

MINUTES

Policy and Services Committee

F22/55/05 – D23/35474

Date: Tuesday 22 August 2023 at 3.10PM
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

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

In attendance

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director – Corporate Services – Mrs T Radich, the Acting Director – Community Services – Mr C Julie, the HR and Governance Administrator – Mrs C Reynolds, the Environmental Health Manager – Mrs R Otter, 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 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*), one member of the public and one member of the media (Stratford Press)

1. Welcome

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

The opening karakia was read.

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

2. Apologies

An approved leave of absence was noted for the Deputy Mayor – M McKay.

Apologies were noted from the Director – Assets - Mrs V Araba and the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland.

3. Announcements

There were no announcements.

4. Declarations of members interest

Elected members were asked to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda.

Councillor Erwood declared a potential conflict of interest in Item 12 – Connecting our Communities Strategy.

5. Attendance Schedule

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

6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Policy and Services Committee – 25 July 2023 – Hearing D23/32590 Page 12

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 25 July 2023, to hear and consider submissions to the draft Class 4 Gambling Venues Policy and the draft TAB Venues Policy, be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

HALL/WATT
Carried
P&S/23/112

6.2 Policy and Services Committee – 25 July 2023 D23/32658 Page 19

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 25 July 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

HARRIS/BECK
Carried
P&S/23/113

7. Matters Outstanding

D16/47 Page 29

Recommendation

THAT the Matters Outstanding be received.

BOYDE/BECK
Carried
P&S/23/114

Recommendations

1. THAT the Annual Report for Stratford District Licensing Committee for 2022/2023 be received and contents noted.

BOYDE/ERWOOD
Carried
P&S/23/115

2. THAT, subject to any amendments, the Annual Report will be forwarded to the Alcohol Regulatory and Licensing Authority.

VOLZKE/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/23/116

Recommended Reason

The report is required to be prepared by the Stratford District Licensing Committee as part of its duties under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

The Environmental Health Manager noted that there is a correction to be made on page 34. Under District Licensing Committee Workload, it states 'A Chairperson will be appointed by Council in due course', this will be updated to state, 'A Deputy Chairperson will be appointed by Council in due course'.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde questioned when a Deputy Chairperson will be appointed. It was noted a report is expected to be presented to the committee before the end of the year.
- Councillor Boyde questioned if the end of the year is soon enough? It was noted the soonest the report could be expected is November.

The Parks and Reserves Officer joined the meeting at 3.09pm

Recommendation

THAT the Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices for the year ending 30 June 2023 be received and contents noted.

DUDLEY/HALL
Carried
P&S/23/117

Recommended Reason

The report is required under section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Hall sought clarification of the number of dogs impounded on page 40, was the figure the total amount of dogs impounded or the total amount of impounds e.g. if one dog is impounded 5 times will the number here be 1 (for one dog), or 5 (amount of impounds). It was clarified it was the latter, the total number of impounds.
- The District Mayor noted the statistics are not trending in the directions he would like to see continue.

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/SANDFORD
Carried
P&S/23/118

2. THAT the Council approve the renaming of Pembroke Road be renamed by adding East and West suffixes starting at the intersection from Broadway on State Highway

JONES/BECK
Carried
P&S/23/119

Recommended Reason

The Surveyor General has directed the Council to correct historic inconsistencies in street numbering along Pembroke Road.

The Environmental Health Manager noted the following points:

