



Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Finance and Performance Committee held in the Council Chamber, 26 Gordon Street, Dannevirke on Wednesday 19 June 2024 commencing at 8:30am.

1. Present

Her Worship the Mayor - Mrs T H Collis, Crs E L Peeti-Webber (Deputy Mayor), N L Chase, A K Franklin, S M Gilmore, P A Johns, M F Long, K A Sutherland, S A Wallace and S M Wards

In Attendance

- Mr B Nicholson - Chief Executive
- Mr R Suppiah - Group Manager – Corporate and Regulatory
- Mrs K Tani - Group Manager – Strategy and Community Wellbeing
- Ms S Lowe - Group Manager – People, Capability and Customer Experience
- Mr H Featonby - Group Manager - Infrastructure
- Ms G Nock - Strategy and Corporate Planning Manager
- Mr P Wimsett - Chief Advisor
- Mr K van der Oord - Communications Team Manager
- Mrs S Walshe - Finance Manager
- Mrs B Fowler - Senior Financial Accountant
- Ms A Rule - Policy and Planning Advisor
- Ms T Hales - External Communications and Intelligence Lead
- Ms G Anderson - Health and Safety Coordinator
- Ms E Roberts - Revenue Manager
- Ms L Sinclair - Rates and Revenue Officer
- Mrs M Yule - Project Accountant (via Teams)
- Ms K Payne - Facilities Property Officer (via Teams)
- Mrs A Dunn - Manager – Democracy Services

2. Apologies

There were no apologies

3. Declarations of conflicts of interest

Nil

4. Reports

4.1 Deliberations on Matters Raised During Long Term Plan Consultation

The Finance and Performance Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive dated 14 June 2024 that presented to the committee the results of the public consultation on the draft Long Term Plan 2024-34, and sought decisions from the committee on each of the consultation options and matters raised through submissions to reflect in the final Long Term Plan 2024-34.

4.2 Consultation Issue One – Rates Smoothing

There were 89 submitters that expressed an opinion on the three options put forward relating to rates smoothing. Following the hearing of submissions, the Council sought advice on the impact of confirming either option one or two, rather than option three, which could mean either no rates smoothing or rates smoothing over three years.

That the Finance and Performance Committee note the submissions received on key consultation issue 1 regarding options for rates smoothing.

That the Long Term Plan 2024-34 be finalised using option 1 – no rates smoothing.

Johns/Wards

Lost

A division was called:

Voting for the motion: Councillors Johns, Wards, Long, Wallace

Voting against the motion: Councillors Peeti-Webber, Sutherland, Gilmore, Chase, Franklin

That the Finance and Performance Committee note the submissions received on key consultation issue 1 regarding options for rates smoothing.

That the Long Term Plan 2024-34 be finalised using option 2 –rates smoothing of 3 years.

Gilmore/Franklin

Carried

A division was called:

Voting for the motion: Councillors Gilmore, Wards, Franklin, Chase, Sutherland, Peeti-Webber and Her Worship the Mayor

Voting against the motion: Councillors Wallace, Wards and Long

Abstention: Councillor Johns

4.3 **Consultation Issue Two – Pahiatua Pool**

There were 410 submitters that expressed an opinion on the two options put forward relating to the Pahiatua Pool. Following the hearing, the Council sought provision of information regarding some variations of options. Information was provided on six variations:

- Variation 1 – new pool proceeds and no works completed to existing pool
- Variation 2 – new pool proceeds and some works completed to existing pool
- Variation 3 – new pool does not proceed and refurbishment of existing pool
- Variation 4 – new pool does not proceed and full relining and other works completed of existing pool proceeds
- Variation 5 – new pool does not proceed and full relining only of existing pool proceeds
- Variation 6 – new pool does not proceed and minor repairs to enable a short term operation

That the Finance and Performance Committee note the submissions received on key consultation issue 2 regarding options for the Pahiatua Pool.

That the Long Term Plan 2024-34 be finalised using option 1 – new pool proceeds with no works to existing pool.

