



Our reference
F19/13/03-D21/26182

3 August 2023

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Notice is hereby given that the Ordinary meeting of Council will be held in the **Council Chambers, Stratford District Council, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford** on **Tuesday 8 August 2023** beginning at 3.30pm.

Timetable for 8 August 2023 as follows:

1.30pm	Workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Update – Transport Choices Projects (requirements and design)- Long Term Plan (KPIs, Community Outcomes, Levels of Service)
3.15pm	Afternoon tea for Councillors
3.30pm	Ordinary Meeting of Council

Yours faithfully

Sven Hanne
Chief Executive

2023 - Agenda - Ordinary - August - Open

08 August 2023 03:30 PM



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AGENDA

Ordinary Meeting of Council



F22/55/05 – D23/28706

Date: 8 August 2023 at 3.30 PM
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

1. Welcome

- 1.1 **Opening Karakia**
D21/40748 Page 8
- 1.2 **Health and Safety Message**
D21/26210 Page 9

2. Apologies

3. Announcements

4. **Declarations of Members Interest**
Elected members to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda.

5. **Attendance Schedule**
Page 10

Attendance schedule for Ordinary and Extraordinary Council meetings.

6. Confirmation of Minutes

- 6.1 **Ordinary Meeting of Council – 11 July 2023**
D23/29729 Page 11

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 11 July 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

/
Moved/Seconded

- 6.2 **Audit and Risk Committee – 18 July 2023**
D23/31366 (open) D23/31043 (PE) Page 16

Recommendations

- 1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on Tuesday 18 July 2023 be received.
- 2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on Tuesday 18 July 2023 be adopted.

/
Moved/Seconded

6.3 Policy and Services Committee – 25 July 2023 – Hearing
D23/32590 Page 24

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting, to hear and consider submissions to the draft Class 4 Gambling Venues Policy and draft TAB Venue Policy, held on Tuesday 25 July 2023 be received.
2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting, to hear and consider submissions to the draft Class 4 Gambling Venues Policy and draft TAB Venue Policy, held on Tuesday 25 July 2023 be adopted.

/
Moved/Seconded

6.3.1 Amended Class 4 Gambling Venues Policy
D23/32216 Page 31

The amended policy was attached for council's information.

6.4 Policy and Services Committee – 25 July 2023
D23/32658 Page 35

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 25 July 2023 be received.
2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 25 July 2023 be adopted.

/
Moved/Seconded

6.4.1 Amended Stock Underpasses Policy
D23/6811 Page 45

The amended policy was attached for council's information.

6.4.2 Amended Charges for New Wastewater Network Connections
D23/24472 Page 47

The amended policy was attached for council's information.

7. District Mayor's Report
D23/33221 Page 48

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.
2. THAT the Stratford District Council formally notes its endorsement of the petition from the New Plymouth District Council seeking a Citizens Initiated Referendum to address funding of road maintenance of the state highway network.

/
Moved/Seconded

8. [Decision Report – Transport Choices Project – Permissions to Consult with Community for Works Associated with the Transport Choices Project](#)
D23/32671 Page 55

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.
2. THAT the Council approve for Officers to seek feedback from the community on the proposed removal of all day on-street parking on one side of the road on streets listed in **Table 1** of this report, for the delivery of the Transport Choices Project.
3. THAT the Council approve for Officers to seek feedback from the community on the proposal to construct bi-directional separated cycleways on road reserve, for the delivery of the Transport Choices project.

Recommended Reason

For on-road parking to be removed to make way for bi-directional separated on-road cycleways, Council is required to consult with the community. Council Officers are seeking feedback on how the proposed change to the road layout will impact on the how the community currently uses the road.

/
Moved/Seconded

9. [Decision Report – Road Closure for a Car Club Event](#)
D23/33082 Page 62

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.
2. THAT pursuant to Section 342(1) (b) Schedule 10 clause 11(e) of the Local Government Act 1974, approval is hereby given that the Stratford District Council proposes to close the following roads on Sunday 13 August 2023 between the hours of 7.30am and 5.30pm for the purpose of the Westend Hire Stratford Street Sprint 2023
 - Orlando Street from Warwick Road to Celia Street
 - Romeo Street from Orlando Street to Cordelia Street
 - Cordelia Street from Romeo Street to Warwick Road
 - Warwick Road from Cordelia Street to Orlando Street

Recommended Reason

The South Taranaki Car Club have approached the Stratford District Council with the view of holding their annual Westend Hire Stratford Street Sprint Event on Sunday 13 August. This is their 33rd year of running the event. The proposed road closure requires formal endorsement by a Council resolution.

/
Moved/Seconded

10. Decision Report – Taranaki Position Statement on Preferred Establishment Date for the Taranaki Water Services Entity
D23/33227 Page 72

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.
2. THAT Council notes that the Government is proposing a staggered roll out of Water Services Entities across New Zealand with quarterly implementation dates between 1 July 2024 and 1 July 2026.
3. THAT Council notes that the leadership of both Taranaki's Councils and Iwi have agreed a preferred date of 1 April 2025 for the establishment of the Taranaki Water Services Entity.
4. THAT Council notes the Taranaki Position Statement is to be signed by Neil Volzke as the Chair of the Taranaki Mayoral Forum, and Jaimie Tuuta on behalf of Taranaki Iwi.
5. THAT Council endorses the Taranaki Position Statement.

Recommended Reason

To communicate an aligned position of the Taranaki Region regarding a preferred date of 1 April 2025 for the transition of a range of activities currently managed by the three district councils to the new Taranaki Water Services Entity. The ultimate decision for this timing sits with DIA but they are looking for expressions of a preference from the regions. This report seeks endorsement of that date by Council.

/
Moved/Seconded

11. Questions

12. Closing Karakia
D21/40748 Page 79



Our reference
F19/13/03-D21/40748

Karakia

Kia uruuru mai
Ā hauora
Ā haukaha
Ā haumāia
Ki runga, Ki raro
Ki roto, Ki waho
Rire rire hau Paimārire

I draw in (to my being)
The reviving essence
The strengthening essence
The essence of courage
Above, Below
Within, Around
Let there be peace.



Our reference
F19/13/03-D22/17082

Health and Safety Message

In the event of an emergency, unless guided to an alternative route by staff, please exit through the main entrance. Once outside the building please move towards the War Memorial Centre congregating on the lawn area outside the front of the council building.

If there is an earthquake, please drop, cover and hold where possible. Remain indoors until the shaking stops and you are sure it is safe to exit or remain where you are until further instruction is given.

5. Attendance schedule for 2023 Ordinary and Extraordinary Council meetings.

Date	14/2/23	14/3/23	11/4/23	9/5/23	13/6/23	11/7/23	8/8/23	12/9/23	10/10/23	14/11/23	12/12/23
Meeting	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Neil Volzke	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Steve Beck	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Grant Boyde	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Annette Dudley	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Jono Erwood	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Ellen Hall	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Amanda Harris	AV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Vaughan Jones	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓					
Min McKay	✓	✓	S	✓	✓	✓					
John Sandford	S	S	S	✓	✓	✓					
Clive Tongaawhikau	✓	A	✓	✓	A	✓					
Mathew Watt	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓					

Key	
O	Ordinary Meeting
E	Extraordinary Meeting
EM	Emergency Meeting
✓	Attended
A	Apology/Leave of Absence
AB	Absent
S	Sick
(AV)	Meeting held, or attended by, by Audio Visual Link

MINUTES

Ordinary



F22/55/05 – D23/29729

Date: Tuesday 11 July 2023 at 3.30 PM

Venue: Council Chambers, Stratford District Council, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

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

In attendance

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director – Corporate Services – Mrs T Radich, the Director – Assets – Mrs V Araba, the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the acting Director – Community Services – Mr C Julie, the HR and Governance Administrator – Mrs C Reynolds, the Communications Manager – Ms G Gibson, one member of the media (Stratford Press) and two members of the public.

1. Welcome

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

1.1 Opening Karakia D21/40748 Page 9

The opening karakia was read.

1.2 Health and Safety Message D21/26210 Page 10

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

2. Apologies

There were no apologies.

3. Announcements

The District Mayor noted he would like to table the submission on the Water Services Entity Amendment Bill which arose from the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting. He noted he will seek formal endorsement today, while noting it has already been submitted.

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 declarations of interest.

5. Attendance Schedule

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

6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Ordinary Meeting of Council – 13 June 2023
D23/25695 Page 8

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 13 June 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

BOYDE/HARRIS
Carried
CL/23/59

6.1.1 Public Forum Notes
D23/25525 Page 21

The notes were attached for Council's information.

6.2 Farm and Aerodrome Committee – 20 June 2023
D23/27406 Page 23

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Farm and Aerodrome Committee meeting held on Tuesday 20 June 2023 be received.

BECK/HALL
Carried
CL/23/60

2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Farm and Aerodrome Committee meeting held on Tuesday 20 June 2023 be adopted.

BOYDE/DUDLEY
Carried
CL/23/61

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde reiterated that with approximately \$100,000 going into reserve, this shows how much of an asset the council farm is to Council. He also noted this is the first season the Sharemilkers have run the budget themselves.

6.3 Policy and Services Committee – 27 June 2023
D23/28249 Page 28

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 27 June 2023 be received.
TONGAAWHIKAU/JONES
Carried
CL/23/62
2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 27 June 2023 be adopted.
McKAY/WATT
Carried
CL/23/63

The HR & Governance Administrator undertook to make the following amendments:

- Councillor Jones requested it to be noted that he does not believe he made the statement on page 34 in regards to Stratford High School. The District Mayor reiterated any changes would be made when confirming the minutes at the upcoming Policy and Services Meeting.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde noted it is great to see work done around speeds around schools, however is disappointed schools like Toko have not been given the same treatment since they fall under Waka Kotahi. He questioned if there is any way Council could support schools such as Toko which are on State Highways, to get the surrounding speed limits reduced.
- The District Mayor noted Toko School has previously asked this, and Council has supported them with their endeavours, however so far nothing has happened and it is not under Council jurisdiction. He noted the deadline for these changes is 2026, and as Waka Kotahi need to also comply with these rules, it will eventually happen.

6.4 Taranaki Emergency Management Group Joint Committee – 18 May 2023
Page 39

Recommendation

THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Taranaki Emergency Management Group Joint Committee meeting held on Tuesday 18 May 2023 be received.
VOLZKE/ERWOOD
Carried
CL/23/64

- It was noted the District Mayor and the Chief Executive represent Council on this committee.

6.5 Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee – 25 May 2023
Page 42

Recommendation

THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee meeting held on Tuesday 25 May 2023 be received.
McKAY/HARRIS
Carried
CL/23/65

Points noted in discussion:

- It was noted the Deputy Mayor represents Council on this committee.
- The Deputy Mayor noted she was happy that it was acknowledged at the meeting that Stratford District Council has been busy in the WMMP space. She noted that the New Zealand Waste Strategy was discussed in this meeting and food waste is going to be a requirement of all Councils.

6.6 Taranaki Regional Transport Committee – 8 June 2023
Page 45

Recommendation

THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Taranaki Regional Transport Committee meeting held on Tuesday 8 June 2023 be received.

VOLZKE/ TONGAAWHIKAU
Carried
CL/23/66

Points noted in discussion:

- It was noted the District Mayor and the Rooding Asset Manager – Stephen Bowden represent Council on this committee.
- The District Mayor noted the meeting included a detailed presentation from Waka Kotahi focussing on median barriers between Egmont Village and Hawera. This was the same information circulated to Councillors a fortnight ago.
- Councillor Boyde questioned the representation of emergency services at the meeting, as he had seen a lot of feedback from them that they did not support the median barriers.
- The District Mayor noted St John, Police and FENZ were represented on the committee, and had been part of the consultation. He noted Waka Kotahi are aware of the concerns which had been raised.

7. District Mayor's Report
D23/29188 Page 49

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/SANDFORD
Carried
CL/23/67

Points noted in discussion:

- The District Mayor noted he would like the tabled submission on the Water Services Entity Amendment Bill to be formally endorsed.
- Councillor Boyde noted that the Councillors' concerns had been taken in.
- Councillor Hall noted her appreciation on being included in the process, despite the short timeframe.
- The District Mayor noted the Mayoral Forum had decided not to submit as a forum as all Councils involved had a slightly different point of view, and Taranaki Regional Council did not wish to submit.

Recommendation

THAT the *tabled* Water Services Entity Amendment Bill submission be formally endorsed.

VOLZKE/BOYDE
Carried
CL/23/68

8. Questions

There were no questions.

9. Closing Karakia

D21/40748 Page 53

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 3.56pm

N C Volzke

Chairman

Confirmed this 8th day of August 2023.

N C Volzke

District Mayor

MINUTES

Audit and Risk Committee



F22/55/05 – D23/31366

Date: Tuesday 18 July 2023 at 1.00pm
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

Mr P Jones (the Chair), the District Mayor N C Volzke, the Deputy Mayor M McKay, Councillors: G W Boyde, J M S Erwood and V R Jones

In attendance

Councillors: S J Beck, A M C Dudley, A K Harris (*part meeting*), E E Hall and W J Sandford

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director – Corporate Services – Mrs T Radich, the Director – Assets – Mrs V Araba, the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the Acting Director – Community Services – Mr C Julie, the Committee Advisor and Executive Assistant – Mrs E Bishop, the Project Manager – Mr S Taylor, the Corporate Accountant – Mrs C Craig (*part meeting*), the Parks and Reserves Officer – Mrs M McBain (*part meeting*) and the Property Officer – Mrs S Flight (*part meeting*)

Via audio visual link: Luke van der Walt and Pam Thomson (Deloitte) (*part meeting*) and Darrin Williamson (Marsh) (*part meeting*)

1. Welcome

The opening karakia was read.

The Chair welcomed the District Mayor, Councillors, staff and the media to the meeting.

The Chair reiterated the health and safety message and emergency procedures.

2. Apologies

An apology was noted from the Health and Safety/Civil Defence Advisor – Mr M Bestall

3. Announcements

The Chief Executive noted that the Health and Safety/Civil Defence Advisor was leaving Stratford District Council on 4 August 2023. He had asked that his thanks and acknowledgement be passed onto this committee.

4. Declarations of Members Interest

The Chair requested councillors to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda.

There were no declarations of interest relating to items on this agenda.

5. Attendance Schedule

The attendance schedule for Audit and Risk Committee meetings was attached.

6. Programme of Works

D21/42807

Page 11

Recommendation

THAT the Audit and Risk Committee's amended rolling programme of works up to the end of 2023 be received.

P JONES/McKAY

Carried
A&R/23/25

The Director – Corporate Services noted that the one-off report on Climate Change resilience and strategic risk deep dive would be moved to November.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was noted that the feedback from the workshop held on Risk Maturity would be collated and brought to the committee for formal consideration.
- The Chairman requested a project plan be presented to the committee for the three waters transition with a particular focus on the associated risk for the transition period including the risk on rates collection in terms of the impact on the finance team.
- It was noted the planning around the consequences of the three waters reforms and transition on the Long Term Plan will be updated within the risk management report.

7. Confirmation of Minutes

7.1 Audit and Risk Committee – 16 May 2023

D23/21284

Page 12

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Audit and Risk Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 16 May 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

BOYDE/ERWOOD

Carried
A&R/23/26

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was clarified that the de-escalation training organised for the Customer Service, Library and Visitor Information and Wai o Rua Staff had been structured specifically for their roles. Additional training is being investigated for other roles and an invitation will be extended to elected members when this is set. Councillor Boyde noted that councillors were copping a fair bit of flack recently, particularly around the rugby fields.

The Chairman requested that item 13 – Correspondence be received at this point of the meeting. This was to allow the representatives from Deloitte to answer questions from the committee. It was noted the Luke van der Walt and Pam Thomson were present via audio visual link.

13. Correspondence

13.1 Draft Audit Proposal Letter *Page 91*

The Director – Corporate Services noted the following points:

- The attached letter is the proposal to complete the audit of the 2022/23 financial statements and Annual Report. The interim audit has already started and it is planned that the final audit will begin on 31 July.
- The letter highlights that the previous budgeted hours was 741, however the actual hours were 1,353. The proposal budgets for a total of 971 hours.
- It was acknowledged that part of the high hours for the last audit was due to it being the first time Deloitte's had audited Stratford District Council, however Mrs Radich noted that there had been no indication of how much of the increased hours had been in relation to a first audit and how much had been related to the increased audit standards/requirements.
- This will increase the cost of the audit (excluding OAG Audit Standards and disbursements) to \$183,500 for council and to \$24,740 for the Percy Thomson Trust.