- Thanks to Pembroke Road residents who have been patient throughout this process.
- Kieran Best has been invited today to answer any questions, as he played a big part in this project during his time as Environmental Compliance Officer.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The District Mayor noted a point of clarification for Councillors that the recommendation is in regard to naming of Pembroke Road not the road numbering.
- Councillor Beck noted he believes this is the best outcome for Pembroke Road.
- Councillor Boyde agreed with Councillor Beck.
- Councillor Jones acknowledged that while he understood the resolution was not regarding the road numbering, he questioned where the rural datum point is the for their numbering and if rural properties get East and West Pembroke Road also? It was noted the datum point is from Broadway and the rural properties numbering starts from the rural boundary.
- Councillor Jones questioned if that would not be confusing for emergency services, can the numbering not be kept the same format as urban properties. It was confirmed the datum point is State Highway 3, and conveniently the rural boundary is approximately 1 kilometre from State Highway 3 which means the rural number does not need to be changed.
- Councillor Hall acknowledged the feedback from residents on page 42 and questioned if it is the same scenario on Flint Road or any other places in Stratford. It was noted that because of the datum point there is the possibility for a double up of numbers, however once people get used to using West and East it will not be an issue. It was noted there is no known issue with Flint Road.
- Councillor Dudley noted there is currently already a conflict of numbering on Pembroke Road, and believes East and West is a great solution.

The Projects Engineer and the Property Officer joined the meeting at 3.09pm

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

HALL/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/23/120

2. THAT the Committee resolves for the 2025 Stratford District Council triennial elections to:

- I. Retain the First Past the Post electoral system;
- II. ~~Change to the Single Transferable Voting electoral system;~~ or
- III. ~~Undertake a poll of electors on the electoral system;~~

And that public notice be given by 19 September 2023 of the decision and of the right of electors to demand a poll on the electoral system to be used.

BECK/SANDFORD
Carried
HALL Against
P&S/23/120

3. THAT the Committee will not ~~consider whether to~~ undertake a full representation arrangements review or make any minor ward boundary alterations in 2024 for the 2025 triennial elections (under Sections 19H or 19JA of the Local Electoral Act 2001).

VOLZKE/BECK
Carried
1 Against
P&S/23/121

Recommended Reason

Consideration of the electoral system is required by 12 September 2023, with a public notice required by 19 September 2023, under the Local Electoral Act 2001.
Committee will not undertake

The Director – Corporate Services noted that it is a legislative requirement to work through which voting system to use.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde noted a mistake on page 53 where option 2 has 'Change to the Special Transferable Voting' rather than 'Single Transferable Voting'. He questioned how much more it would cost to use STV over first past the post. It was confirmed the additional cost has been asked but no response received.
- Councillor Beck noted he preferred option 1, as it is familiar to people in the Stratford District.
- Councillor Hall noted she had a different view to Councillor Beck and would like to see STV as recommended by the Future for Local Government task force. She listed a number of points to support her view. She referenced one of the arguments against STV is the simplicity of our current system, she noted she disagreed and that people will adapt.
- The District Mayor noted STV was a recommendation from the review however to date, this hasn't been responded to by LGNZ or central government.
- Councillor Jones agreed with Councillor Beck. He acknowledged there are not enough candidates running for Council so it does not make sense to pay more to move to a complicated system.
- Councillor Erwood agreed with using first past post and believes there is currently a varied pool of Councillors.
- Councillor Sandford agreed with Councillor Beck.
- The District Mayor questioned if there is another chance to make minor boundary changes at a later state, for example if the Census is returned and shows an increase in urban and decrease in rural population, would this change the boundaries? It was noted the cautious answer would be no.
- Councillor Boyde if a review would look into the number of Councillors. It was confirmed it would.
- Councillor Boyde noted he believes it is time to look at the number of urban and rural representation around the table. He questioned if a full representation arrangement review is in the too hard basket? It was noted it was not, however if it is decided today to not undertake the review it was

advised it would be unlikely there would be time before the 2025 election. It was confirmed a review only need to be completed every six years, even if the numbers in the wards change.

- Councillor Harris questioned if a decision is made today to consider looking into representation, when is the cut of to say yay or nay? It was confirmed before 1 March, however it is uncertain if it is agreed upon today, if it can be changed to a no in the future.
- Councillor Jones noted he was against the review and with the current workload of staff now, he does not see what benefit it would bring.
- Councillor Erwood questioned if there was a cost to the review. It was noted there would be costs for the initial proposal and objections however the biggest cost would be staff time.
- Councillor Jones questioned if there was a monetary figure? It was confirmed there was not, however the cost would be staff pressure and advertising.
- Councillor Erwood noted he was against the review.
- Councillor Boyde noted from the comments around the table he did not see much point in proposing a different recommendation however noted going forward he would like Councillors to question if Councillor numbers are still fit for purpose.