Franklin/Long

Carried

A division was called:

Voting for the motion: Councillors Peeti-Webber, Sutherland, Gilmore, Wards,

Johns, Chase, Franklin, Long and Her Worship the Mayor

Voting against the motion: Councillor Wallace

The meeting adjourned at 9:45am and resumed at 10:00am

4.4 Consultation Issue Three – National Land Transport Programme

Councillor Franklin returned to the meeting at 10:01am

There were 60 submitters that expressed an opinion on the two options put forward relating to the National Land Transport Programme. Following the hearing, the Council sought provision of information regarding the outcome of the funding programme. Information was provided based on confirmed figures from NZTA Waka Kotahi and proposals from officers of changes to levels of service in order fit works within the new budget provided.

That the Finance and Performance Committee note the submissions received on key consultation issue 3 regarding options for the National Land Transport Programme.

That the Long Term Plan 2024-34 be finalised using option 1 – Maximise the increased NZTA subsidy and increase Council's roading programme to create a more resilient roading network.

Sutherland/Wallace

Carried

A division was called:

Voting for the motion: Councillors Peeti-Webber, Sutherland, Gilmore, Wards, Franklin, Chase, Johns, Wallace, Long and Her Worship the Mayor

4.5 Consultation Issue Four – Economic and Community Development

There were 69 submitters that expressed an opinion on the two options put forward relating to Economic and Community Development. Following the hearing, the Council asked that the matter of community funding be separated from the level of service for Economic and Community Development.

With regard to community funding, it was advised that the proposed budget for Mayoral Discretionary Fund needed to be reduced to \$5,000 and the budget for Te Apiti Governance Group reduced to \$5,500.

It was noted that the guidelines for the contestable fund would be decided separately from the Long Term Plan process.

That the Finance and Performance Committee note the submissions received on key consultation issue 4 regarding options for Economic and Community Development.

That the Long Term Plan 2024-34 be finalised with the grant funding proposed as per option 1.

Gilmore/Chase

Carried

A division was called:

Voting for the motion: Councillors Peeti-Webber, Sutherland, Gilmore, Wards, Wallace, Johns, Chase, Franklin, Long and Her Worship the Mayor

That the Long Term Plan 2024-34 be finalised using Option 1 – Reduce the funding for the Economic and Community Development activity to achieve savings of at least \$241,566.

Wallace/Sutherland

Carried

A division was called:

Voting for the motion: Councillors Peeti-Webber, Sutherland, Gilmore, Wards, Wallace, Johns, Chase, Franklin, Long and Her Worship the Mayor

4.6 Consultation Issue Five – Differential Roding Rates

There were 73 submitters that expressed an opinion on the two options put forward relating to Differential Roding Rates. Following the hearing, the Council sought clarification of tonnage information from Infometrics, the principles basis that the methodology was based upon, and the rationale behind that. They also sought a distribution line to show the impact on different rating classes.

Councillor Chase left the meeting at 10:53am and returned at 10:55am.

That the Finance and Performance Committee note the submissions received on key consultation issue 5 regarding Differential Roding Rates.

That the Long Term Plan 2024-34 be finalised using Option 2 – Retain the General and Fixed rates and introduce a “Heavy Vehicle” rate.

Gilmore/Johns

Carried

A division was called:

Voting for the motion: Councillors Peeti-Webber, Sutherland, Gilmore, Wards,

Wallace, Johns, Chase, Franklin and Her Worship the Mayor

Voting against the motion: Councillor Long

The meeting adjourned at 11:08am and resumed at 11:11am

4.7 Consultation Issue Six A – Non-Contiguous Rating Units

There were 95 submitters that expressed an opinion on the two options put forward relating to Non-Contiguous Rating Units. Following the hearing, the Council sought information on distances between non-contiguous parcels and impact on including a distance requirement so that only non-contiguous rating units outside of the set distance would lose the remission.

That the Finance and Performance Committee note the submissions received on key consultation issue 6A regarding Non-Contiguous Rating Units.

That the Long Term Plan 2024-34 be finalised using Option 1 – Do nothing – status quo.

Wallace/Johns

Carried

4.8 Consultation Issue Six B – Town Centre Refurbishment

There were 84 submitters that expressed an opinion on the two options put forward relating to Town Centre Refurbishment. No further information was sought by Council in relation to the matters raised through submissions.

That the Finance and Performance Committee note the submissions received on key consultation issue 6B regarding Town Centre Refurbishment.

That the Long Term Plan 2024-34 be finalised using Option 2 – Districtwide town centre refurbishment rates.