Pam Thomson presented to council and the following points were noted:

- The previous audit proposal was done by Audit NZ for the three years ended 30 June 2022. That fee had been set before Covid-19 and the changes in the economic environment.
- The economic environment had been one factor to the proposed increased to fees, and the total hours another. It was understood that there would be investment time last year for the first audit and this has been reflected in the budgeted hours being less than the actual hours in 2022.

Questions/Points of Clarification

- Councillor Boyde noted he had been horrified at the increase as it is a huge increase for a small council to absorb. He asked for clarification on the scope change and what has changed in the process for such an increase in hours? Ms Thompson clarified that there wasn't a scope change, but noted that the approximate 700 hours budgeted for by Audit NZ had actually taken them 903 hours. These hours had been benchmarked against other councils and were reasonable in comparison. There was also a robust process undertaken with the Auditor General who also looked at the hours required by other councils in general to ensure it was reasonable.
- Councillor Boyde asked if council could do anything to shorten the amount of hours the audit is taking? Ms Thompson noted that Deloitte's had proposed that they will present the hours to Mrs Radich to ascertain how long each part of the audit is taking to ensure there is a realistic view of what has contributed to them. A debrief session will be held with management to potentially find areas that could be reduced, however she noted it will not equate to 200 hours less.
- The District Mayor noted his shock at the allocation of 971 hours, which would equate to three people working a full time job for eight weeks. He noted that some of the questions asked previously, specifically regarding a single expense claim, were ridiculous and costing the rate payers. He questioned the price increase for the Percy Thomson Trust as it is council's only council controlled organisation and is a small organisation with some property investment and hardly any income or expenditure. Ms Thompson clarified that invoice investigation relating to sensitive expenditure is mandated by the Auditor General and the same level of detail required is applied to all testing of expenditure. She noted that the investments and fair value of the plant, property and equipment for the Percy Thomson Trust takes a significant amount of time but this has been discussed with management to see if this can be amended going forward.
- Councillor Hall asked for more detail regarding the valuation of land and buildings for the Percy Thomson Trust as this was a large part of the proposed fee. Ms Thompson noted that there has been an increase in cost for the nature of valuations. Over the past 2-3 years, due to changes and economic factors, there have been fair value assessments required. However she noted that a full valuation was required for the 2023 financial year.
- The Deputy Mayor asked if loss of staff time for answering questions for the auditors was recorded? She asked how council can ensure the big jump in hours for the learning year does not happen again, and what accountability there is for Deloitte to absorb that cost. Mrs Radich noted that staff did not keep track of time spent answering questions, however they are collating the questions that they do not think are of any value or are not appropriate and will discuss these with Deloitte.
- The Deputy Mayor asked what the accountability on Deloitte was for ensuring the questions being asked are correct and are no more and no less than what is required? She noted it would be good to see transparency around what those hours are used for and how further streamlining could be

achieved. Ms Thompson noted that Deloitte's were more than happy to share the time that it has taken and acknowledged that last year there were considerably more questions as Deloitte's was getting to know Stratford District Council. The Deputy Mayor noted it would be good for the committee to look at the hours budgeted and the actual hours this year, she noted they should not be learning this year and the committee should ensure it is efficient this time around.

- It was clarified that the budgeted figure in the letter was the total. If the hours are higher than proposed council will still only pay the proposed amount.
- Ms Thompson noted they were talking with managers regarding the valuation process. There has been a change to all valuations to be at the year end and the valuation requirements have been factored into the audit proposal letter. There has not been a need for a full valuation identified, however Land and Buildings are due for revaluation this year.
- Mrs Radich noted that the fee proposed was similar to other similar sized or medium sized councils, however she noted the cost per ratepayer was much higher for Stratford District Council. It was noted that South Taranaki District Council's audit fee was very similar to the proposed fee for Stratford. Ms Thompson noted that there is a marked increase in audit fees across the board primarily due to cost increases.

Luke van der Walt presented to council on the Audit Plan:

- As part of the audit process an audit plan is constructed to set the strategy for the year and the audit. This will be provided to the committee to provide an opportunity for input and discussion on the areas of focus that are highlighted.
- It was noted that due to the scheduling of the Audit and Risk Committee meetings this plan would be circulated to the committee via email for input. It is expected that the plan will be sent to management by the end of this month.

8. Matters Outstanding

D18/27474

Page 23

Recommendation

THAT the matters outstanding be received.

ERWOOD/V JONES
Carried
A&R/23/27

9. Information Report – Health and Safety

D23/29203

Page 24

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

P JONES/BOYDE
Carried
A&R/23/28

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was confirmed the appropriate process had been followed regarding the aggression shown by a tenant towards staff member if this was to happen again. Tenancies have been ended in past due to bad behaviour, however it was acknowledged that in this instance the tenant had apologised for ger behaviour..
- It was clarified that there had been no repercussions for the parent of the child with regard to incident four in the report. The footage has shown that the child's head was never underwater, contrary to what was reposted on social media. It was noted that staff do have the ability to remove a member of the public from the facility or impose a temporary ban should it be appropriate.

- Councillor Boyde noted how social media can impact conversations for an incident. He reiterated that rules are there for a reason and staff should take a firm stand on people who are exploiting these rules.
- It was noted that staff have to enforce the rules regarding accompanying children at Wai o Rua multiple times a day.
- The Chairman formally thanked Mr Bestall for his contributions and wished him well for the future.

10. Information Report – Civil Defence Progress and Readiness – July 2023

D23/29424 Page 28

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/ERWOOD

Carried

A&R/23/29

Recommended Reason

It is a function of this committee to stay abreast of Council's readiness and ability to meet its requirements and obligations as laid out in the Taranaki Civil Defence Group's constituting agreement.

The Chief Executive noted the following points:

- There has been an incremental improvement on council's performance score, however with the earthquake prone status for both civil defence facilities it has knocked Stratford back a bit.
- Staff training, practicing and resourcing has improved.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde asked if during a medium local event would our resourcing be enough and did the volunteers need to be staff? Mr Hanne noted that volunteers did not need to be council employees, however as regular training draws people during the day it impacts availability. He noted the Central Taranaki Safe Community Trust volunteers, in terms of the welfare activity, are a fantastic resource and have had their own training course designed for them. He noted that neither of the neighbouring councils could manage an event themselves and it would be expected that positions would be backfilled from the region. A regional event would be run from TEMO in New Plymouth.
- It was noted that the criticism following the recent flooding events in Auckland are being reviewed for Taranaki, Mr Hanne noted that in the case of the mayoral declaration the barrier would not have occurred in Taranaki.
- The Chairman asked if the committee felt comfortable that council's Chief Executive was a regional controller which could take him out of work for considerable time, he noted the advantages for this but also the risk element. The District Mayor noted that in the past it had not been problematic for this council and there were alternatives at a regional level should he be required at council.
- The District Mayor noted that Taranaki civil defence has worked through issues and evolved progressively over the years. He noted they were quite active as there are regular weather events and standbys in the region.

The Corporate Accountant joined the meeting at 1.52pm.

11. Information Report – Capital Works Programme – Key Projects Update – July 2023
D23/28971 Page 65

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

P JONES/BOYDE
Carried
A&R/23/30

Recommended Reason

To present an update on the progress of our key capital projects in the 2022/23 financial year.

The Project Manager noted the following points:

- The Connecting the Communities Strategy has been held back as it is awaiting further data from ACC and Stats NZ, it is expected this will be presented to the Policy and Services Committee in August.
- An updated table was circulated showing total budget spent, overspend and underspend.
- This report will change slightly from September and will identify more of the risks involved with the projects as well as if the projects will be completed within the financial year.

Mr Darren Williamson joined the meeting via audio-visual link at 1.57pm.

12. Information Report – Risk Management (update)
D23/29421 Page 79

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

P JONES/ERWOOD
Carried
A&R/23/31

Recommended Reason

To provide an update to the Audit and Risk Committee of any significant risks and any incidents or threats in relation to significant risks on Council's risk register from the previous quarter.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The Chairman noted the risk for rising interest costs. Council will likely have to live with the consequences of high interest rates for some time and it is important to consider this during the long term plan process.

13. Correspondence
8.1 Draft Audit Proposal Letter Page 91

Correspondence was received, and discussed following item 7.

14. General Business

There was no general business.

15. Questions

There were no questions.

16. Resolution to Exclude the Public

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

Agenda Item No: 17 and 18

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution to each matter	Grounds under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Insurance Renewal 2023/24	The withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.	That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist, under section 6 and section 7 of the Act - specifically Section 7(2)(b)(ii). (Section 48(1)(a) Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.
Section 17a Review	The withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.	That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist, under section 6 and section 7 of the Act - specifically Section 7(2)(b)(ii). (Section 48(1)(a) Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

McKAY/BOYDE
 Carried
A&R/23/32

There were no members of the public present.

17. Public Excluded Item

Councillor Harris left the meeting at 2.38pm.

18. Public Excluded Item

Recommendation

THAT the open meeting resume.

P JONES/McKAY
Carried
A&R/23/35

19. Closing karakia

D21/40748 Page 86

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 3.05pm.

P Jones
Chairman

Confirmed this 19^h day of September 2023.

N C Volzke
District Mayor

MINUTES

Policy and Services Committee



F22/55/05 – D23/32590

Date: Tuesday 25 July 2023 at 2.00PM

Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

To hear and consider submissions to the Draft Class 4 Gambling Venues Policy and Draft TAB Venue Policy

Present

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

In attendance

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director – Corporate Services – Mrs T Radich, the Director – Assets – Mrs V Araba, the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the Acting Director – Community Services – Mr C Julie, the Committee Advisor and Executive Assistant – Mrs E Bishop, the Environmental Health Manager – Ms R Otter, the HR & Governance Advisor – Mrs C Reynolds (*part meeting*), one member of the public (Mr M Cheer *part meeting*), and one member of the media (Stratford Press)

Via audio visual link: Two members of the public (Mr J True and Mr D Martin part meeting)

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

There were no apologies.

3. Announcements

Speakers to Submissions

The Chairman reinforced to Councillors that the purpose of this meeting is to hear and consider submissions on the Draft Class 4 Gambling Venues Policy and Draft TAB Venues Policy. Councillors were asked to hear all submissions with an open mind, to restrict their question time to the submitters to points of clarification or issues pertaining to subject matter. Councillors were requested not to get into direct dialogue with submitters. The timeframe scheduled for the day is tight. Councillors may take notes whilst submitters are speaking.

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 declarations of interest.

5. Attendance Schedule

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

6. Acknowledgement of Submissions

Submissions – Page 25

Attached were the 6 submissions received to the Draft Class 4 Gambling Venues Policy and Draft TAB Venue Policy.

Recommendations

1. THAT the submissions to the Draft Class 4 Gambling Venues Policy and Draft TAB Venue Policy be received.
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.

HARRIS/VOLZKE
Carried
P&S/23/93

Recommended Reason

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

7. Submitters To Be Heard

There were 4 submitters wishing to speak. Each submitter was allocated five (5) minutes to present their submission and five (5) minutes for questions.

Submission #	Name	Organisation	Page Number	Time
1	Martin Cheer	Pub Charity	25	2.05pm
Points noted in presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Cheer is the managing director of Pub Charity which is the oldest gaming trust in New Zealand. • They operate at approximately 125 venues from Kaitia to Central Otago and raise \$40 million of community grants which are distributed to the host areas from which the funds were raised. • For some time these policies have been framed as a debate between those who wish to operate machines and those who wish to oppose machines. The vast majority of people who play and benefit from the machines are not part of this process, he reiterated that the residents, ratepayers and voters all have an interest in this matter. The machines are a fundraising mechanism for this community and an economic benefit for those businesses hosting the machines. • The proposal to reduce the number of machines to 27 to reduce exposure to the general public and to lower the risk of harm from gambling in general does not consider evidence from New Zealand and Australia that says sinking lids and caps have proved to be ineffective mechanisms for reducing harm. • There are low numbers for this area, 0.2% of the adult population considered to be a problem gambler as per the screening index. The harm for Stratford is recorded as 0 for the past three years and there is no record of anyone seeking help for problem gambling setting an extremely low baseline. • Looking at the screening index, which is an analytical tool which looks at the demographic index and risk profile, there is a very low risk for this community. • The argument is to reduce by nine machines to reduce harm, however the number of gaming machines in this community has been reduced by a third from what it was, and the harm rate is unchanged. • He recognised addiction and impulse control is a neurological control issue. These people are exposed to multiple probabilities for impulse control issues and are just as likely to be impacted by nicotine or alcohol. • Gaming Machines are not the only form of gambling in New Zealand. Over the Covid-19 lockdowns online gambling has increased dramatically. So the exposure per capita could be 				

<p>reduced by implementing this policy but everyone in reach of a smart phone has a gateway for all sorts of gambling opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He noted he did not support the proposed policy. <p>Questions/Points of Clarification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District Mayor asked if Mr Cheer was suggesting there was no harm in our area as there are no people registered for harm during the year? Mr Cheer clarified he was not suggesting there was no harm from this form or any other form of gambling. • The District Mayor asked if Mr Cheer thought a trail of destruction from a problem gambler who stole from their employer, family and overspent family budgets, but was not registered as a problem gambler, was harmless? Mr Cheer said no. 				
2	Don Martin <i>Via audio visual link</i>	New Zealand Community Trust	37	2.15pm
<p>Points noted in presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sinking lid removes community funding for Stratford, therefore the Trust supports a cap of 36 machines and retaining the relocation clause to allow venues to move to a new and modern premises. • 73% of funds collected go to small projects. For Stratford Avon School received \$18,000, Huiakama School \$17,000, St Joseph's Primary School \$11,000 and the Stratford Amateur Swimming Club \$7,000. Where would these organisations get funding from without these funds? • The machines create an avenue to distribute funds through the community. • He understood there is a balancing act but noted the Trust is here to support activities and is one of the largest funders of amateur sports. • Reducing harm is taken very seriously. • In the last 18 years 10,000 machines have been removed out of the market and from that funding from the sector was reduced by \$80 million. • Most people gamble for entertainment – from lotto, sports to racing. 13% of adults gamble on electronic gaming machines. It is wide spread and socially accepted. • He noted that while machine numbers are reducing, problem gambling numbers are static. • Gaming machines are controlled – online games are the problem and are a major risk for kids. • The Trust offers support for staff training and control checks. \$20 million has gone from the gaming sector to DIA for their prevention and minimisation programme every year. • Relocations are positive. It enables businesses to move away from high deprivation areas, supports local hospitality businesses and creates jobs. It allows businesses to respond to future demands and allows appropriate benefit and responsibility to be placed on the venue. • For every dollar spent 91% is returned as prize money. 3.3% of every dollar spent is returned in grants. 				
3	Te Haupai Korewha	Tui Ora	57	2.25pm
<p>The submitter was not present.</p>				
4	Jarrold True <i>Via audio visual link</i>	The Gaming Association of New Zealand	59	2.35pm
<p>Points noted in presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports the retention of the current relocation provision as it enables a relocation in any circumstance. The proposal changes the existing clause and narrows it down to only consider relocation in certain circumstances. • Supports the retention of the current cap. • Relocation as a harm minimisation tool allows businesses to move out of areas, there is no good policy reason to restrict relocation if a business wants to move through no fault of their own to a more desirable location. Relocation allows businesses to move out of the undesirable areas such as residential and high deprivation areas. They should not have to wait for a fire or an earthquake to move. They should be able to move out of an earthquake prone building, to free up large locks of land or where the landlord is demanding unreasonable rents, and to move to a new modern refurbished premises. The Te Rapa Tavern was presented as an example of relocation as it helped improve the local economy and creates employment. Council should not be entrenching businesses in run down undesirable locations. 				