Councillor Erwood left the meeting at 3.37pm.

12. Decision Report – Connecting our Communities Strategy

D23/34852 Page 63

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/WATT
Carried
P&S/23/122

2. THAT the Committee recommend Council to adopt the Connecting our Communities Strategy.

BOYDE/HALL
Carried
P&S/23/123

Recommended Reasons

1. The Connecting our Communities Strategy has been amended following feedback from key stakeholders and the Community.
2. The Connecting our Communities Strategy in draft form has already been used as a reference to secure funding from the Ministry of Transport to provide safer walking and cycling facilities in parts of the Stratford township.

The Roding Asset Manager noted the following points:

- The strategy process commenced in 2021, and feedback was received in 2022. The strategy has been dwarfed by Transport Choices but the feedback received has been taken onboard and adopted into the report.
- New figures for the tables on pages 82 and 83 have been received from ACC since the agenda was published. The figures show a decrease in cycling and pedestrian ACC claims between 2019 and 2022.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Hall questioned if the vision on page 75 could be worded better. It was decided that the word 'that' would be removed.
- Councillor Jones sought clarification if the bicycle accidents include road and off road incidents. It was noted ACC does not differentiate, so the figures will include all bicycle incidents.
- Councillor Jones questioned if the adoption of the strategy was delayed, when would it be delayed to? It was noted that any delay will affect the Roding Manager receiving future funding. In 2021 Council missed out on 100% of the funding that was applied as there was no policy.

- Councillor Jones questioned if it could be delayed until after the Transport Choices consultation. It was noted a funding bid needed to be in by Thursday the following week, if that is missed the wait till be another three years.
- The District Mayor noted on page 77 there is a map of the district which shows Egmont National Park, which is no longer it's name, it should be Te Papakura o Taranaki. The Rooding Manager noted this and will amend.
- The District Mayor noted on page 78, 2.2.4 it states 'The Whangamomona Republic Day is now a major attraction with trains and tour buses running from Auckland', he believes the mention of trains should be removed.
- Councillor Harris agrees with the District Mayor and also believes that Auckland should also be removed, and it say visitors attend from outside the region.
- Councillor Sandford questioned on page 91 it has an opportunity to provide bike parking and storage, if the strategy is adopted is this set in concrete and where does this idea come from as there is no storage for any other type of transport. He also noted his concern for point 8.7, exploring heavy vehicle bypass options for the CBD. He questioned why Council would want to remove heavy vehicles from the state highway to Council roads. It was noted the heading was opportunities and nothing on the list is set in stone, or going to happen without council approval.
- Councillor Sandford noted on page 92 under external funding is reserves. It was noted this should be under the upper heading of internal funding.

The Sustainability Advisor joined the meeting at 3.47pm.

- Councillor Sandford noted he is comfortable for these items to stay as they are a wishlist which can be fought against when the time comes.
- It was clarified that the recommendation was to adopt the strategy rather than the projects which are used to deliver the strategy.

Councillor Erwood rejoined the meeting at 3.56pm.

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/23/124

2. THAT the Vision “*A Welcoming, Inclusive, Safe community – Te Pūmanawa o Taranaki*” (translated as ‘The Beating Heart of Taranaki’), for the Stratford District Council and Long Term Plan 2024-34, be adopted.

