

MINUTES

Policy and Services Committee

F22/55/05 – D23/44400

Date: Tuesday 24 October 2023 at 1.30PM
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

To hear and consider submissions to the Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan and Level of Service Change

Present

The District Mayor N C Volzke (the Chairperson), 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 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 – Community Services – Ms K Whareaitu, the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the Committee Advisor and Executive Assistant – Mrs E Bishop, the Communications Manager – Ms G Gibson, the Education Officer – Water and Waste – Mr P McNamara, the Sustainability Advisor – Ms V Dombroski, the Communications Advisor – Mrs S Clarkson, the Graduate Asset Engineer – Ms K van Hout, three members of the public (submitters) and one member of the media (Taranaki Daily News)

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

A leave of absence was approved for the Deputy Mayor M McKay and apologies received from Councillor C M Tongaawhikau and J M S Erwood (lateness).

Recommendation

THAT the apologies be received.

BOYDE/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/23/144

3. Announcements

Speakers to Submissions

It was reinforced to Councillors that the purpose of this meeting was to hear submissions on the Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan and Level of Service change. 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.

4. Declarations of members interest

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

5. Attendance Schedule

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

6. Acknowledgement of Submissions

Submissions – Pages 39-196

Attached were the 78 submissions received to the Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan and Level of Service change.

Recommendations

1. THAT the submissions to the draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan and Level of Service change 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.

HALL/WATT
Carried
P&S/23/145

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. Two withdrew their request to speak.

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

Councillor Erwood joined the meeting at 1.37pm.

Submission #	Name	Organisation	Page Number	Time
63	Tim House Leedom Gibbs	Taranaki Federated Farmers of New Zealand	160	1.35pm

Points noted in presentation:

- Federated Farmers understands the unique challenges rural communities suffer including isolation and difficulties of rural lifestyles making waste disposal a challenge. It is important to ensure these are not overlooked.
- Federated Farmers are largely supportive of the underlying document especially with behaviour change and reducing waste to landfill, but are concerned about the lack of rural specific solutions.
- More convenient disposal options for farmers are needed. Farmers travel big distances to transfer stations that have limited opening hours.
- Federated Farmers are ready to collaborate to bridge this gap for tailored rural waste solutions.
- Federated Farmers are pleased to see the intent with mobile transfer stations and expanding access to waste education but want to see more concrete details about how this will work in practice and want to make sure it is practical and cost effective for farmers. Suggestions to improve this include a bookable system for collection of bulk rural waste, rural waste depots and the initiation of free amnesty days for waste disposal.
- It is important to ensure the cost and charges are an equitable approach – Federated Farmers support targeted rates for waste collection service.
- They urged council to go for national initiatives to drive better environmental outcomes wherever possible.
- They noted their support for the proposed actions to extend behaviour programmes for a circular economy.

- Thoughts for how this can benefit the rural communities is crucial, it is not just about reducing waste it is about improving our communities.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Mr House clarified that they did not currently have data, but in terms of collaboration they could use their network to access thousands of farmers with waste related questions.
- Mr House noted there were examples of mobile recycling centres with one or two having eight mobile centres. Rotorua Lakes – all sealed roads have kerbside collections, some others have opt in collections.
- Councillor Boyde noted the Tiaki Farm Environment Plans include waste minimisation so this would be another opportunity to collect data from a rural sector.
- It was clarified that the rural options have a couple of different designs, one recycling station is a big container system that is picked up when it is full and another is a bulky waste collection which is a pick up system.
- The District Mayor noted that only the people who benefit from the service do have a targeted rate for waste collection.