- There is a balance between harm and the benefit that comes from gaming machines. They are a form of entertainment, 67% of adults gamble at least once a year, and they create regional and national grants. In 2022 \$516,997 of grants were made in Stratford.
- The problem gambling rate is very low – only 0.2% of the adult population. Presentation numbers for Stratford is 0 new clients over the last 5 years. Locally problem gambling is not high and wouldn't justify a restrictive cap or a sinking lid.
- Machine numbers in Stratford have reduced considerably from 49 machines in 2015.
- There are very strict measures for the venues with new harm prevention measures being introduced from 1 December:
 - One cash withdrawal per day – with any player getting a second withdrawal requiring a report to be completed. There will be legal requirement for the venue manager to review those reports potentially approach the person if viewed as potential problem gambler.
 - ATMs must be in line of sight of the main bar.
 - Gaming machines cannot be visible from outside the venue.
 - Venue staff must undertake three gaming room sweeps per hour to monitor the players. If these are not done they can receive a \$1,000 fine.

8. [Decision Report – Draft Class 4 Gambling Venues Policy and draft TAB Venue Policy.](#)
D23/19724 Page 7

Council needs to consider submissions to the Draft Class 4 Gambling Venues Policy and draft TAB Policy as part of the consultation process.

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

HALL/SANDFORD
Carried
P&S/23/94
2. THAT the committee considers submissions received as part of the public consultation process

BOYDE/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/23/95
3. THAT the committee adopts the *draft* Class 4 Gambling Venues Policy with the amendment to the relocation clause as noted.
4. THAT the committee adopt the draft TAB Venue Policy.
5. THAT the commencement date of both policies be Wednesday 9 August 2023.

VOLZKE/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/23/96

Recommended Reason

The *draft* Class 4 Gambling Venues Policy and *draft* TAB Venue Policy has gone through the public consultation process, required by Sections 82 and 83 of the Local Government Act 2002. Six submissions were received on the Class 4 Gambling Policy as a result of the public consultation process. The committee is now required to consider these submissions.

The Environmental Health Manager noted the following points:

- The objective and intent of the Class 4 Gambling Venues Policy is to minimise harm, control the location of gambling venues and the number of gaming machines.
- The officers preferred option is option 1.
- Option 1 accepts people experience enjoyment from gaming and provides community groups with the ability to apply for funding but addresses community harm by keeping the number of machines at an acceptable level.
- The policy is reviewed every three years and can be reviewed earlier if any changes arise that require an earlier review.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde noted that the submissions consistently requested the relocation provision to be retained, he asked for further elaboration on this proposal. Ms Otter explained that it provides an effective way to reach the target of 27 machines. To achieve the sinking lid the level needs to be high to move and apply for another premises. The District Mayor noted he had changes to this clause to propose. Councillor Boyde noted venues should be able to relocate when a new location is more desirable.

Submissions

1. Pub Charity
 - The District Mayor noted there was a common thread from the providers submitting. This is regarding the sinking lid and relocation policy. Online gambling is outside the jurisdiction of this policy.
 - Thank and acknowledge comments.
2. NZCT
 - Thank and acknowledge comments.
3. Tui Ora
 - This submission does not support club mergers or relocations and recommends to set a number of five gaming machines and have strong policies about reducing harm.
 - Thank and acknowledge comments.
4. Gaming Association of New Zealand
 - Councillor Boyde reiterated he did not feel the relocation element was right.
 - Councillor Hall noted that Mr True had spoken in detail about the reported harm for people who were troubled gamblers. It is likely much higher than these figures and you could not see the true harm of gambling in our community simply by those who have sought help.
 - Councillor Jones noted the high regulation for this industry compared to online gambling with even more regulations being brought in.
 - The District Mayor noted that until recently, over the past 3-4 years there have been 27 machines in the district and only a relatively short period with 36 machines. Retaining the cap of 36 machines would effectively be an increase to the practice over the past 3-4 years.
5. Problem Gambling Association
 - Thank and acknowledge comments.
6. Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand
 - Supports having no TAB venues in the District.
 - Thank and acknowledge comments.

Points noted in discussion:

- The District Mayor noted the submissions were split into two groups – one being the service groups keen to support the retention of existing machines and justified by the grants given to the community. He noted these grants are only a portion of what is taken from the community and he did not support the claims that a sinking lid would affect the ability for these grants as the reality has been there have only been 27 machines operating over the past 3-4 years. If 27 machines became the reality with a sinking lid then it would be capped at 27. He noted that the Problem Gambling Foundation says the number and location of machines both count towards accessibility.
- The District Mayor also noted the concern within the submissions regarding the relocation policy. Having read the submissions, and taking on the reference that relocation can be a harm minimising tool, he suggested a change be made to the proposal that relocation was only possible as a result of a natural disaster or event. It does seem restrictive to not have any provision for relocation to a better, brighter and more desirable location. He suggested relocation for an event or natural disaster but adding a second permissible section to be at the discretion of the Chief Executive meeting criteria to relocate for another reason. This would address the concern of a number of agencies.
- Councillor Harris supported the sinking lid to 27. This is no dramatic change as the community has had 27 machines for the most part. She noted there had been discussion prior to the release of this policy regarding relocation and she supported allowing relocation for the growth of a business – for example if a business wanted to move to incorporate a restaurant this would also have great benefits in terms of employment.
- Councillor Hall supported the sinking lid to 27 machines but asked if the relocation wording was changed how it would affect the ability to get to 27 machines? Ms Otter noted that depending on the wording it still has the ability to reduce to 27 machines albeit faster or slower depending on council's direction. It will still provide the ability to reach the goal of 27 machines and creates the ability to move out of a lower socio-economic area or to enhance a business.

The HR & Governance Administrator left the meeting at 2.52pm.

- The District Mayor noted that criteria for a relocation would need to ensure the premises the business is leaving discontinues as a venue as well as a requirement for no additional machines at the new venue.
- Councillor Dudley asked if a clause could be added to ensure the business who currently has more than the cap of 9 machines would have to be capped if they relocated? Ms Otter clarified that as this license was prior to 2001 if they relocated and continued to operate then they could take those machines with them.
- Councillor Boyde supported the proposal with a tweak to the relocation provision.
- Changes to be made:
 - Clause 6.1

Delete first sentence and replace with “ An existing Class 4 venue that is forced to vacate its existing venue through no fault of its own as outlined below, will be granted permission to do so subject to meeting the conditions set out in clause 6.2 below.

- (a) The existing venue is unfit to continue operation due to a natural disaster or fire;
- (b) The existing venue is required to move due to public works acquisition under the Public Works Act 1981; or
- (c) The existing venue is an earthquake prone building or a venue with <34% NBS and the premises is relocating into a venue of more than 34% NBS

An existing Class 4 venue that seeks to relocate for other reasons may be granted a consent to continue its gaming activity in another venue or rebuilt premises for the same number of machines that they are licensed to operate, subject to it meeting the conditions set out in Clause 6.2 below and subject to the approval of the Chief Executive.

- Clause 6.2

A Class 4 venue that is seeking to relocate to another venue must meet the requirements as follows:

1. The current Class 4 venue operator is intending to and will be conducting Class 4 gambling at the new location,
 2. The vacated site will not be able to be used by any other Class 4 operator to operate Class 4 Gambling,
 3. The Class 4 operator and venue operator are the same as those cited in the venue agreement for the existing venue and the proposed new venue,
 4. The new venue must also be in the same or lower deprivation area than the existing venue.
 5. The replacement venue meets the other relevant requirements of this policy and the Act.
- The Deputy Mayor noted her support for the change to the relocation policy to help support businesses in our local community to improve and help problem gambling in an area by allowing them to move.

9. Closing Karakia

D21/40748

Page 92

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 3.00pm.

M McKay
Chairperson

Confirmed this 22nd of August 2023.

N C Volzke
District Mayor

POLICY



Policy:	Class 4 Gambling Venues Policy
Department:	Environmental Services
Approved by:	Policy and Services Committee
Effective date:	9 August 2023
Next review date:	August 2026
Document Number:	D23/32216 – Version 5

1. Objectives

- 1.1 To minimise the harm caused by gambling in the Stratford District and to control the location of Class 4 gambling venues and the number of gaming machines.
- 1.2 A sinking lid policy will apply in the Stratford District until the total number of gaming machines that may be operated in Class 4 Gambling Venues is reduced to 27. Once there are no more than 27 gaming machines operating in the District, the maximum number that may be operated will be capped at 27.

2. Purpose and Scope

- 2.1 The purpose of this policy is to meet the requirements of the Gambling Act 2003, which states that every Council must adopt a policy on Class 4 gambling venues.
- 2.2 The policy must specify whether or not class 4 venues may be established in the district and, if so, where they may be located; and may specify any restrictions on the maximum number of gaming machines that may be operated at a class 4 venue.
- 2.3 This policy covers the Stratford District and applies to:
All venues with an existing Class 4 Gambling Venue licence.

3. Interpretation

Act means the Gambling Act 2003.

Class 4 Gambling has the same meaning as given in section 30 of the Act, and is commonly known as ‘gaming machine gambling’.

Class 4 Gambling Venue means a place used to operate Class 4 Gambling.

Council means the Stratford District Council.

District means the Stratford District.

Gaming Machine has the same meaning as defined in section 4 of the Act and is also commonly known as a ‘pokie machine’.

Sinking lid means that once a class 4 gambling venue closes, the council will not issue any other society a licence to replace that venue.

Sleeping Machine is a gaming machine that is consented or licenced for, but not currently in operation.

4. Primary Activity and Location of Class 4 Gambling Venues

- 4.1 Class 4 Gambling Venues may be established in the Stratford District provided that:
The primary activity of any Class 4 Gambling Venue is either for:
- (i) The sale of alcohol or, the sale of alcohol and food, where the venue is subject to an on-licence; and
 - (ii) The venue is a permitted activity under the Stratford District Plan and/or holds all necessary resource consents and/or is otherwise lawfully established.
- 4.2 For the avoidance or doubt, a Class 4 Gambling Venue is not permitted in the Stratford District if gambling is the primary activity carried out at the venue.

5. Numbers of Gaming Machines

- 5.1 No new or additional Class 4 gaming machine venues are to be established in the Stratford District from the date of adoption of this policy, except where the new venue is permitted by clause 6 of the Relocation Policy.
- 5.2 All gaming machines as at the date of adoption of this policy may continue until such time as the venue does not hold a licence for gaming machines;
- 5.3 Existing Class 4 venues may not increase the number of gaming machines that exist at the date of this policy. The Council will not grant consent for any venue or club to operate additional gaming machines.

6. Relocation Policy

- 6.1 **The existing Class 4 gambling venue that is forced to vacate its existing venue through no fault of its own as outlined below, will be granted permission to relocate to another venue subject to it meeting the conditions set out in clause 6.2:**
- (a) The existing venue is unfit to continue operation due to a natural disaster or fire;
 - (b) The existing venue is required to move due to public works acquisition under the Public Works Act 1981; or
 - (c) The existing venue is a registered earthquake prone building or a venue with <34% NBS and the premises is relocating into a venue of more than 34% NBS
- 6.2 **An existing Class 4 venue that seeks to relocate for other reasons may be granted a consent to continue its gaming activity in another venue or rebuilt premises for the same number of machines that they are licensed to operate, subject to the proposal meeting the conditions set out in points 1 to 5 below and subject to the approval of the Chief Executive.**
- 1. The current Class 4 venue operator is intending to and will be conducting Class 4 gambling at the new location,
 - 2. The vacated site will not be able to be used by **the same or** any other Class 4 operator to operate Class 4 Gambling,
 - 3. The Class 4 operator and venue operator are the same as those cited in the venue agreement for the existing venue and the proposed new venue,
 - 4. The new venue must be located in **the same or** lower deprivation area than the existing venue.
 - 5. The replacement venue meets the other relevant requirements of this policy and the Act.

7. Application for Territorial Consent

- 7.1 An application for territorial consent shall be made for the circumstances stated in section 98 of the Gambling Act.
- 7.2 An application for territorial consent must be made on the prescribed form and will be assessed against the criteria outlined in this policy and the requirements of the Act. Applications must provide:

Name and contact details of the applicant;
Street address of proposed premises;
Proposed number of gaming machines;
Details of current alcohol licence; and
Certificate of Compliance with the Stratford District Plan.

- 7.3 The Council shall set a non-refundable application fee for the cost of processing any applications for territorial consent, in accordance with section 150 of the Local Government Act 2002.

8. Commencement

- 8.1 This policy shall take effect from 9 August 2023.

9. Review

- 9.1 This policy shall be reviewed every three years, as required by section 102(5) of the Act.

MINUTES

Policy and Services Committee



F22/55/05 – D23/32658

Date: Tuesday 25 July 2023 at 3.10PM
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

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

In attendance

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director – Corporate Services – Mrs T Radich, the Director – Assets – Mrs V Araba, the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the Acting Director – Community Services – Mr C Julie, the Committee Advisor and Executive Assistant – Mrs E Bishop, the Communications Manager – Ms G Gibson (*part meeting*), the Roading Asset Manager – Mr S Bowden, the Project Manager – Mr S Taylor (*part meeting*), the Projects Engineer – Mr O Mabumbo (*part meeting*), the Parks and Reserves Officer – Mrs M McBain (*part meeting*), the Property Officer – Mrs S Flight (*part meeting*), the Education Officer – Water and Waste – Mr P McNamara (*part meeting*), the Graduate Asset Engineer – Ms K van Hout (*part meeting*), the Communications Advisor – Mrs S Clarkson (*part meeting*), the Sustainability Advisor – Ms V Dombroski (*part meeting*), the Services Asset Manager – Mr J Cooper (*part meeting*) and one member of the media (Stratford Press)

1. Welcome

The opening karakia was read.

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

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

2. Apologies

There were no apologies.

3. Announcements

The District Mayor requested that councillors remain behind following the conclusion of the meeting to discuss the remits for the Local Government New Zealand conference.

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 declarations of interest.

5. Attendance Schedule

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

It was requested that Councillor Boyde's apology be amended to sick for the meeting on 27 June 2023. It was noted that when an apology is recorded it will only be noted on the attendance schedule as sick leave if requested to maintain the privacy of the elected member.

6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Policy & Services Committee – 27 June 2023
D23/28249 Page 10

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 27 June 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

TONGAAWHIKAU/ERWOOD
Carried
P&S/23/97

7. Matters Outstanding

D16/47 Page 21

Recommendation

THAT the Matters Outstanding be received.

ERWOOD/TONGAAWHIKAU
Carried
P&S/23/98

8. Decision Report – Policy Reviews – July 2023

D23/30653 Page 22

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

HALL/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/23/99

2. ~~THAT the attached, updated and new policies, being the:~~

- ~~● Occupation of unused Road Reserve Policy~~
- ~~● Fences on Road Reserve Policy~~
- ~~● Stock Crossing and Races Policy~~
- ~~● Stock Underpasses Policy~~
- ~~● Temporary Road Closures Policy~~
- ~~● Charges for New Wastewater Network Connections Policy~~
- ~~● Discretionary Information in LIMs Policy~~
- ~~● Health and Safety Policy~~

~~be adopted.~~

Recommended Reason

This is part of council's rolling review of policies. Policies require review from time to time to ensure they still reflect current legislation and best practice, as well as elected members' views and meet the business needs of the organisation. Any policies recommended for withdrawal have either been found to be not required, amalgamated into an existing policy or replaced by a new policy as outlined in the body of this report.

The Chief Executive noted the following points:

- This is a general policy update with the majority being a refresh of the existing policy.
- Consideration had been given to combining some of the roading policies into one, however this will be reviewed at a later date due to current workloads.
- The most significant update was to the Discretionary Information in LIMs Policy which clarifies what council does or doesn't volunteer to disclose in a LIM request.

Occupation of Unused Road Reserve Policy

- The District Mayor noted the inclusion of a nominal charge per year as opposed to a percentage of the land value, he asked if there was typical size for these blocks of land. The Roding Asset Manager noted that the land varies in size and noted an application that had been received was for 2.5 kms therefore with the percentage charge it would be \$2,500 per year which would be unlikely to be paid. He noted that agreements include keeping the area maintained, fenced and free of weeds and reduced maintenance required by council. He noted an alternative option could be a flat rate fee per size or length.
- It was clarified that this policy would cover new applications and would not be retrospectively charged.
- Mr Bowden noted that there was such a disparity between the costs for these areas of land and the area to be occupied that this review created an opportunity to review the charging basis.