HALL/WATT
Carried
P&S/23/125

3. THAT the Community Outcomes as proposed below, for the Long Term Plan 2024-34 be adopted.

Community outcome: Welcoming

- We celebrate the unique stories of our district
- We are inclusive, and value our diversity
- Stratford is a friendly place where our visitors feel welcomed
- Our diverse community feels safe and supported
- We promote the district as the place to visit, live, play, learn and work

Community outcome: Resilient

- ~~We will empower the community to eliminate waste~~
- We consider our natural resources as taonga (treasures) and we will work with our treaty partners and the community to protect and look after them
- We support a low-emissions future for our community
- We enable our rangatahi (youth) to be sustainable leaders
- We *Strive to* have resilient infrastructure that meets the current and future needs of the district
- We respect and apply Te Ao Māori values and Mātauranga Māori in our mahi (actions/work)

Community outcome: Connected

- We provide opportunities for families and people of all ages to connect with others in the community
- Our community is engaged and actively participates in democracy
- We value local knowledge when making decisions
- We advocate for the services that our community needs to live safe and healthy lives
- We welcome opportunities to work in partnership with others to help achieve our community outcomes
- We are committed to fostering meaningful and genuine partnerships with Mana Whenua

Community outcome: Enabling

- We are a business friendly district
- We encourage a diverse and sustainable business community
- We enable economic growth by supporting business investment and development in our district
- We support the growth of employment opportunities within our community; with a particular focus on our rangatahi (youth)
- We carefully balance the needs and wants of our district when funding services and infrastructure
- ~~We encourage co-governance opportunities with Mana Whenua where it benefits the Stratford district~~
- We encourage partnerships to collaborate with Mana Whenua for the benefits of the Stratford district.

BOYDE/HALL
Carried
P&S/23/126

Recommended Reason

The Vision and Community Outcomes will guide the development of the Long Term Plan 2024-34.

The Director – Corporate Services noted the following points:

- Recommendation 2 is the Council's vision and recommendation 3 is the Community Outcomes, both of these will drive the Long Term Plan.
- The Vision and Community Outcomes come from community feedback, a workshop with Councillors and feedback from iwi.
- These have been tested by mapping them against the activities Council already undertakes.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

Values:

- Councillor Sandford noted his concern around the word safe, he believes in the world we live in today, telling people they are safe is a bold move. It was clarified it is vision Council would like to see for the community, not the current state.
- Councillor Hall noted she really liked the vision.
- Councillor Boyde noted he understood what Councillor Sandford was saying, however noted in the customer satisfaction survey the community felt they were safe so is personally quite happy for it to be in the vision.

The Communications Advisor left the meeting at 4.03pm.

Community Outcomes

- Councillor Boyde noted one area he is concerned about is 'We encourage co-governance opportunities'. He supports opportunities with Mana Whenua where it benefits the Stratford District. He noted community feedback is not supportive of co-governance, and he believes the word co-governance is very poorly understood. It was questioned if Councillor Boyde had an alternative suggestion.
- Councillor Boyde suggested Encourage strong working relationships with mana whenua.
- Councillor Hall sought clarification on if iwi have been consulted with, what the risk to the relationship is if the feedback is not listened to. The District Mayor noted there is no certain answer to that, however this would not exclude Māori.
- Councillor Hall noted she agreed some members of the community do not understand the word co-governance and get defensive when they see it. She noted she has gone backwards and forwards on the issue however believes it would be great if Council could lead through this space of uncertainty, leave the word co-governance in and explain what it means to the community.
- Councillor Beck agreed with Councillor Boyde and noted central government has ruined the work co-governance for everyone. He does not want to exclude māori but would like the word co-governance changed.
- Councillor Sandford noted he supported Councillors Beck and Boyde and does not believe it is the correct time to have co-governance listed.
- Alternatives to the co-governance was discussed, with 'We encourage partnerships to collaborate with Mana Whenua for the benefits of the Stratford district' being agreed upon.

The Communications Advisor rejoined the meeting at 4.13pm.

- Councillor Watt noted his confusion over the final bullet point under Resilient as he did not fully understand what Maturanga Māori means and how it can apply to his work. He questioned if he was alone. It was advised Te Ao Māori values is connected to Māori world view and Maturanga Māori is relates to knowledge.
- The District Mayor noted he believes 'empower the community to eliminate waste' belongs in the waste minimisation plan, not in community outcomes.