70	Mike Procter		179	1.45pm
----	--------------	--	-----	--------

Points noted in presentation:

- This proposal has merit but there is a lack of substance the community especially with financials and deliverables.
- There were no actual costs given, not even indicative costs. It stated there would be up to \$150,000 of savings for the food waste and the proposal stated there were 2690 households, so on that basis they would see a reduction of \$55 per year.
- He noted he had asked council officers for the costs but the response was they did not have them. He had tried to speak face to face with a team member at the repair café but had missed him. Why do staff not have the costs? Basic things such as providing the food waste bins, costs of collection and disposal. Staff should have done this work and he found this disappointing.
- There are many similarities with the 2018 WMMP, in particular the objectives which are the same. This raises the question for what has been done over the past five years and he hoped over the next five years council will be asking more critical questions of staff to make movements on the objectives.
- The plan states that the region's councils are looking to set up a local organic facility, what are the costs associated with this facility? What are the timescales for it? What is the current cost and emission costs for trucking this up to Waikato? Will Taranaki end up with another unused costly landfill like the one in Eltham? And why were these costs not included?
- He noted he uses a greenwaste provider in Stratford which is cost effective and he thinks it would be unfair if council put him out of business.
- He asked how council will police the green and foodwaste bins so that it doesn't go to landfill as he understands the recyclables are always contaminated.
- He noted the purchase of the post office building and subsequent demolition will produce a lot of waste to make a carpark when Stratford is not short of car parking space. He asked what the purpose of purchasing this and demolition as?

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The District Mayor noted that the contract for the waste collection had not been finalised so the final costs had been unknown, however this data has now been circulated to councillors. He noted the post office building was outside of the scope of the meeting.

The two submitters from Federated Farmers left the meeting at 1.53pm.

8. Decision Report – Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan and Level of Service Change

D23/33166 Page 8

Council needs to consider submissions to the draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan and Level of Service change as part of the consultation process.

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/JONES
Carried
P&S/23/146

2. THAT the committee considers submissions received as part of the public consultation process and the subsequent recommendation to adopt the *draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2023*, as per Option 2 of this report.

VOLZKE/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/23/147

3. THAT the commencement date of the Waste Management and Minimisation plan, after approval by full council, will be 1 December 2023.

HALL/ERWOOD
Carried
P&S/23/148

- ~~4. THAT the committee considers submissions received as part of the public consultation process and the subsequent recommendations to adopt the proposed preferred *changes to the Level of Service* of kerbside collections, as per decisions made from the hearing deliberations, and specifically:
a. Adopt Option 1 for the Food Waste collection;
b. Adopt Option 2 for the General Waste collection; and
c. Adopt Option 2 for the Green Waste collection.~~

- ~~5. THAT the commencement date for Level of Service (LoS) change be no sooner than 1 October 2024.~~

Recommended Reason

The *draft* Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) 2023 and proposed changes to Level of Service have both gone through the public consultation process required by Sections 82 and 83 of the Local Government Act 2002. The committee is now required to consider these submissions, corresponding hearings and make recommendations to full council meeting scheduled for 14 November 2023.

Points noted in discussion:

- The District Mayor noted that the food waste collection is a mandatory requirement to be in place by 2027 so it is a matter of when council commences the service.
- Councillor Boyde questioned the options from doing this right now through to doing it in 2027, he asked how the savings of \$150,000 was actually made up compared to if it was done at a different time. The Education Officer – Water and Waste noted that the savings came from increases to landfill charges and reduction of waste levy returns and was calculated over three years based on the estimated charges council would incur.
- The District Mayor noted that this point had been raised by a few submitters that there were figures to say how much could be saved if this was implemented now, but there was no information on how much this service will cost as there is a cost involved with having a new service collecting waste on a regular basis. It was clarified that the bins would be paid for and provided by the contractors and the collection and disposal would be part of the contract as well so the whole cost is as proposed for the targeted rate. It was noted that the cost analysis for the different options had been circulated to councillors and was available at the meeting as tabled information.
- There was no haste in making the decision for the change of the level of service if council felt it needed more time to understand the information provided.