Fences on Road Reserve Policy

- It was clarified that the reason electric or barbwire fencing could not be used was due to public health and safety. This was not related to boundary fences that bordered on road reserves and further clarified that this was fencing between the natural fence line/boundary and the road.
- It was clarified that the previous policy (Occupation of Road Reserve Policy) would be used should a resident be using road reserve without an application to occupy (utilising the road reserve without authorisation).
- This policy was not designed to litigate historic situations regarding boundary fences.

Stock Crossings and Races Policy

- It was clarified that effluent was noted in the policy as if it is not removed from the road service on a regular basis the chemical within will eat into the bitumen.

Stock Underpasses Policy

- Mr Hanne noted that this policy was created to incentivise the introduction of underpasses. Landowners pay for the structure and the work, however it does bring costs to council to restore the road on top but this was as an incentive to remove the conflict of stock and motor vehicles. He noted that due to the tight budgets this incentive may be reconsidered.
- It was noted that in the past eight years there had been two underpasses installed.
- Councillor Beck Noted he felt the cost of the top surface should go back on the applicant. Councillor Erwood supported this.
- Councillor Jones felt that with the small number of underpasses being installed the benefit of getting the cows under the road was greater than the cost of metal. Farmers pay the majority of the rates and he felt they should get some benefit as they get left behind as it is. He fully supported this expense on council.
- Councillor Boyde agreed. He asked when underpasses were inspected and who's cost it is if an issue is identified? Mr Bowden noted that basic bridge inspections are done every two years. If any issues are identified the owner is notified to do some maintenance on it. The owners are required to do the maintenance, but council needs to ensure the structural integrity of the structure is maintained.
- It was noted there were over 100 underpasses throughout the district. Replacement costs would be the owners responsibility, however if they were replaced the cost of the road surface would be councils under this policy.
- It was clarified that if the responsibility for road reinstatement went to the farmer the reinstatement of the road surface could be completed by the contractor completing the underpass if they are able, however council can undertake the work and recover the costs and retains sign off on the work for both scenarios.
- It was clarified that if a property is sold the underpass responsibility falls on the new owner.
- Inspections are completed by council officers during the installation, so there are some supervision costs incurred by council as well.
- It was noted that Waka Kotahi undertake the work themselves to reinstate the road for installations on state highway.

Temporary Road Closures Policy

- This policy had no changes except the move to the new template and updating NZTA to Waka Kotahi.

Charges for New Wastewater Network Connections

- Mr Hanne noted the overall intent of this policy was for those connecting to the network, however there was also a clause covering extension charges.
- The District Mayor noted he had no problem with the connection fee or the policy, however he felt that very few had connected to the extension on Pembroke Road as the charges council is imposing are greater than replacing a septic tank and there had been no gain from this work. The greater the number of people connected to the system meant the greater the distribution of the cost and felt the last sentence of clause 2.2 (from Property owners connecting) should be deleted.
- Councillor Boyde felt the policy required more work and further discussion. Mr Hanne noted it could be discussed now or during the review of the fees and charges.
- The Deputy Mayor noted she would like to see a recovery fee but it should be less than a resident has to pay to install their own septic tank to incentivise to connect.

The Services Asset Manager left the meeting at 3.56pm.

Health and Safety Policy

- It was noted that the policy had been broadened to align with reality and that the full pre-approval process was not appropriate for low risk work. A JSA (job safety analysis) was perfectly appropriate for a one-off task.
- This would be added into the updated Health and Safety manual once adopted.
- It was noted that contractors were required to reapply to be on the approved contractor list every two years. This was to ensure key processes are followed and requirements such as insurances, certificates, policies etc. are current. The approved contractor list was purely for Stratford District Council and the costs for performing the pre-approval process were not recouped from the contractors.

Recommendations

2. THAT the attached, updated and new policies, being the:

- Occupation of unused Road Reserve Policy
- Fences on Road Reserve Policy
- Stock Crossing and Races Policy
- Temporary Road Closures Policy
- Discretionary Information in LIMs Policy
- Health and Safety Policy

be adopted.

ERWOOD/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/23/100

- Councillor Sandford noted there were a lot of underpasses in the district, therefore there could be the potential for these to be dug up for maintenance and questioned if council was responsible for reinstating the road surface in this instance? Mr Bowden noted that underpasses should have a 100 year lifespan, however under this policy council would be required to cover the cost of the reinstatement of the road surface for maintenance purposes.

Recommendations

THAT the Stock Underpasses Policy be amended that Council only covers the initial reinstatement of the road surface.

JONES/DUDLEY
1 against
The motion was amended
P&S/23/101

- The District Mayor put a notice to amend the motion. He noted that in most instances an underpass was required when a land owner acquired property across the road therefore this was property development and he did not feel that council should incur the cost associated with this.

Recommendations

THAT the Stock Underpasses Policy be adopted with the amendment to remove clause 1.2 and 1.3

VOLZKE/BECK
3 against
Carried
P&S/23/102

- Councillor Boyde noted he did not support the motion to remove clauses 1.2 and 1.3 as this was an incentive to promote safety and minimising road damage. By removing council support it would not encourage farmers to install an underpass.

Recommendations

THAT the Charges for New Wastewater Network Connections Policy be adopted with the amendment to remove the second paragraph of clause 2.3.

VOLZKE/ERWOOD
Carried
P&S/23/103

- The District Mayor noted that residents who benefit from the service should pay for it. He felt in this instance council was charging residents more than to do the alternative creating a disincentive to join the service. He felt the fees and charges should be looked at in a way to encourage people to connect to the network with the 10% discount removed and just a straight fee to join.
- Fees and charges would be discussed during the Annual Plan or Long Term Plan process.
- It was clarified that this would remove the second paragraph of clause 2.3 being:

Property owners connecting or committing to connect at the time of construction and where payment is made in full, or a payment agreement for the full amount over a period of 2 years is set up at the time, receive a 10% discount on their wastewater network extension charge.

9. Decision Report – Carry Forward Capital Projects from 2022/23 to 2023/24
D23/30711 Page 46

<p>Recommendations</p> <p>1. <u>THAT</u> the report and attached schedule be received.</p> <p>2. <u>THAT</u> the schedule of uncompleted projects, budgeted for in 2022/23 and previous years, and the amounts proposed, be approved for addition to the capital expenditure budget for 2023/24 in the reforecasted capital budget, with any amendments made as decided by elected members.</p> <p>Recommended Reason To seek approval for capital projects that were budgeted for in the previous financial year, to be carried forward to 2023/24.</p>	<p>BOYDE/DUDLEY <u>Carried</u> <u>P&S/23/104</u></p> <p>BOYDE/TONGAAWHIKAU <u>Carried</u> <u>P&S/23/105</u></p>
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The Director – Corporate Services noted the following points:

- This report is brought once a year in years between the Long Term Plan.
- It highlights what was budgeted for, what was completed and what requires approval to carry forward or drop off the budget.
- Approval will mean the projects can carry on into the new financial year, noting that some have started and some have yet to begin. Anything left uncompleted will be reset in the Long Term Plan.
- All capital projects start fresh on 1 July 2024.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was clarified that inflation had not been added to the budgets. Mrs Radich noted that some projects have started and some are in the early stages. A number of projects are scalable so can adjust the volume of work if costs have increased. However if officers cannot deliver on the scope of the project it will be brought back to council. The audit and risk committee receives a capital works project update at each meeting.
- It was clarified that on-going discussions were occurring for the property purchase for the Stratford 2035 project s and if this budget was removed from the capital projects it would stop all work going forward. This project could be brought in again in the Long Term Plan, however if the land became available in the meantime council could not proceed with the purchase without seeking the approval from the executive committee for an unbudgeted spend. It was noted that the current workload for officers was the biggest hurdle for the Stratford 2035 project, however different stages had been designed.
- It was confirmed the generator for the Water Treatment Plan was underway.
- It was clarified the replacements for roading financially assisted by Waka Kotahi was in relation to special purpose roads (two roads up the mountain) and 100% funded.
- It was clarified that the Midhirst cemetery pathways had been approved for Year 3 of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan which was this financial year so is included in the Annual Plan work plan.
- It was clarified that the roading budgets presented were the reduced budgets as a result of the spend in the last financial year.
- It was clarified that the Victoria Park drainage project was not yet complete so the budget in this report was related to completing stage 2.
- It was clarified that the budget regarding the proposed subdivision related to contractual agreements with the vendor to doing a minimum amount of infrastructure within the land.
- The Broadway roundabout garden upgrade was questioned as to at what point of the Stratford 2035 project this would be completed? Mr Hanne noted that the advisory group would recommend to council for decision making and that there were certain elements that could be broken out of the overall scope – however this could lead to misaligned outcomes.

10. Decision Report – Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) 2023-2029
D23/21623 Page 56

Recommendations	
1. <u>THAT</u> the report be received.	HARRIS/HALL <u>Carried</u> <u>P&S/23/106</u>
2. <u>THAT</u> pursuant to the Waste Minimisation Act (WMA) 2008, the committee adopts and releases for special consultative procedure as per the Local Government Act 2002, the draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) 2023-2029.	
3. <u>THAT</u> the committee approve for consultation the proposal to change service level with regards to kerbside collection of waste in the district.	McKAY/HALL <u>Carried</u> <u>P&S/23/107</u>
Recommended Reasons	
The adoption of draft WMMP under the WMA 2008 requires a special consultative procedure as per the Local Government Act (LGA) 2002. The proposed change to the current kerbside waste collection service levels also requires consultation.	

The Director – Assets noted the following points:

- The reports seeks the approval and adoption of the draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) to release for consultation.
- It also releases for consultation the proposal to change the service level agreement for the current waste collection service.
- The key parts of the report were brought to council previously to adopt the vision and targets etc.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The Deputy Mayor requested that it be very clear to the community that these are changes that will be required for us but be driven by central government.
- It was noted that the change to the service level will be clearly separated from the WMMP.
- It was clarified that food waste technically should be separate from green waste as the composting process is separate. Food waste requires a higher level of treatment. This is why a potential green waste collection could be an opt in system.
- The District Mayor noted this was typical government policy being forced on council with no funding stream. He noted his concern of the introduction of policies and mandates without funding streams to support the implementation.
- It was clarified that the proposal would be that the majority of the community would not require a green waste bin (240 litres). The food bin would be a small bin. To combine the two would force all the contents to the higher level of treatment. Legislation does require council's to provide the community a way to dispose of food waste separate from general waste in three years time.

The Communications Manager and Communications Advisor left the meeting at 4.46pm.

11. Monthly Reports

11.1 Assets Report D23/28663 Page 271

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/ERWOOD
Carried
P&S/23/108

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was noted there was no further update on the Midhirst water leak.
- It was clarified that officers are still experiencing teething issues with the electronic water meters and are going back to the manufacturers with the problems.
- It was noted that it cost \$86,000 to replace the bridge on Puniwhakau Road, which included the culvert and realigning the road at the same time.
- The lower customer satisfaction for roading results was noted. There is often confusion between the state highway network and local roads in these surveys, however it may also be that customers are not happy with the level of service being provided – particularly with the condition of some of the forestry roads. These results could go lower as council is unable to respond to service requests. The key performance indicators will be reviewed as part of the Long Term Plan process.

The Projects Manager, the Projects Engineer, the Parks and Reserves Officer, the Property Officer, the Education Officer – Water and Waste, the Graduate Asset Engineer and the Sustainability Advisor left the meeting at 4.52pm.

11.2 Community Services Report D23/29449 Page 294

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/23/109

Points noted in discussion:

- Councillor Boyde noted there were two big hockey tournaments coming up in Stratford, one at the end of August and one at the end of September. The under 15 tournament will host teams from all over New Zealand.
- Councillor Harris noted the Central Taranaki Safe Community Trust had applied for funding to purchase a ANPR camera which recognise number plates and will be very helpful for the community if successful.
- Councillor Dudley read a positive post made in the Stratford Community Board regarding a resident visiting Wai o Rua.
- The District Mayor noted that admission to the pool is the highest it has been in 6 years and still continuing to rise. He noted the swim school had started and is very well organised.

11.3 Environmental Services Report
D23/26528 Page 302

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

ERWOOD/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/23/110

11.4 Corporate Services Report
D23/30567 Page 310

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

DUDLEY/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/23/111

The Director – Corporate Services noted the following points:

- This report has the preliminary results for the end of the year as work is still being undertaken to close off accounts.
- Auditors arrive to commence the audit on Monday 31 July.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was clarified that the additional reactive work for Parks and Reserves expenditure was related to fallen trees.
- The Deputy Mayor questioned the process regarding using debt to cover the cashflow shortages? Mrs Radich clarified that this was monitored monthly and borrowing completed as required which is often dependent on when payments come out. Borrowing is only used for capital expenditure.
- Mrs Radich clarified that the contracts rising from \$1 million to \$2 million was purely an invoice timing issue rather than going over budget.
- It was noted that the IT team have been working really hard to resolve the issues created by the Azure change over.
- It was clarified that management will review the audio system options for the council chambers. It will be brought to council as an Long Term Plan item if required. It was noted that there were much different requirements for an emergency management centre to a meeting set up.

12. Questions

There were no questions.

13. Closing Karakia
D21/40748 Page 325

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 5.04pm.

M McKay
Chairperson

Confirmed this 22nd of August 2023.

N C Volzke
District Mayor

POLICY



Policy:	Stock Underpasses
Department:	Assets - Roading
Approved by:	Policy and Services Committee
Effective date:	9 August 2023
Next review date:	2026/2027
Document Number:	D23/6811

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The Council promotes the installation of stock underpasses as they improve road safety and minimise pavement damage.

2. Procedure

- 2.1 Application, including the following information, is to be made in writing to the Director of Assets:
- a. Locality diagram
 - b. Cross Section
 - c. Details of actual type of culvert to be installed (the Council will not approve the use of corrugated steel culverts); including design certificate and calculations to show that the culvert meets full HN-HO-72 loading requirements.
 - d. Information on the contractors to be used.
 - e. Proposed date of installation.
 - f. A Traffic Management Plan to be submitted to Council for approval a minimum of two weeks prior to construction.
- 2.2 Council staff then make on-site inspections and submit a written report to the Director of Assets. This would include:
- a. Suitability of site with regards to safety and drainage.
 - b. Any problems that may be encountered.
 - c. Levels, if required.
 - d. Minimum allowable culvert length to suit formation width, considering any future road improvements (Minimum width to be 15 metres).
 - e. Details of any special requirements needed, e.g., minimum bedding depth or minimum cover.
 - f. Any impact on known archaeological sites as defined in the Stratford District Council's District Plan.
- 2.3 The applicant will be advised if the site is considered suitable.
- 2.4 If the site is suitable, approval for the installation of the underpass will be subject to conditions which will include but not necessarily be limited to:
- a. The underpass remaining at the Council's discretion. Should Council require the underpass to be uplifted or removed if it is not in use, and the road reinstated, then this shall be done with 90 days of written notification.
 - b. The Council will carry out routine maintenance inspections of the underpass and notify the owner of the underpass of any maintenance work that is required.
 - c. All maintenance costs shall be met by the owner, and all work shall be done to the Director of Assets satisfaction.
- 2.5 Applicant to advise Council of construction programme.

- 2.6 Applicant to notify/liaise with all residents who will be affected during the installation of the underpass.
- 2.7 Council staff will then:
- a. Advertise the road closure if required. To fulfil its legal obligations under the transport regulations, the minimum notice for advertising the proposal to close roads is 42 days, however, it is recommended the first advertisement is placed at least 70 days (10 weeks) before the proposed closure to enable objections to be managed and reporting recommendations to Council properly.
 - b. Inspect all installation to ensure work is carried out to the satisfaction of the Director of Assets.
 - c. Arrange for the reinstatement of the road surface.
- 2.8 Stratford District Council has produced some general guidelines to offer advice and the processes to be followed for the installation of a stock underpass. These are available from the Service Centre.
- 2.9 All costs associated with the construction and maintenance of a stock underpass lie with the property owner.

POLICY



Policy:	Charges for New Wastewater Network Connections
Department:	Assets
Approved by:	Policy and Services Committee
Effective date:	9 August 2023
Next review date:	2026/2027
Document Number:	D23/24472

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This policy governs the process of connecting to Stratford District Council's wastewater network, and how Council charges for new connections.