14. Monthly Reports

14.1 Assets Report

D23/32682 Page 122

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/ERWOOD
Carried
P&S/23/127

The Roothing Asset Manager noted the following point:

- In the highlights it mentions Waka Kotahi have offered additional funding for roads damaged by logging trucks. During a tour of five of the roads around \$3.8 million of damage was found.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Hall commended the Roothing Manager for taking Waka Kotahi on the tour and securing the additional funding.
- Councillor Beck questioned if with the defects liability period for Wai o Rua expiring in December if everything is performing how it should be. It was noted it appears to be running as expected with just a few teething issues.

The Project Manager, the Projects Engineer, the Parks and Reserves Officer, the Property Officer, the Graduate Asset Engineer and the Sustainability Advisor left the meeting at 4.30pm

14.2 Community Services Report

D23/33427 Page 144

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/SANDFORD
Carried
P&S/23/128

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Hall noted it was fantastic to see the number of children enrolled in swimming lessons.
- Councillor Erwood noted his appreciation to Mr Julie and his team for attending the Team Hope event last month.
- Councillor Harris questioned in the MTFJ programme if in times people are registered but there is no where to put them, are other organisations being worked with to find them a placement. It was confirmed yes, that the best outcome for the person is the aim, whether it is sharing that with others or placing them somewhere ourselves.
- Councillor Sandford advised that at the Positive Aging AGM the decision was made to close the committee as the forums were great however there was no great participation at the meetings. It was decided at the AGM that Council would coordinate two Positive Aging forums each year. Councillor Sandford thanked the Community Services for their work with Positive Aging and those who had been on the committee.
- Councillor Hall invited Councillors to the new exhibition opening at the Percy Thomson Gallery on Friday night.

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/SANDFORD
Carried
P&S/23/129

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde questioned what would happen to buildings after 12 months if a seismic assessment is not completed. It was clarified the end result would be the building eventually would be deemed as earthquake prone and treated accordingly, or council could complete the seismic assessment and then charge the building owner for the assessment.
- Councillor Boyde asked what the cost for a seismic report is as there are members of the community saying they are too expensive. It was clarified that that the costs can be in the tens of thousands of dollars depending on the complexity of the buildings.
- Councillor Jones asked what defines who gets a letter? It was explained that the buildings were identified based on some factors determined by MBIE and including being used for commercial purposes, their number of stories and their construction type.
- The District Mayor advised if Councillors were fielding enquiries on this issue that they should not put themselves in the position of defending it as it is not Council's rule, it is a requirement by law.

The Communications Advisor left the meeting at 4.44pm.

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/23/130

The Director – Corporate Services noted the annual report will be presented next month for adoption

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was noted there was recently a meeting between the District Mayor, the Chief Executive, the Director – Corporate Services, the Deputy Auditor General and one of their Directors, to discuss Council's audit fees after a letter was written to the Office of the Auditor General. Included in the meeting was pointing out data comparing Stratford District Council to other Councils, where Stratford's fees stood out with cost per rate payer etc. The meeting was constructive, and they listened. The first solution discussed was to discuss the issue with the auditors and go through line by line, look at the risk of Stratford District Council and how much time the auditors need to spend on the audit. It was noted there was no commitment to immediately reduce the audit fees, but to look at the hours spent and question why.
- Councillor Boyde noted this is once again taking away from Council's resources by taking up staff time and questioned if Council is going to be compensated for this? It was clarified it was mentioned in the meeting that it has taken up a lot of staff time, and the suggestion was made to take away some of the junior auditors charged times as it is their responsibility to ensure their auditors are skilled, not Councils.
- Councillor Boyde questioned when does the time come to write off the 173 infringements. It was noted that infringements will be written off when they are over 3 years old.
- Councillor Beck enquired if Council has budgeted for its share of the cost of Transport Choices if it goes ahead. It was noted the cost has been budgeted for, the remaining 20% will be loan or reserve funded.

15. Questions

There were no questions.

16. Closing Karakia
D21/40748 Page 174

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 4.55pm

N C Volzke
Chairman

Confirmed this 26th day of September 2023.

N C Volzke
District Mayor