Collis/Gilmore

Carried

4.9 Feedback from Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua

The Finance and Performance Committee considered the presentation by Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua during the hearing on their views on the consultation questions within the Consultation Document.

In addition to their feedback on the consultation questions, they discussed the following with the Council:

- approval for seeing the Treaty Statement at the front of the Consultation Document and in the strategic context that being brought through as a foundation document;

- the importance of the roading network being maintained, particularly to provide access to their waahi taonga in the coastal areas of the district;
- Noted that Council's actions in relation to climate change were not clear;
- Willingness to partner with Council on town centre refurbishment, particularly with regard to Māori artwork being included;
- The opportunity for safety in the ocean skill training to be made available at the proposed new pool for Pahiatua;
- stressed the importance of three-waters infrastructure.

That the Finance and Performance Committee thank Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua for their detailed submission on the draft Long Term Plan 2024-34.

Sutherland/Wards

Carried

4.10 **Feedback from Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-a-Rua**

The Finance and Performance Committee considered the presentation by Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-a-Rua during the hearing on their views on the consultation questions within the Consultation Document.

In addition to their feedback on the consultation questions, they discussed the following with the Council:

- working in partnership on climate change and the journey of learning together;
- integration of services that Rangitāne o Wairarapa and Tu Mai Ra were currently working on in the social services space;
- Willingness to participate in the Section 17A review of the upcoming camping ground activity;
- Willingness to collaborate with Council and private sector on innovative solutions in the Three Waters activities, and their preference for any joint Three Waters Entity entered into by Council to be made with the Wairarapa Councils;
- Outlined their proposals for construction of a waste processing plant, to divert waste such as food waste, brown waste, sludge, bio solids from going to landfill.

- indicated their wish to partner with Council on District Plan Changes for Māori Purpose Zones, to support the development of papakainga and their cultural practices and noted this was a priority for Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-a-Rua.
- sought consideration by Council of providing koha to assist with the costs of maintaining urupa in the district.

That the Finance and Performance Committee thank Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-a-Rua for their detailed submission on the draft Long Term Plan 2024-34.

Peeti-Webber/Collis

Carried

4.11 **Funding for Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre**

The Finance and Performance Committee considered the request from Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre for consideration of a staggered introduction of the interest costs payable on their loan, and for an annual operating grant to be approved rather than the centre needing to apply to the contestable fund for this grant.

That the Finance and Performance Committee note the submission received from Pūkaha regarding the specifics of their grant and loan arrangements with the Council.

That the requests from Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre for staggered introduction of the interest costs payable on their loan, and for an annual operating grant of \$10,000, be declined, and encourage Pūkaha to make application through our contestable process.

Gilmore/Wards

Carried

A division was called:

Voting for the motion: Councillors Peeti-Webber, Sutherland, Gilmore, Wards, Wallace, Johns, Chase, Franklin, Long and Her Worship the Mayor.

4.12 **Cemeteries Fees and Charges**

In response to concerns raised by submitters about the level of proposed increase for fees and charges for the 2024-25 year, Council asked officers to revisit the proposed fees. Officers advise the proposed fees had been set in accordance with Council's direction to move towards a user charges model. Year to date revenue for the cemeteries activity is \$142,390, with total expenditure at \$350,163. The balance of funding comes from rates. In response to Council's request, the fee structure has been realigned with proposed fees set out in

Attachment 2 to the officers report to this meeting.

That the Finance and Performance Committee agree to the proposed amendment to the Cemeteries Fees and Charges for inclusion in the Long Term Plan 2024-34.

Wards/Long

Carried

4.13 **Rates Reduction**

There were many comments from submitters about the rates requirement being unaffordable and requests for Council to consider other options such as reducing staffing levels and finding other ways to reduce rating requirements. The Chief Executive provided advice on actions that had been undertaken to reduce the rating requirement, noting that budget lines had been significantly reduced and there was little to no room to do any additional activities beyond the approved levels of service. The Chief Executive's advice also outlined actions that were detailed within the Consultation Document on reviews proposed that would provide opportunity to further reduce costs.

That the Chief Executive is directed to further reduce operational expenditure through rationalisation and operational efficiencies to decrease the overall rating requirement from Year 1 of the Long Term Plan, with further savings in Year 2.