2. Policy Statement

- 2.1 Any new connection to Council's wastewater network requires an application to be lodged by the property owner or their appointed agent and the relevant application fee, including any wastewater extension area charges (see point 3) to be paid. Application fees and wastewater network extension charges are set by council as part of the Annual Plan and Long-Term Plan process.
- 2.2 Upon receipt of authorisation to connect, a connection to council's wastewater network can be made at the location indicated in the authorisation to connect by a registered drainlayer at the expense of the property owner. This includes the reinstatement of any berm, footpath and carriageway. Any work in the road corridor requires separate lodgement and approval of a corridor access request (CAR) and the relevant traffic management plans (TMP) by the appointed drainlayer.
- 2.3 For connection to wastewater network extensions, a fee, proportionate to the cost of the wastewater network extension and the number of new connections will be charged. This fee is set by council as part of the Annual Plan and Long-Term Plan process.

MONTHLY REPORT

District Mayor



F22/55/04-D23/33221

To: Council
From: District Mayor
Date: 8 August 2023
Subject: District Mayor Monthly Report – July 2023

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.
2. THAT the Stratford District Council formally notes its endorsement of the petition from the New Plymouth District Council seeking a Citizens Initiated Referendum to address funding of road maintenance of the state highway network.

/
Moved/Seconded

1. Local Government New Zealand Annual Conference

Recently Local Government New Zealand held its annual conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Christchurch. Along with Councillor Amanda Harris, I attended this event. The AGM elected a new president and vice president being Mayor Sam Broughton from Selwyn and Mayor Campbell from Lower Hutt. I believe both will serve us well. The AGM also considered eleven remits, all of which were passed with resounding majorities. The Stratford District Council supported each of those remits.

During the conference we attended four different break-out sessions and heard key note addresses from Sophie Howe (Decision making for the future), Prime Minister Rt. Hon Chris Hipkins, Leader of the Opposition Christopher Luxon and Minister for Local Government Kieran McAnulty.

We also endured a political debate between representative candidates from each of the most prominent political parties. My observation of the general response from the audience was, that people seemed more alarmed than informed. We have a great two months of electioneering to look forward to.

As expected the Future of Local Government report was a hot topic for conference attendees. The clear take home message from both major political parties was that the ball is now firmly in the court of the local government sector. What happens with the report recommendations will be driven by the sector and a resolution passed at the AGM requires Local Government New Zealand to work towards finding a consensus view in the contents of this report.

A verbal report back to elected members will be given at our next meeting, but in summary, the conference was very successful. The learning and networking opportunities were excellent and I encourage all elected members to take the opportunity to attend this event sometime in the future. The 2024 conference will be held in Wellington.

2. Launch of the Road Funding Referendum

The New Plymouth District Council, along with Mayor Neil Holdom as the promoter, have announced a Citizens Initiated Referendum. As part of the launch promotion the members of the regional Mayoral Forum i.e. Mayor Holdom, Mayor Nixon, Chairperson Littlewood and myself held a short signing ceremony and were the first to sign this document.

The referendum asks "Should the New Zealand government fund road maintenance at levels sufficient to reverse the current decline in the average age and condition of our national state highway network"

To meet the requirements of the House of Representatives, this petition requires a set number of signatures to be gathered and there is a set time frame in which to do that. Once submitted a parliamentary process follows.

The purpose of the petition is to elevate the discussion about the condition of the nation's highway network that, and I think most people will agree, is rapidly deteriorating and falling apart. Obviously, the funding mechanism and shortfall is the most fundamental factor contributing to this degradation. We are living in a situation where the current model is not sustainable. Hence, the need to encourage our politicians to re-think the status quo and move toward a model that will enable Waka Kotahi to maintain roads to the standards we expect.

I have included in this report a recommendation that confirms the Stratford District Councils support for this petition.

3. Citizens Initiated Referendum

As referred to earlier in this report the a road maintenance petition has been launched by the New Plymouth District Council. As a supporter of the petition it would be ideal to have the petition on display and available for signing within Stratford District Council facilities.

To comply the with Stratford District Council policy on Petitions in Council Buildings, the council needs to support the intent of the petition and have the approval of the Chief Executive who will consult with the Mayor. The Chief Executive has consulted with the Mayor and has given approval for the petition to be placed in the council buildings.

4. Mayor's Task Force for Jobs Contract

It was good news to have the Mayor's Task Force for Jobs contract renewed for a further two-year period. Although the funding has been cut back, which makes the assistance we can offer somewhat less, it is good to have security over the immediate future of the contract. Now that this in place we can move forward with some certainty and we can focus on delivering on the goals set within the contract. However, I do have a concern over the changes made around the wage subsidy provisions which not only reduce the amount available per person but also make the subsidy more difficult to attain. Helping young people into employment or training is a difficult challenge at the best of times, so introducing more hurdles along the way can only be a negative that makes the challenge even greater.

5. Te Kōpuka nā Te Awa Tupua

At the last committee meeting progress on the development of the strategic plan was the main topic of discussion. Once this has been socialised and finally adopted, it will hold a place in our councils planning processes as they relate to the eastern part of the Stratford District that falls within the Horizons boundaries.

I have extended an invitation to the committee chair to meet with elected members and provide us with an update on activities of the committee.

6. Tutaki Celebration

Tutaki recently celebrated its 10th birthday and at the gathering it was an opportune time to reflect on the progress made over the period. From the day of its formation until now, the organisation has grown substantially and the demand for the services it provides has been consistently growing. Tutaki has a great partnership network that supports its work and the ongoing involvement of the police and major funding partners speaks volumes to the credibility and reputation of the organisation.

I am particularly impressed by the way they integrated the fitness gymnasium into the operation of the counselling services as a major funding stream. With over 550 members, any financial returns from the gym are utilised to help fund the operation of the youth services section. This is a great example of community support, where-by their actions, gym members are supporting others. In the local government this is called localism and is something that is being promoted at a national level.

7. Taranaki Hockey Finals

On Saturday, I attended the club finals of the Taranaki Hockey Association. As always, the event was well attended that confirms that Stratford is an ideal location for the synthetic turf and as the hockey hub of the region. The turf which has been used for a multitude of international games, is a hugely valuable sporting asset that also brings significant financial benefits to the district. The day saw championship winning teams from Hawera, Stratford and New Plymouth which is a healthy sign for the code across the region.

8. Correspondence

- Stratford Volunteer Fire Brigade Call Outs – July 2023
- Letter to the Office of the Auditor General

9. Some Events Attended

- Attended – meeting of the Stratford District Youth Council
- Attended – meeting of the Creative Communities Committee
- Attended - meeting with Taranaki Regional Council (Stadium update)
- Attended – meeting of LGNZ Leaders group by zoom (x1)
- Attended - meeting of the Stratford Park Steering Committee (x2)
- Attended – meeting of the Stratford Justice of the Peace Association
- Attended – meeting of the Positive Aging committee
- Attended – Tutaki 10th Birthday Celebration
- Attended – meeting of Te Kōpuka nā Te Awa Tupua committee by zoom
- Attended – Local Government New Zealand Annual General Meeting
- Attended – Local Government New Zealand Conference in Christchurch
- Attended – Mayors Task Force for Jobs Annual General Meeting
- Attended – Taranaki Hockey Club Finals Day
- Attended - Official Launch of the Road Funding Referendum
- Met – with John Godfrey as Stratford Park Funding Consultant
- Met – with representatives of Chorus
- Met – with Mayor Sam Broughton as a LGNZ President candidate
- Met – with Marion Read as LGNZ Libraries Advisor
- Met – with Mayor Neil Holdom as a LGNZ President candidate
- Radio Interview - Access Radio (x1)
- Radio Interview – More FM (x1)
- Newspaper - Stratford Press Interviews and Articles (multiple)
- Newspaper - Daily News - Interviews (multiple)
- Attended - Regional Mayors and Chairs weekly meeting (x3)
- Attended - Council Pre-Agenda meetings (x3)
- Attended - Council Public Forums (x1)
- Attended - Council Workshops (x2)
- Attended - Council Meetings (x4)



N C Volzke JP
District Mayor

Date: 2 August 2023

Stratford Volunteer Fire Brigade Call Outs July 2023

The Stratford Fire Brigade responded to 12 calls in July 2023

01-07-23	Motor vehicle accident Mountain Road Midhirst
03-07-23	Tanker required assist Kaponga fire brigade house fire Rowan Road
03-07-23	Residential alarm activation Achilles Street
07-07-23	Residential alarm activation Shakespeare Street
07-07-23	Residential alarm activation Shakespeare Street
07-07-23	Motor vehicle accident Mountain Road Midhirst
08-07-23	Assist ambulance with lifting Ariel Street
12-07-23	Chimney fire Surrey Street
15-07-23	Special Service horse stuck in drain Pembroke Road
20-07-23	Power box on fire Ajax Street
22-07-23	Alarm activation Autopro Stratford Broadway South
24-07-23	Motor vehicle accident truck / trailer rolled Mountain Road near Rutland Road assisted by Toko, Inglewood and New Plymouth Brigades



TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Our reference
F23/147-D23/31241

26 July 2023

John Ryan
Controller and Auditor-General
Office of the Auditor General

Dear John,

Audit Proposal for 2022/23 Annual Report audit

The Stratford District Council (SDC) has serious concerns regarding ongoing audit fees, including but not limited to those set out in the *Audit Proposal Letter* for the 2022/23 annual audit.

We are aware that a remit has recently been put forward by *Whanganui District Council* which is well supported by the Local Government sector for *Local Government New Zealand* to call on central government to “take action to reduce council audit fees by revisiting the scope and requirements of reporting and auditing on councils, and conducting a review on the practice of audit for councils and work on best practice guidelines to streamline the process”, and to also “examine whether the reporting and audit requirements of councils are consistent with the level of reporting and audit that is required of other public entities”. Stratford District Council supports this remit in its entirety. However, we also have our own unique concerns and suggestions.

We would greatly appreciate a meeting with you and our Audit and Risk Committee to discuss the key matters raised below being:

- The proposed audit hours for Stratford District Council of 971
- The disproportionate scope and lack of a risk based approach
- The efficiency of how audits are carried out
- The annual audit procedure moving further and further away from being a valuable exercise that the governance body welcomes, to provide assurance
- Our concerns regarding future audits with regards to scope and cost
- Our proposal to address the above matters

We are a small Local Authority with a population of 10,150 and a ratepayer base of 5,067. Our operations are standard with the following attributes:

- We have one small CCO and a Council owned Farm.
- We carry debt, but do not use complex financial instruments.
- We do not have any complicated financial investments, just some term deposits, and a community loan.
- We carry out asset revaluations as required by the accounting standards.
- We operate a basic rating system with the use of targeted rates.
- We have an effective Audit and Risk Committee that oversees the annual Internal Audit.
- We have always received an Unmodified Audit opinion, and the issues raised in the past by Auditors (in the final audit management reports) have always been areas for improvement, rather than significant risk areas.

Therefore, in our opinion, the total hours allocated to our annual audit do not reflect our business.

The annual audit fee proposed for 2022/23 does not consider the lower risk of a smaller, less complex Council. For example, the auditors have budgeted to spend 971 hours on our annual audit this year. That

is 97% of the hours, that auditors have proposed to spend on the audit of South Taranaki District Council. A district that has a population of 29,600, and 14,395 ratepayers – almost three times bigger than the Stratford District, and is much more complex in its operations, with operations spread out over a number of towns, managing a large investment fund, and a much larger asset base. I have collected several similar examples from across New Zealand on the audit fees and how they do not seem to take into account the complexity of the organisation being audited, when compared to the hours allocated to SDC's audit.

In your letter to the sector on 2 June 2023, titled *Audit Fee Negotiations*, you discuss the main changes for the increase in the cost of audits being accounting standard changes, auditing standard changes, and sector reforms. However, the risks have not substantially changed for us as a council in those specific areas, so if you increase the scope of the audit in one area, it would be logical to think you would reduce the scope in another area of the audit. Additionally, a smaller council reporting under Tier 2 reporting standards (SDC), would be less impacted than a council reporting under Tier 1 reporting standards (South Taranaki).

Yes, there is a place for an audit, but the extent to which SDC is subjected to an annual audit (971 hours) is over the top and makes no sense. There is no consideration of the council staff time involved to respond to an overzealous auditing process, considering we have a small efficient finance team of two full-time staff.

Efficiency of the Audit - AG ISA (NZ) 320 prescribes that materiality must be applied to the annual audit of financial and performance information.

We suggest that this be assessed on the local government sector as a whole (smaller local authorities require less hours due to less volume of transactions, lower transaction and asset values, and less complexities), and not just in terms of the local authority itself and its gross expenditure. A risk based audit would instead put more focus on internal controls, due to the nature of smaller local authorities.

The standard imposes a requirement to consider issues of effectiveness and efficiency and waste in the audit process. We could provide numerous examples during the audit process where inefficiencies occur. We should not have to train auditors in local government legislation and processes, and it comes at an additional cost to council in staff time and resources. Our auditors, Deloitte, suggested an improvement could be to use the same audit team, but this has proven to not be feasible, and it clearly hasn't happened from 2022 to 2023.

Our concerns are not with the hourly rate increasing, which is understandable, and reflects the market, and we accept that as standard across the sector. It is the **hours** spent on the annual audit that we believe is unjustified. As our Mayor pointed out to Deloitte at the July Audit and Risk Committee, their auditors last year spent a considerable amount of time on an expense claim valued at less than \$30, which had appropriate receipts available and presented negligible risk.

We would like to see what focus you place on **reviewing** whether the auditor has considered this standard and how you have looked to reduce waste, and inefficiencies in the audit process.

Our Finance Manager, Director – Corporate Services, Chief Executive, Chair of Audit and Risk Committee, have each and separately asked the auditors, Deloitte, if there is anything at our end that we can do to reduce the audit hours. The response was similar each time in that there is nothing we can do at our end that could reduce the proposed hours of 971 for SDC and 141 for Percy Thomson Trust (CCO).

In the LGNZ Leaders Zoom meeting in May 2023, where Todd Beardsworth presented on behalf of the OAG, it appeared that the OAG's area of focus to ensure the 31 October deadline was met for the sector this year, seemed to purely be on bringing in qualified auditors from overseas. This suggests limited innovation in problem-solving, and limited understanding of the pain-points of current auditing processes, where there is a lack of understanding of the New Zealand public sector and local government by many auditors.

Value for Money – The value for money of the annual audit and Long Term Plan (LTP) audit is inadequate, when you consider the financial cost and staff time involved, in comparison to the benefits received by our community from such a rigorous process that lacks a common sense approach. Very rarely are we provided with any significant or helpful audit recommendations. Using the previous example of South Taranaki, their proposed audit fee is \$243,875, compared to our \$252,618 (both inclusive of disbursements and GST)., When comparing the audit cost per ratepayer between the two districts, our ratepayers are paying more than three times our neighbours' for assurance services, but they are not receiving three times the benefits.

As stated earlier, auditors should be focusing on areas of risk pertaining specifically to the organisation. If no risks have been identified year on year in certain areas, then it seems a waste of productivity to be continually returning to those areas again and again, with new junior auditors, repeating the same old processes getting the same old results.

As a result, risks specific to smaller local authorities may be overlooked by your auditors, in an attempt to standardise the approach across the sector as a whole. Every hour spent on the audit is not equal in productivity, and the more time allowed for an annual audit, the more likely that there will be waste. Applying the Pareto principle, 80% of the outcomes of an audit are most likely identified in 20% of the time spent on the audit. With a risk based approach that is specific to each local authority, there is a higher likelihood that the focus of auditors efforts will yield a greater impact, and less hours will be required.

Future Work - The fee for the LTP audit is yet to be determined, and our biggest concern in preparing the LTP is the complications that auditors will impose, when our focus will be on preparing a document that is appropriate for our district. There must be common sense and appropriateness displayed by your auditors. We do not have confidence that the LTP audits will be conducted in a reasonable manner.

Unlike previous years, this year we have not received guaranteed audit hours and fees for 2023/24 and 2024/25 annual audits. Although this increases uncertainty of cost leading into the LTP, we see this as another opportunity for the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) to reconsider reducing allocated audit hours.

