costs however, Kingheim's track record is not great and what if they fail to do this. The Projects Manager noted that if Kingheim or Taranaki Trails backs out, ultimately it would come back to SDC to make a decision on whether we would like to keep it open etc.

12. Monthly Reports

12.1 Assets Report

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

WATT/JONES
Carried
P&S/24/262

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde noted the sharemilkers of the Council farm have invested money into obtaining some GPS halters for their stock, this means that they will be able to work towards being fenceless as the halters essentially tell the stock where they can and can not go.
- Councillor Hall questioned as to how the stock are prevented from moving to specific areas, she inquired if it was via shocks. Councillor Boyde clarified that it is through vibration and noise.
- The Deputy Mayor noted that it is great to see the cap collection competition be well received and extend to outside the region.
- Councillor Dudley questioned if the Parks and Reserves traps were run by SDC or TRC. It was clarified that the traps are TRCs responsibility.

12.2 Community Services Report

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

DUDLEY/McKAY
Carried
P&S/24/263

The Acting Director – Community Services noted the following:

- A video created by SDYC recapping their Wellington trip was played at the meeting.
- Upcoming events in the works for this summer include the A&P Show is this weekend, a jam packed school holiday programme, the Christmas parade, carols and market on 6 December, summer nights music and movies in January.
- With the Stratford Press potentially closing it places SDC in a tricky spot as we legally have to advertise certain things in print format, which we currently do through Central Link in the Stratford Press. She noted that due to this our advertising expenses will inevitably increase as we will have to look elsewhere. She took this opportunity to thank the Stratford Press team for their contribution to the community and their ongoing support and partnership with SDC.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde questioned if the District Mayor would be interested in sending a feedback letter expressing the Elected Members disappointment with the notion of the Stratford Press closing down. The District mayor noted that he is happy to put something forward as long as the council as a collective are happy to endorse. It was decided unanimously to put forward a submission on behalf of council.
- Councillor Sandford gave an update on the Ostler Garden Trust. He noted that one of the trusts concerns is the EnviroSchools programme falling off at high school level, he emphasised that the Ostler Garden Trust have supported Taranaki Diocesan and Stratford High to pursue their EnviroSchools journey. He noted that both schools are doing extremely well with the initiative.

- Councillor Hall questioned about the grants received from TOI and TET, she enquired as to whether they were fully funded or partially funded. The Acting Director – Community Services clarified that they were partially funded with no set allocation for the approved items.
- Councillor Jones noted that he is concerned about the direction of council communications if the Stratford Press closes. He questioned if Antenno will be pushed at the A&P Show tent. The Acting Director – Community Services noted that plan b is to push other channels, however we do have a legislative requirements for certain advertisements/public notice to be printed in a newspaper, it is also important to remember those in our community who do not use technology.

12.3 Corporate Services Report

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/BECK
Carried
P&S/24/264

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Dudley noted that there is a large amount of outstanding water bills, she questioned if this is due to the timing in water bills being sent out. The Corporate Accountant noted that this is one of the bigger reasons.

12.4 Environmental Services Report

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

WATT/HALL
Carried
P&S/24/265

The Director – Environmental Services noted:

- The local alcohol policy now has South Taranaki District Council on board, therefore it is looking to become a regional alcohol policy.

13. Questions

There were no questions.

14. Closing Karakia

The closing Karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 4.23pm.

M McKay
Chairperson

Confirmed this 28th day of January 2025.

N C Volzke
District Mayor