- The Director – Assets noted the delay in providing the information on the costs was due to officers working the figures in the new contract as a targeted rate. The cost of the contract had risen significantly from 10 years ago when the current contract was tendered and the tender document does include the option to change the level of service and add in food waste collection and an opt in green waste collection. The food waste collection would cost an additional \$60,000 per annum so the savings also factored in if this change was introduced at different times over the next three years. The targeted rate with the status quo would increase to \$445 for Year 1 (currently \$365), introducing the food waste collection would increase this to \$495 in the year introduced, with the exception of a 2027 introduction where it would increase to \$513. She noted that council would lose the financial and environmental benefits by delaying the change in service to 2027.
- It was clarified that the figures provided would include the food waste collection and the bigger general waste bin. Opt in green waste collection would be an additional cost.
- The District Mayor noted it was possible to delay the decision to allow more time to study the information provided.
- It was clarified the figures for the targeted rates are increasing for the first three years as the levies will be going up, however the levies top out in year 4 and there has been no announcement for any increases from then on.
- The District Mayor clarified that the savings shown in the report come entirely from landfill levy savings based on the premise that council would achieve a 60% reduction in waste to landfill, therefore if only 30% was achieved then the savings would halve accordingly. He did not believe that 60% of waste collected at the kerbside was food scraps and it was clarified that this percentage was a result of the solid waste analysis done this year and was a mix of both food waste and green waste. Mr McNamara suggested that there should not be green waste allowed in the general waste bins and the introduction of food waste collection opens up an avenue to achieve 60%, he felt 40% would be achievable in the first year, which could be built up over the next three years.
- Councillor Beck asked what happens to the green waste and if the public would pay for another green waste collection? He felt the savings portrayed were as a result of charging them elsewhere. The Director – Corporate Services noted the savings achieved are through reduction in waste going to landfill so can only be achieved if that waste is reduced. There will be additional collection costs if ratepayers choose that service.
- It was clarified that currently all food and green waste is trucked out of Taranaki.
- It was clarified that officers were still discussing the food waste bins, they are likely to be similar to the ones currently used in New Plymouth.
- It was clarified a joint green waste/food waste bin was highly unlikely as the same truck will not be able to collect both and food waste requires treatment to a much higher standard than green waste. Food waste is collected by a different truck in New Plymouth.
- Councillor Erwood reiterated Councillor Boyde's concerns regarding the time to review the information provided today. He agreed that more time would allow council to be aware of the assumptions and key variables as he had concerns about how much this will cost the ratepayer.
- The District Mayor acknowledged the feeling of councillors that more time was required to consider the costs and environmental impact for the community. He noted a request could be made to present a decision report with all the information on the level of service change to a November meeting including the cost analysis and narrative around the costs and the costs for the opt in green waste collection. The Chief Executive noted that the contractor needs a year plus to get the fleet ready which will hinge on this decision.
- Councillor Dudley requested the costs be provided for keeping a weekly general waste collection. However, Mr Hanne noted that the key issue will be availability of fleet within the contract – staff will explore this further with the contractor.
- Councillor Hall noted that a lot of the submitters commented on the size of the bin and fortnightly collections. An increase to a 140 litre bin was only a 17% increase and a lot of points raised by submitters highlighted the difficulties they will face. The District Mayor noted he would like to see an option that residents could choose to receive a second bin if there was a high need, this service was already in place for a number of residents with high medical needs as identified by the district health board.
- It was clarified that the contractors would not be able to pick up a 240 litre bin and a 120 litre bin as the trucks require to be configured to the size of the bin they are collecting.
- The Sustainability Advisor clarified that they were working with South Taranaki District Council for government funding for this, any funding available will be an early incentive to begin this service. It is possible between 60%-70% could be subsidised on the bins and funding provided to project manage rolling this out as well. If funding is obtained then this cost can be taken out of the contract. The standardised bins would still be supplied by the contractor but it will be funded separately.
- It was clarified that the WMMP had been adopted with a start date of 1 December. The level of service change required further information and would be brought in a new decision report in November.

9. Closing Karakia

D21/40748 Page 249

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 2.39 pm

N Volzke
Chairman

Confirmed this 28th day of November 2023.

N C Volzke
District Mayor