Proposals for Consideration - we would like to propose the following suggestions:

- The OAG consider a significantly reduced annual audit that is fully risk based, relevant to the organisation. Additionally, implement random spot audits, more focused on transactions and internal controls, across the local authority sector throughout the financial year.
- Look at rotating staff between the local government sector and Audit New Zealand to bridge gaps and improve knowledge and understanding from both sides, as opposed to using overseas based auditors, or auditors unfamiliar with the New Zealand public sector.
- The breakdown of hours by risk area audited should be published, to see how auditors are prioritising their time. The allocated hours for each local authority should be made transparent to the entire sector, to enable transparency and demonstrate accountability of the OAG.
- Finally, we are requesting that there is an immediate reduction to the total number of audit hours allocated for the annual audit for SDC for 2022/23. However, we are unable to suggest where the reductions should be until we can see what risk areas the hours have been allocated to.

The issues we have with the cost of the audit are not associated with the current cost of living crisis, or the escalating costs that the sector has faced since Covid. It is about the systemic and unrelentless increase in compliance costs imposed by central government, without balancing that with providing value for money.

Blindly increasing audit scope, compliance, and regulations, and subsequently audit hours, is unsustainable for our communities. Any increase in compliance costs should be balanced out with improved efficiencies, if our communities are genuinely at the heart of what we do.

Yours sincerely



Sven Hanne
Chief Executive



Neil Volzke
District Mayor

CC: Pam Thomson, Deloitte

DECISION REPORT



F23/2 – D23/32671

To: Council
From: Roading Asset Manager
Date: 8 August 2023
Subject: Transport Choices Project - Permission to Consult with the Community for Works Associated with the Transport Choices Project

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.
2. THAT the Council approve for Officers to seek feedback from the community on the proposed removal of all day on-street parking on one side of the road on streets listed in **Table 1** of this report, for the delivery of the Transport Choices Project.
3. THAT the Council approve for Officers to seek feedback from the community on the proposal to construct bi-directional separated cycleways on road reserve, for the delivery of the Transport Choices project.

Recommended Reason

For on-road parking to be removed to make way for bi-directional separated on-road cycleways, Council is required to consult with the community. Council Officers are seeking feedback on how the proposed change to the road layout will impact on the how the community currently uses the road.

/
Moved/Seconded

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Council to allow Officers to seek feedback from the community on the following matters:
- The proposed removal of on-road parking on one side of the road on streets listed in **Table 1** of this report, as part of the Transport Choices programme; and
 - The proposal to implement the Transport Choices programme, involving the construction of a bi-directional separated cycleways on road reserve.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 Under the Government's Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP), and through the \$4.5 billion Climate Emergency Response Fund (CERF), in 2022, councils were invited to apply for a share of \$350 million Transport Choices funding. From that process, Waka Kotahi is now providing 46 councils with funding to deliver up to 90 projects that will:
- deliver strategic cycling/micro-mobility networks
 - create walkable neighbourhoods
 - support safe, green, and healthy school travel
 - make public transport more reliable and easier to use.
- 2.2 Of the 46 Councils, the Stratford District Council received funding to deliver a \$7.8 million programme, 80% of which is being funded by central government.
- 2.3 This programme is expected to be completed by June 2024, and includes the:
- Safety treatments at the 3x Primary Schools in Stratford being the Stratford Primary School; St Joseph's Primary School and Avon Primary School;
 - Two crossings of State Highway 3 within the CBD; and
 - Construction of 7km of new cycleways, both on-road and off-road.

- 2.4 To allow the delivery of this programme, there is need to remove some on-road parking on one side of the road to facilitate the provision of on-road cycle lanes.
- 2.5 Parking provision and removal is regulated by the Local Government Act 2002 and the Council's Parking Control Bylaw both of which require the input of the community. In the Stratford District, parking provision and removal is guided by the Parking Bylaw, which contains a set of rules or regulations created to control parking in the district, to ensure the fair and effective use of parking and support the maintenance of public safety on our roads.
- 2.6 Under section 22AB of the Land Transport Act 1998, the Council may restrict or prohibit parking on roads and prescribe conditions for the use of parking places using the Council's Bylaw. The creation or review of a bylaw requires special consultative procedure (SCP) under the Section 83 of LGA 2002, where the public is consulted on the proposal.
- 2.7 Given the implementation of the Transport Choices projects will necessitate the removal of, or change to, the current parking in some parts of the district, Officers are seeking the Council's approval to consult with our community on the matters below:
 - The proposed removal of parking on one side of the road on streets that will be impacted by the delivery of the Transport Choices Project on Streets, most of which are listed in **Table 1**; and
 - The proposal to implement new on-road cycle lanes in the Transport Choices affected street shown in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Streets requiring the removal of all day on-road parking.

No.	Road or Street Name	Start - Road Name (From)	End - Road Name (To)
1	Brecon Road	Pembroke Road	Regan Street
2	Hamlet Street	Pembroke Road	Regan Street
3	Page Street	State Highway 3 Broadway	Hamlet Street
4	Hamlet Street	Celia Street	Avon School
5	Celia Street	Miranda Street	Hamlet Street
6	Swansea Road	State Highway 43 Regan Street	Fenton street
7	State Highway 43 Regan Street	State Highway 3 Broadway	Juliet street
8	State Highway 43 Regan Street	Juliet Street	Ariel Street (Entrance to Bike Park)
9	State Highway 43 Regan Street	Cordelia Street	Swansea Road
10	Fenton Street	State Highway 3 Broadway	Orlando Street
11	Fenton Street	Orlando Street	Cordelia Street

3. Local Government Act 2002 – Section 10

Under section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002, the Council's purpose is to "enable democratic local decision making by and on behalf of communities; as well as promoting the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities now and into the future"			
Does the recommended option meet the purpose of the Local Government 4 well-beings? And which:			Yes
Social	Economic	Environmental	Cultural
✓	✓	✓	✓

- 3.1 The primary objectives of the Transport Choices programme are identified as the following:
- Provide safer, more attractive, and easier transport choices which will assist in reducing people's reliance on cars while still meeting their access needs.
 - Build momentum, capability, and public support for initiatives that reduce VKT.
- 3.2 This is a step change towards a modal shift in the way the community travel around the Stratford township. This is not likely to occur overnight, so our aspirations will be realised over a longer period. For example, there has been a significant increase in walking and cycling in New Plymouth since the introduction of the Let's Go programme 10 years ago. The first cycle counts began in 2013 which recorded 350 cyclists during a day in March, to a peak of 700 cyclist on a similar date in 2021.

4. Background

- 4.1 The Council's Expression of Interest (EOI) was submitted to Waka Kotahi on 2 September 2022, seeking \$7.8m of funding to provide safety treatments at the three urban primary schools, as well as to fund the construction of nearly 7km of cycleways, connecting these schools. Also included in the package is the provision of two crossing points located on State Highway 3 within Stratford's Central Business District.
- 4.2 Transport Choices is about making small, visible changes to our streets and how people use them quickly – and helping people embrace cycling, walking or public transport to travel. There are many small-scale improvements we can make to our urban public transport system that will have a substantial impact on improving the reliability of our public transport system and improve the experience of people who use the networks, which, in turn, will make public transport a more attractive option for people.
- 4.3 All transport CERF investments aim to reduce transport emissions by 41% by 2035, and focus on three main areas:
- Reducing reliance on cars and supporting people to walk, cycle, and use public transport;
 - Supporting the rapid adoption of low-emissions vehicles; and
 - Beginning the process of decarbonising heavy transportation and freight.
- 4.4 The Transport Choices programme was set up, amongst other reasons, to support the achievement in transport emissions reduction goal, which will require a step change in how to travel in New Zealand cities and towns is planned and undertaken.
- 4.5 The Stratford Transport Choices projects will provide the facilities that will see an increase in cycling as an active mode of travel within the Stratford township, through the delivery approximately 7km of cycleways and appropriate intersection treatments. Some of these separated bi-directional cycleways are on the road. In these locations, it is necessary to remove the on-street parking along one side of the road to accommodate the new cycleways.

5. Consultative Process

5.1 Public Consultation - Section 82

This report seeks permission to seek feedback from the community regarding the potential loss of on-road parking, to be replaced with bi-directional separated cycleways on the streets listed in **Table 1** in this report.

This consultation is considered necessary given that the provision or removal of parking in the district is regulated by the Parking Bylaw, which requires public consultation for its creation and/or review.

5.2 Māori Consultation - Section 81

There is no requirement for specific consultation with Iwi for the removal of on-road parking to create bi-directional separated cycleways.

6. Risk Analysis

Refer to the Council Risk Register - available on the Council website.

- Does this report cover any issues that relate to any risks on the Council Risk Register, and if so which risks and what are the impacts and likelihood of eventuating?
- Does this report cover any issues that may lead to any new risks that are not on the Council Risk Register, and if so, provide some explanation of any new identified risks.
- Is there a legal opinion needed?

- 6.1 The proposal requires the removal of on-road parking on one side of the road so that a separated bi-directional cycleway can be constructed. This will affect the residents living on streets listed in **Table 1**, therefore council needs to seek the views of those residents.
- 6.2 The risks that are applicable to this report from the Corporate Risk Register include:
- **Risk 1 – Compliance and Legislation: Legislation Changes**
If changes to legislation or case law occur and are not implemented by staff, then Council may be acting illegally and in breach of legislation. Section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002 requires council to consult on proposed changes to on-road parking.
 - **Risk 4 – Compliance and Legislation: Council Bylaws, Strategies, Plans and Policies** – If council fails to keep Bylaws, Strategies, Plans and Policies up to date, then the Bylaws, Strategies, Plans or Policies may become unenforceable and irrelevant, and Council could be acting illegally, or the policy is not fit for purpose, or the Council may fail to secure available funding.
- 6.3 While not included in **Risk 90**, If Council does not effectively engage with the community on matters of interest, the Council decisions will lack a community perspective which may lead to substandard community outcomes and decisions that may not be supported by the community.

7. Decision Making Process – Section 79

7.1 Direction

	Explain
Is there a strong link to Council's strategic direction, Long Term Plan/District Plan?	Yes. The Transport Choices project links with the Connecting our Communities Strategy to provide improved walking and cycling facilities for all members of our community.
What relationship does it have to the communities current and future needs for infrastructure, regulatory functions, or local public services?	This project will provide for improved infrastructure to encourage walking and cycling to and from the urban schools in the Stratford township.

7.2 Data

- Do we have complete data, and relevant statistics, on the proposal(s)?
- Do we have reasonably reliable data on the proposals?
- What assumptions have had to be built in?

The purpose of this report is to seek the views of the community to gather this data for the Transport Choices project implementation.

7.3 **Significance**

	Yes/No	Explain
Is the proposal significant according to the Significance Policy in the Long-Term Plan?	No	
Is it: considered a strategic asset; or	Yes	All day (un-restricted) on-road parking will be removed on some core cycling routes within Stratford.
above the financial thresholds in the Significance Policy; or	Yes	The funding for Transport Choices exceeds the significant funding threshold, being \$7,380,400.
impacting on a CCO stakeholding; or	No	
a change in level of service; or	Yes	All day (un-restricted) on-road parking on core cycling routes will be replaced with a bi-directional cycleway.
creating a high level of controversy; or	Yes	Parking is seen as an emotive subject, where the residents actually park on the road outside of their property.
possible that it could have a high impact on the community?	Yes	The removal of on-road parking on one side of the road may affect some residents who do not have sufficient off-road parking available within their own property. Some of the streets listed do however have wide roadside berms, and in most cases, parking will be retained on the opposite side of the road.

In terms of the Council's Significance Policy, is this proposal of high, medium, or low significance?		
High	Medium	Low
	✓	

7.4 **Options**

<p>An assessment of costs and benefits for each option must be completed. Use the criteria below in your assessment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What options are available? 2. For each option: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explain what the costs and benefits of each option are in terms of the present and future needs of the district; • outline if there are any sustainability issues; and • explain if the outcomes meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions? 3. After completing these, consider which option you wish to recommend to Council, and explain: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how this option is the most cost effective option for households and businesses; • if there are any trade-offs; and • what interdependencies exist.

Three options are available for consideration.

- **Option 1 - Decline to approve the recommendations sought.**
This is not the recommended option as this does provide the opportunity for the residents to provide council officers with their feedback. Should the committee decline the recommended option to consult with the community, the risk of that decision is that the Transport Choices project will not progress as planned. There will have to be design changes which could result in on-road cycleways being constructed off-road, which in turn could lead to additional costs. This will introduce delays and have an ultimate consequence of loss of central government funding.
- **Option 2 - Approve recommendations as sought.**
Allowing officers to seek the views of the community for the removal of on-road parking and for the provision of on-road bi-directional separated cycleways is the recommended option. This will allow the delivery of the Transport Choices programme within the timeframes specified and ensure the provision of safe walking and cycling facilities in the district, 80% of which is funded by central government.
- **Option 3 – Defer the decision to approve recommendations as sought.** By deferring the decision as sought, we will not be able to complete the Transport Choices Project, therefore the funding would be returned to Waka Kotahi. Any internal and external consultancy costs and time spent on this project to date, would have been wasted.

7.5 **Financial**

- Is there an impact on funding and debt levels?
- Will work be undertaken within the current budget?
- What budget has expenditure come from?
- How will the proposal be funded? eg. rates, reserves, grants etc.

The costs to consult are covered under existing staffing costs for the Stratford District Council.

7.6 **Prioritisation & Trade-off**

- Have you taken into consideration the:
- Council's capacity to deliver;
 - contractor's capacity to deliver; and
 - consequence of deferral?

Council Officers can deliver the consultation requirements. There is no benefit to deferring this decision. The consequence of deferral is that Council will not meet Waka Kotahi's timeframes and will result to some, or all of the funding being withdrawn. In addition, all work undertaken to date will be a waste. All physical works/construction is to be completed by 30 June 2024.

7.7 **Legal Issues**

- Is there a legal opinion needed?
- Are there legal issues?

Council endorsement is required for council officers to engage in a public consultation exercise. Section 82 of the LGA 2002 requires local authority to seek the views of those affected by this proposal.

7.8 **Policy Issues - Section 80**

- Are there any policy issues?
- Does your recommendation conflict with Council Policies?

No, this report is consistent with council procedures and Section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002.



Stephen Bowden
Roading Asset Manager



[Endorsed by]
Victoria Araba
Director - Assets



[Approved by]
Sven Hanne
Chief Executive

Date 1 August 2023.

DECISION REPORT



F22/55/04 – D23/33082

To: Council
From: Roothing Asset Manager
Date: 8 August 2023
Subject: Road Closure for a Car Club Event

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.
2. THAT pursuant to Section 342(1) (b) Schedule 10 clause 11(e) of the Local Government Act 1974, approval is hereby given that the Stratford District Council proposes to close the following roads on Sunday 13 August 2023 between the hours of 7.30am and 5.30pm for the purpose of the Westend Hire Stratford Street Sprint 2023
 - Orlando Street from Warwick Road to Celia Street
 - Romeo Street from Orlando Street to Cordelia Street
 - Cordelia Street from Romeo Street to Warwick Road
 - Warwick Road from Cordelia Street to Orlando Street

Recommended Reason

The South Taranaki Car Club have approached the Stratford District Council with the view of holding their annual Westend Hire Stratford Street Sprint Event on Sunday 13 August. This is their 33rd year of running the event. The proposed road closure requires formal endorsement by a Council resolution.

/
Moved/Seconded

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 For any street event that requires a road closure, Schedule 10 clause 11(e) of the Local Government Act 1974 requires a Council resolution to endorse the proposed road closure. This report seeks this endorsement for the purposes of allowing the Stratford District Council to close:

- Orlando Street from Warwick Road to Celia Street
- Romeo Street from Orlando Street to Cordelia Street
- Cordelia Street from Romeo Street to Warwick Road
- Warwick Road from Cordelia Street to Orlando Street

between the hours of 7.30am and 5.30pm.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 In order for the event to be safely undertaken, it is proposed to close:

- Orlando Street from Warwick Road to Celia Street
- Romeo Street from Orlando Street to Cordelia Street
- Cordelia Street from Romeo Street to Warwick Road
- Warwick Road from Cordelia Street to Orlando Street

between the hours of 7.30am and 5.30pm on Sunday 13 August.

- 2.2 The alternative route for traffic will be Celia Street, Swansea Road, and Warwick Road.

3. Local Government Act 2002 – Section 10

Under section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002, the Council’s purpose is to “enable democratic local decision making by and on behalf of communities; as well as promoting the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities now and into the future”			
Does the recommended option meet the purpose of the Local Government 4 well-beings? And which:			Yes
Social	Economic	Environmental	Cultural
✓	✓		

This event attracts entrants to the Street Sprint as well as spectators.

The report is for the purposes of providing good regulatory function, as events such as this which require a road to be closed. A Council resolution is necessary to endorse the proposed road closure.

4. Background

4.1 The South Taranaki Car Club have approached the Stratford District Council with the view of holding their annual Stratford Street Sprint Event on Sunday 13 August. This is their 33rd year of running the event. The event attracts up to 40 cars to participate.

5. Consultative Process

5.1 Public Consultation - Section 82

An advertisement was placed in Central Link in the Stratford Press on 10 May 2023, and was loaded to Council’s website on 8 May 2023. Notice for objections closed on Friday 2 June 2023. No objections have been received by the Stratford District Council.

The South Taranaki Car Club has completed a letter drop to residents (**Appendix 3**).

5.2 Māori Consultation - Section 81

There are no known effects that this event is likely to have on local iwi issues, therefore no separate consultation is required.

6. Risk Analysis

<p>Refer to the Council Risk Register - available on the Council website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does this report cover any issues that relate to any risks on the Council Risk Register, and if so which risks and what are the impacts and likelihood of eventuating? • Does this report cover any issues that may lead to any new risks that are not on the Council Risk Register, and if so, provide some explanation of any new identified risks. • Is there a legal opinion needed?
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6.1 **Council Risk Register – Risk No. 29: Health, Safety and Wellbeing; Public Events.** If health and safety accidents or incidents occur during events, then increased costs can occur to the events, reputation is damaged.

A full Health and Safety Management Plan and Traffic Management Plan have been prepared for this event. Further, Stratford District Council have been indemnified against any claims whatsoever arising from the event (**Appendix 2**).

- 6.2 A Street Event Refundable Bond for damages will be applied to this event, ensuring any accidental street damage is rectified by the event holder.

To date there have been no known instances of Health and Safety incidents or street damage resulting from the Stratford Street Sprint.

- 6.3 There is a risk that SDC assets could be damaged during the event, however, the car club have paid a street damage bond to cover these costs. Furthermore, there is a risk that an injury could occur to the spectators should one of the entrants lose control of their vehicle. This risk is managed through the Safety Management Plan for the event.

7. Decision Making Process – Section 79

7.1 Direction

	Explain
Is there a strong link to Council's strategic direction, Long Term Plan/District Plan?	Yes. This event brings visitors to Stratford for an event for the community to enjoy as
What relationship does it have to the communities current and future needs for infrastructure, regulatory functions, or local public services?	This report supports the performance of Council by providing a regulatory function in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002.

7.2 Data

- Do we have complete data, and relevant statistics, on the proposal(s)?
- Do we have reasonably reliable data on the proposals?
- What assumptions have had to be built in?

The times of the proposed road closure is outlined in the recommendation above. The South Taranaki Car Club have indicated to the Stratford District Council that they expect up to 40 cars to participate in the event.

7.3 Significance

	Yes/No	Explain
Is the proposal significant according to the Significance Policy in the Long Term Plan?	No	
Is it:	No	
• considered a strategic asset; or	No	
• above the financial thresholds in the Significance Policy; or	No	
• impacting on a CCO stakeholding; or	No	
• a change in level of service; or	No	
• creating a high level of controversy; or	No	
• possible that it could have a high impact on the community?	Yes	There will be some moderate impact on the residents that live locally on Romeo Street and Cordelia Street that are within the proposed road closure zone. These residents have been consulted by the Car Club, and no objections have been received by Council.

In terms of the Council's Significance Policy, is this proposal of high, medium, or low significance?		
High	Medium	Low
		✓

7.4 **Options**

<p>An assessment of costs and benefits for each option must be completed. Use the criteria below in your assessment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What options are available? 2. For each option: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explain what the costs and benefits of each option are in terms of the present and future needs of the district; • outline if there are any sustainability issues; and • explain if the outcomes meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions? 3. After completing these, consider which option you wish to recommend to Council, and explain: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how this option is the most cost effective option for households and businesses; • if there are any trade-offs; and • what interdependencies exist.

The options to be considered for this report are:

- Option 1.** Do not approve the closing of the aforementioned roads. If this is the option chosen, then the South Taranaki Car Club will not be able to host the Stratford Street Sprint.
- Option 2.** Endorse the proposed road closure as outlined in recommendation two above, to indicate our support for this event. **This is the recommended option.**

7.5 **Financial**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there an impact on funding and debt levels? • Will work be undertaken within the current budget? • What budget has expenditure come from? • How will the proposal be funded? eg. rates, reserves, grants etc.

There are no financial contributions required by Stratford District Council. Stratford District Council's officer time for approving the traffic management plan and preparing this report are met from current Roading budgets.

7.6 **Prioritisation & Trade-off**

<p>Have you taken into consideration the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council's capacity to deliver; • contractor's capacity to deliver; and • consequence of deferral?

The Stratford District Council is confident that Downer NZ who have been engaged to provide the Traffic Management Plan (**Appendix 1**) are competent to monitor this event.

Due to the timing and location of the event, the Stratford District Transfer Station will be closed for the day, being Sunday 13 August.

7.7 **Legal Issues**

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is there a legal opinion needed?• Are there legal issues? |
|--|

Pursuant to Section 342(1) (b) Schedule 10 clause 11(e) of the Local Government Act 1974, provides powers to Council to formally endorse a recommendation to close a road for the purposes of a street event.

7.8 **Policy Issues - Section 80**

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are there any policy issues?• Does your recommendation conflict with Council Policies? |
|---|

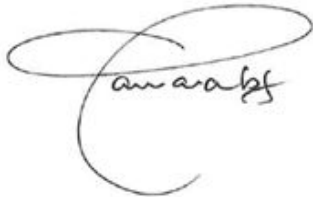
There are no policy issues that arise due to the approval of the road closure for the Stratford Street Sprint.

Attachments:

- Appendix 1** Traffic Management Plan
- Appendix 2** Certificate of Insurance
- Appendix 3** Letter to residents



Steve Bowden
Roading Asset Manager



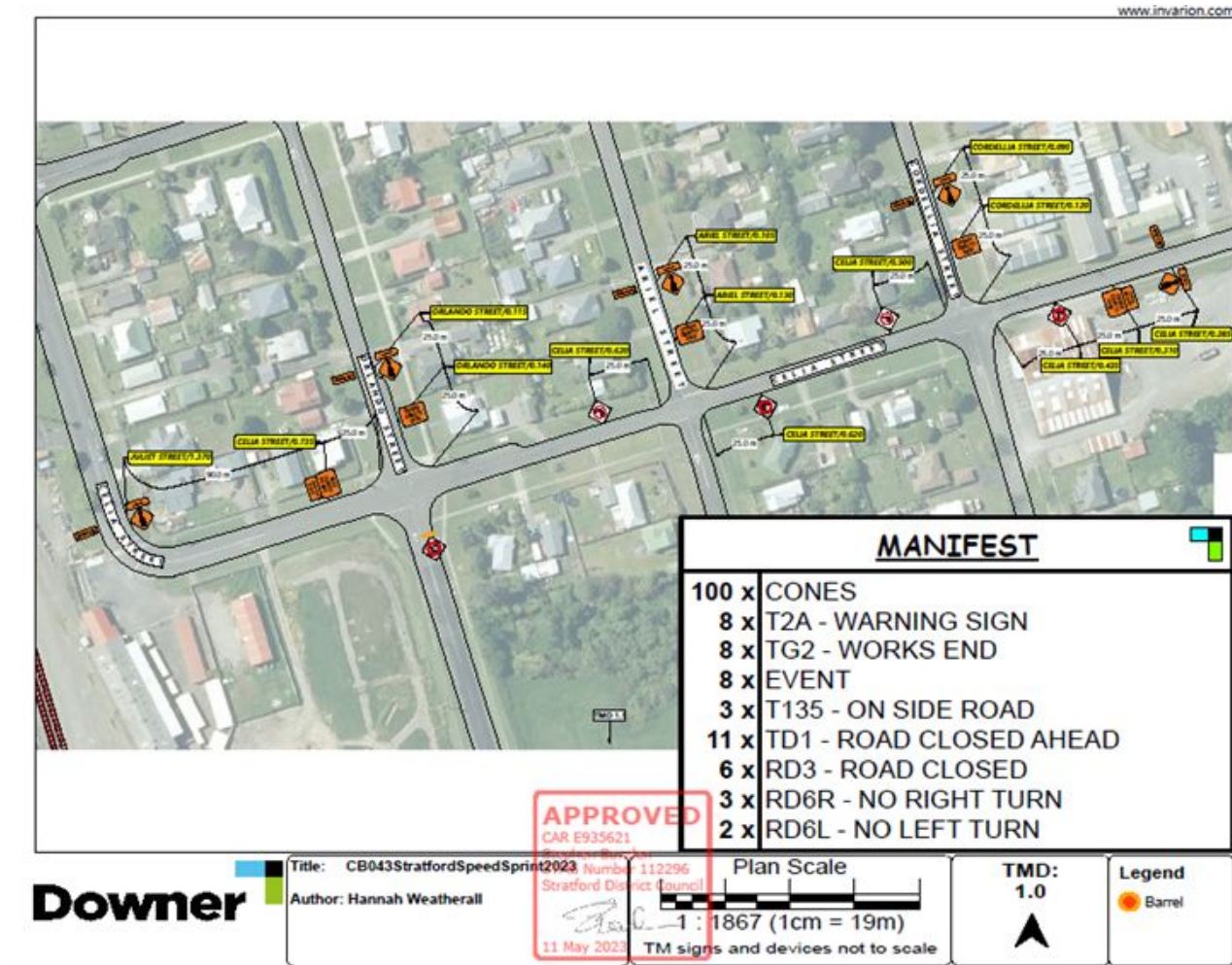
[Endorsed by]
Victoria Araba
Director - Assets

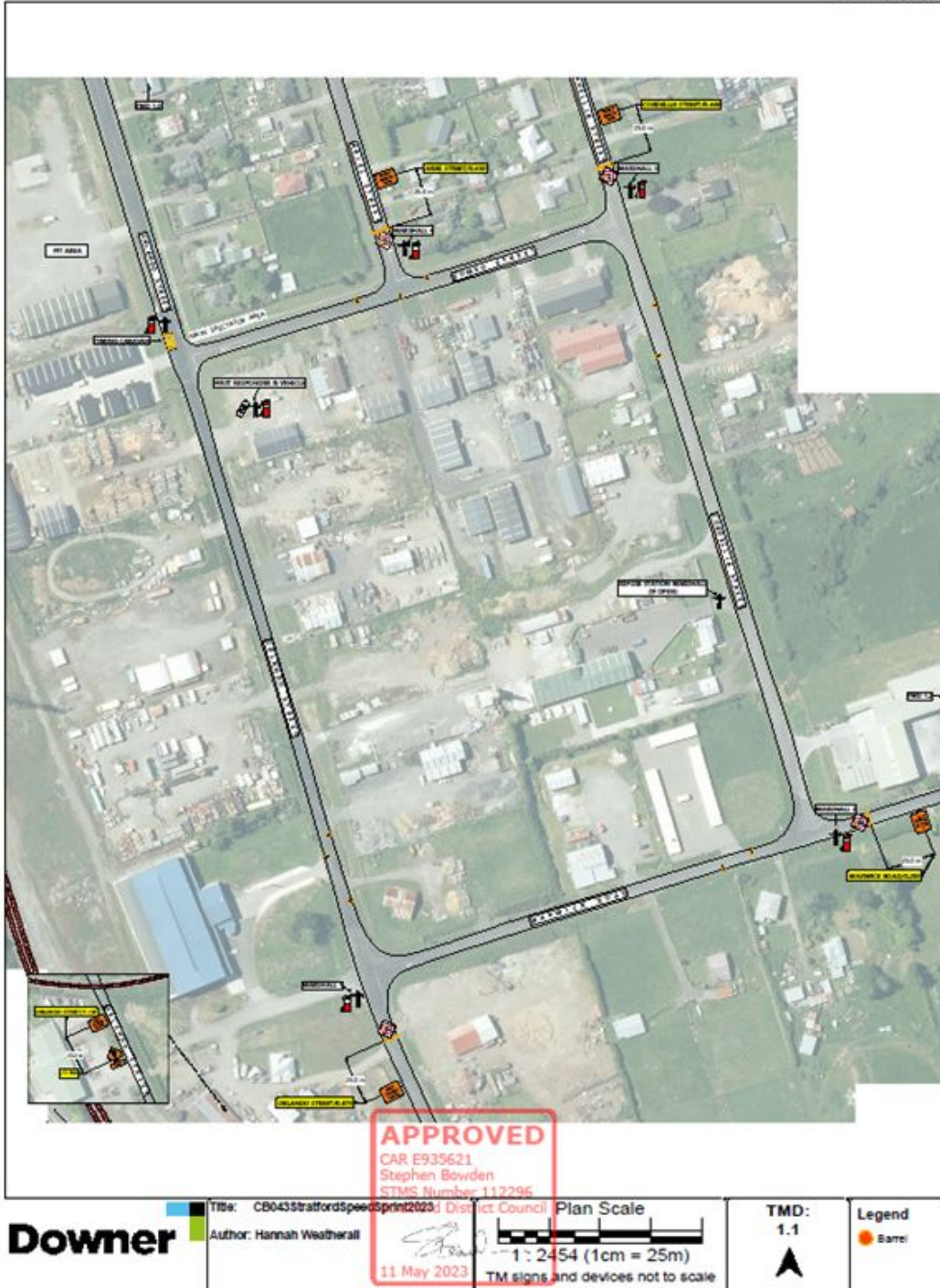


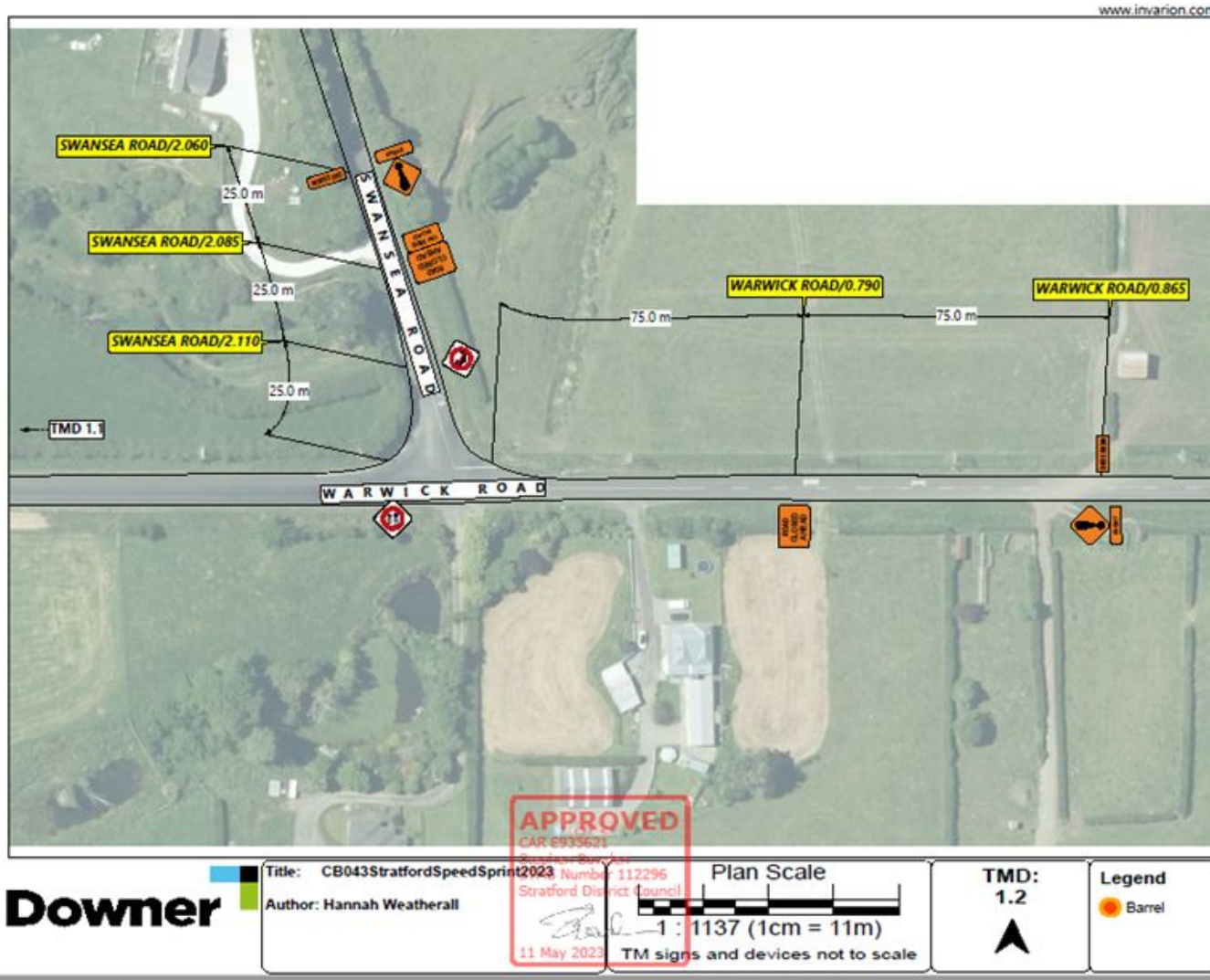
[Approved by]
Sven Hanne
Chief Executive

Date 1 August 2023

Appendix 1







Appendix 2



Level 32, ANZ Centre
23-29 Albert Street
Private Bag 92055
Auckland 1142, New Zealand
Telephone +64 9 306 0350
www.veroliability.co.nz

Insurance Certificate	Client ID	Agent No
Public & Products Liability	43826	8000014

We, the Insurers, Vero Liability Insurance Limited confirm that Public & Products Liability insurance has been effected on the following basis:

POLICY NUMBER	HO-LPL-6171359	
THE INSURED	Motorsport New Zealand Inc and Member Clubs in respect of Permitted Events Only	
BUSINESS DESCRIPTION	Administration, Governance and Regulation of Motor Sport in New Zealand	
EFFECTIVE DATE	From 4.00pm	31 December 2022
	To 4.00pm	31 December 2023
LIMIT OF INDEMNITY	\$ 10,000,000	any one Occurrence and for any one Period of Insurance in respect of Products Hazard
EXCESS	\$ 3,500	per Occurrence
POLICY WORDING	VL POL PL-032022	

This certificate is issued as a matter of information only and is subject to the terms and conditions of the issued policy.

Signed for and on behalf of Vero Liability Insurance Limited

Authorised Officer
DTL



16 December 2022

Appendix 3



PO Box 310, Hawera, 4640



1st August 2023

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This notice is to inform you that your road will be closed from 7.30am to 5.30pm on **Sunday the 13th August, 2023** for the use of a Car Club event, our Annual Street Sprint, as advertised in your local paper by the Stratford District Council.

We are celebrating the 33rd consecutive year of running this event.

We will let traffic through at appropriate times to minimize inconvenience to you or anyone else using the road.

If you need to contact anyone before the event, please feel free to contact me as per below **prior** to the event, or Ross Twyman (Clerk of the Course) on 021 195 9933 prior to or **on the day**.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Yours in MotorSport

H A Cameron

Helen Cameron
SECRETARY
SOUTH TARANAKI CAR CLUB
Mobile: 027 243 9096
sthtarcarclub@gmail.com

DECISION REPORT



F22/55/04 – D23/33227

To: Council
From: Chief Executive
Date: 8 August 2023
Subject: Taranaki Position Statement on Preferred Establishment Date for the Taranaki Water Services Entity

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.
2. THAT Council notes that the Government is proposing a staggered roll out of Water Services Entities across New Zealand with quarterly implementation dates between 1 July 2024 and 1 July 2026.
3. THAT Council notes that the leadership of both Taranaki's Councils and Iwi have agreed a preferred date of 1 April 2025 for the establishment of the Taranaki Water Services Entity.
4. THAT Council notes the Taranaki Position Statement is to be signed by Neil Volzke as the Chair of the Taranaki Mayoral Forum, and Jaimie Tuuta on behalf of Taranaki Iwi.
5. THAT Council endorses the Taranaki Position Statement.

Recommended Reason

To communicate an aligned position of the Taranaki Region regarding a preferred date of 1 April 2025 for the transition of a range of activities currently managed by the three district councils to the new Taranaki Water Services Entity. The ultimate decision for this timing sits with DIA but they are looking for expressions of a preference from the regions. This report seeks endorsement of that date by Council.

/
Moved/Seconded

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The matter for consideration by the Council is a draft position statement by Taranaki Councils and local Iwi to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) on a preferred transition date for the new Taranaki Water Services Entity. The DIA are drafting a report to the Minister of Local Government, Hon Kieran McAnulty recommending a staggered transition dates for the 10 Water Services Entities (WSE) across the motu. The Taranaki Region's position is a preferred date of 1 April 2025 and this report seeks endorsement of that date by Council.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 Taranaki's Council and Iwi leadership have jointly developed an agreed preferred date for when the Taranaki Water Services Entity should be established on. While this will be subject to decisions by Government, an agreed position will help to develop some certainty for the community, Councils, Iwi, and staff on when the new Entity will be established. Taranaki's Iwi and Council leadership have proposed a date of 1 April 2025. This report seeks Council's endorsement of that position.

3. Local Government Act 2002 – Section 10

Under section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002, the Council's purpose is to “enable democratic local decision making by and on behalf of communities; as well as promoting the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities now and into the future”			
Does the recommended option meet the purpose of the Local Government 4 well-beings? And which:		N/A	
Social	Economic	Environmental	Cultural

The decision sought is best described as advocating for our community. This is not specifically covered within Section 10 of the LGA.

4. Background

- 4.1 On 13 April 2023, central government announced significant changes to the Three Waters Reforms. This included moving from four Water Services Entities (WSE) to 10 in order to increase the weighting of local representation and influence in the new water delivery model.
- 4.2 The Government has previously communicated that entities will begin to be stood up from early 2025 and a staggered approach will ensure all entities will be fully operational by 1 July 2026. This means the establishment date for water services entities will likely vary, rather than all ten entities going live at once. The Government has now confirmed that some entities may be established from 1 July 2024, but a staggered approach will still be taken.
- 4.3 To stand up the new entities efficiently and effectively, the DIA are proposing to have an even distribution of work effort across the establishment period. This would mean from one to three entities go live at each quarter's start.
- 4.4 The decision on the date rests with the Government through an Order-in-Council process. However, the Government has asked each Entity's areas to work together to develop a preferred date to help inform their decision-making processes.
- 4.5 At the Taranaki region National Transition Unit (NTU) Roadshow in June, the Taranaki councils and local Iwi in attendance verbally stated a preferred date of 1 April 2025. This is because of our primary objective is to provide as much certainty as possible for people affected by change and ensure the best outcome for our communities.
- 4.6 Off the back of NTU Roadshows, the DIA are drafting a report to the Minister of Local Government, Hon Kieran McNulty recommending a staggered transition dates for the 10 Water Services Entities (WSE) across the motu.
- 4.7 At the request of the Mayoral Forum, a Taranaki Position Statement has been drafted to formally propose an implementation date of 1 April 2025.

5. Consultative Process

5.1 Public Consultation - Section 82

Council is advocating a position, or submitting to, another organisation but Council is not the ultimate decision-maker. Therefore, public consultation by council is not appropriate or required.

5.2 **Māori Consultation - Section 81**

Taranaki Iwi are separately engaged in this process and have been contributing to the proposed position.

6. **Risk Analysis**

<p>Refer to the Council Risk Register - available on the Council website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does this report cover any issues that relate to any risks on the Council Risk Register, and if so which risks and what are the impacts and likelihood of eventuating? • Does this report cover any issues that may lead to any new risks that are not on the Council Risk Register, and if so, provide some explanation of any new identified risks. • Is there a legal opinion needed?
--

There is no immediate risk inherent in the decisions sought within this report. A key driver of the request to go for an early to mid-field date for the establishment of the Taranaki entity was the inherent risk of staff loss as other entities will be actively and aggressively recruiting once established. This has the inherent risk of not being able to staff the required roles within council or the new entity in an already tight labour market.

7. **Decision Making Process – Section 79**

7.1 **Direction**

	Explain
Is there a strong link to Council's strategic direction, Long Term Plan/District Plan?	If enacted, there will be implications on budgets, in particular the existing transitional arrangements to transfer services and assets to the new WSE. The timing of transition has implications for the length of time waters are to remain within the LTP.
What relationship does it have to the communities current and future needs for infrastructure, regulatory functions, or local public services?	There are no immediate inconsistencies with policies and plans. However, a number of policies, plans and bylaws will need revocation or amendment to ensure they continue to be relevant to Council's services.

7.2 **Data**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do we have complete data, and relevant statistics, on the proposal(s)? • Do we have reasonably reliable data on the proposals? • What assumptions have had to be built in?
--

The relevant information is contained in the BACKGROUND section of this report.

7.3 **Significance**

	Yes/No	Explain
Is the proposal significant according to the Significance Policy in the Long Term Plan?		
Is it: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> considered a strategic asset; or 	No	The water assets are strategic assets BUT the decision sought within this report does not change the ultimate outcome of the water reforms, it only seeks to find a locally agreed date for what is ultimately an inevitable outcome.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> above the financial thresholds in the Significance Policy; or 	No	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> impacting on a CCO stakeholding; or 	No	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a change in level of service; or 	No	The provision of a range of services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> creating a high level of controversy; or 	No	The overall reforms have created significant controversy. Council is however not the driver of these reforms and therefore this is outside the realm of council's decision making.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> possible that it could have a high impact on the community? 	No	The overall reforms have the potential to have a significant impact on the community. Council is however not the driver of these reforms and therefore this is outside the realm of council's decision making.

In terms of the Council's Significance Policy, is this proposal of high, medium, or low significance?		
High	Medium	Low
		✓

7.4 **Options**

<p>An assessment of costs and benefits for each option must be completed. Use the criteria below in your assessment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What options are available? For each option: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> explain what the costs and benefits of each option are in terms of the present and future needs of the district; outline if there are any sustainability issues; and explain if the outcomes meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions? After completing these, consider which option you wish to recommend to Council, and explain: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> how this option is the most cost effective option for households and businesses; if there are any trade-offs; and what interdependencies exist.
--

Option 1 Endorse the Taranaki Position Statement
Taranaki will be seen by DIA and central government to be speaking with an aligned voice. The proposed date was chosen for strategic reasons outlined in this report. Those in the community that are critical of the reforms may however see this as council endorsing the three waters reforms.

Option 2 Do not endorse the Taranaki Position Statement.
Council could determine to remain silent on this issue. Some in the community may see this as a “dereliction of duty” by not having its say on a significant matter for the future of Council. However, Council is under no obligation to submit, and could choose to not submit. This could be an appropriate course of action if there was significant disagreement within Elected Members about the Position Statement.

7.5 Financial

- Is there an impact on funding and debt levels?
- Will work be undertaken within the current budget?
- What budget has expenditure come from?
- How will the proposal be funded? eg. rates, reserves, grants etc.

There are no direct financial and resourcing implications from the decisions covered by this report.

7.6 Prioritisation & Trade-off

- Have you taken into consideration the:
- Council's capacity to deliver;
 - contractor's capacity to deliver; and
 - consequence of deferral?

The options provided above are a trade-off between achieving the best regional outcome from a reform process that has been highly divisive for our community versus representing those in the community that would like to see

7.7 Legal Issues

- Is there a legal opinion needed?
- Are there legal issues?

There are no legal implications arising from this report as such. There are a number of legal issues arising from the reform process, these are for the DIA to address, resolve through the appropriate legislation and support councils throughout the implementation with.

7.8 Policy Issues - Section 80

- Are there any policy issues?
- Does your recommendation conflict with Council Policies?

There are no immediate policy issues arising from this report. Overall, council will need to assess its alignment with its new focus and purpose as these reforms progress and current core responsibilities will no longer fall with council.

Attachments:

Appendix 1 Taranaki Region Position Statement



[Approved by]
Sven Hanne
Chief Executive

Date 1 August 2023

APPENDIX 1

Heather Shotter
Executive Director
National Transition Unit
Water Services Reform Programme
WELLINGTON

TARANAKI REGIONAL POSITION STATEMENT

AFFORDABLE WATERS/ ENTITY D IMPLEMENTATION

Tēnā koe Ms Shotter

Introduction

1. This position statement is prepared on behalf of Taranaki district councils (New Plymouth District Council (NPDC), Stratford District Council (SDC) and South Taranaki District Council (STDC)), with the support of Iwi partners; Ngāti Tama, Ngāti Mutunga, Ngāti Maru, Te Ātiawa, Taranaki Iwi, Ngā Ruahine, Ngāti Ruanui, and Ngā Rauru.
2. The letter states the Taranaki region's position in relation to the implementation of the Taranaki region Water Services Entity (WSE). It has been adopted by way of council agenda and is supported by local Iwi.

Significant change requires local leadership

3. As a region we would like to acknowledge the complex work undertaken by Minister McAnulty, the Finance and Expenditure Committee and the Department of Internal Affairs to improve the Water Services Reform on behalf of local communities across the motu.
4. With complex reform, comes significant uncertainty for our people and community. Our primary objective is to provide as much certainty as possible for people affected by change and ensure the best outcome for our communities.
5. We are fortunate in the Taranaki region to not only have good relationships between our three councils, but strong and productive relationships with our local Iwi. We intend to continue to demonstrate strong, collective regional leadership as we are heavily invested in shaping the future for our communities.
6. The Taranaki region has been identified as a potential first tranche region for the Resource Management Act (RMA) reforms. Implementing the new resource management system will also result in significant change for local government.

7. There are considerable benefits in aligning the implementation of the Taranaki WSE and the new resource management system, including avoiding a period of elongated and disruptive change, and efficiencies in both resourcing and regional governance.

Proposed Implementation date

8. By way of a regional workshop, Taranaki councils confirmed that the region would be ready for transition 12 – 24 months from agreement with the DIA. Overall, there is desire to ‘go earlier, rather than later’.
9. With the working assumption that a second tranche of transition support funding of similar value to tranche 1 will be made available, as well as seed funding for local Iwi, the Taranaki region is proposing an implementation date of **1 April 2025**.
10. This date aligns with the implementation timeframe for the RMA reforms and would give our people and communities increased certainty and stability. This will also reduce the potential for stranded overheads in our organisations by providing for additional functions and therefore may reduce the ‘No Worse Off’ funding required from you. This ‘win, win’ approach is a cornerstone of how we collaborate as a region.
11. We intend to work with the DIA and form a regional transition team to ensure the efficient use of funding and resources.

Discussion points with the DIA

12. We understand that a constitution is required before the Regional Representative Group (RRG) can formally receive legislative powers. As a region, we intend to establish an RRG early to support the kaupapa of the WSE Establishment CE and WSE Establishment Board. We need to ensure the constitution reflects and supports out local tikanga and our how our communities operate.
13. We request to receive (either directly or via the DIA) assurance from an experienced acquisition and mergers advisor, that the activities on the transition runway are sufficient to establish a successful WSE.
14. We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss the above points with the DIA and look forward to hearing from you.

Ngā mihi

Neil Volzke
Mayor, Stratford District
Chair of Taranaki Mayoral Forum

Jaime Tuuta
Chair, Ngāti Mutunga
On behalf of Taranaki Iwi



TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Our reference

F19/13/03-D21/40748

Karakia

Kia uruuru mai
Ā hauora
Ā haukaha
Ā haumāia
Ki runga, Ki raro
Ki roto, Ki waho
Rire rire hau Paimārire

I draw in (to my being)
The reviving essence
The strengthening essence
The essence of courage
Above, Below
Within, Around
Let there be peace.