Gilmore/Wards

Carried

A division was called:

Voting for the motion: Councillors Gilmore, Wards, Franklin, Johns, Chase and Long

Voting against the motion: Councillors Peeti-Webber, Sutherland, Wallace and Her Worship the Mayor

The meeting adjourned 12:50pm and reconvened at 2:40pm

4.14 **Financial Headroom**

The Finance and Performance Committee noted the information provided.

4.15 **Woodville Key Deposit**

The Finance and Performance Committee noted the information provided. In response, a suggestion to look for different solutions in the future, for example a

combination key pad.

4.16 **Fees and Charges**

District Licensing Charges – suggested that consideration be given in the future to implement solutions to increase fees and charges in the future, to ensure ratepayers were not subsidising the cost of processing alcohol licence applications.

4.17 **Impact of Valuation Increase of Rates**

The committee noted the submissions made.

4.18 **Support for owners of Earthquake Prone Buildings**

The committee acknowledged the options proposed by officers within our current processes. The Council were keen to work with owners and the Chamber of Commerce on possible solutions going forward.

4.19 **Development of Policies for Sun Protection, Smokefree / Vapefree environments and Alcohol policies**

The committee noted there was no budget attached to this. Clarification was sought on the current Smokefree Policy that was in place. It was noted that the Council did not have a current Local Alcohol Policy, however this would be discussed at the District Licensing Committee meeting.

4.20 **Pahiatua Town Bridge**

The committee noted that this was an area within the NZTA Waka Kotahi funding that was cut. It was noted that the bridge was currently under the control of NZTA Waka Kotahi and responsibility for cleaning of the structure currently sat with that body. However a request for service could be lodged with NZTA Waka Kotahi seeking bridge cleaning to be undertaken.

4.21 **Dannevirke Wastewater Pond Boundary Safety**

The committee noted the submission received. It was noted that comment had separately been received on the appearance of the fencing, however it was noted that the fencing was built in accordance with industry rules.

4.22 **Subdivision rules**

The committee noted the submission received.

4.23 **Stock Underpasses**

The committee noted that a policy was in place, however there were no enforcement ability due to its status as a policy. It was suggested that customers raise a complaint so that officers can respond to any specific concerns.

4.24 **Advocacy for more funding for Hato Hone St John Ambulance Service**

Her Worship the Mayor noted she was happy to advocate for this on behalf of the community .

4.25 **Fluoridation**

The submissions on this topic were noted.

4.26 **National Land Transport Plan Funding**

The Group Manager – Corporate and Regulatory Services sought clarification in relation to the committee’s decision to go with Option 1 regarding the National Land Transport Plan Funding, in light of the transportation allocation being less than what had been expected. He outlined two options, referring to paragraph 6.6.4 of the officers’ report. The options were to either bank the difference of approximately \$416,000 in roading rates requirement, or to use that amount to reduce the underfunding of depreciation that we are doing in the transportation area. The consensus was to use that amount to reduce our underfunding of depreciation by the same amount to keep it neutral.

4.27 **Rates Increase**

The Group Manager – Corporate and Regulatory advised that officers would now run the numbers based on decisions made during deliberations. He noted the changes that would affect the rates level from the change in rates smoothing, and keeping the status quo for remissions for non-contiguous rating units. He noted the additional resolution from the committee for the Chief Executive to find further operational savings to take effect from Year One of the Long Term Plan, and sought clarification of the expectation of Council of where the rates increase would land. One member advised that they would like the average rates increase to stay near the level set out in the consultation document for Rates Smoothing Option 2, given the other decisions the committee had made, while another member advised that they were happy to have the directions given by the

committee provide the numbers.

4.28 **Audit Timeline**

The General Manager – Corporate and Regulatory Services provided detail about the audit process that would start on Monday 24 June 2024.

He noted that Audit had advised that they may not be able to meet the timeline for providing the audit opinion for the Audit and Risk Committee meeting on 23 July, however would be able to provide in time for Council meeting.

4.29 **Deliberations on Matters Raised During Long Term Plan Consultation**

Matters Raised through Submissions

That the report from the Chief Executive dated 14 June 2024 concerning the Deliberations on Matters Raised During Long Term Plan Consultation be received.

That the Finance and Performance Committee notes the matters raised through submissions on the draft Long Term Plan 2024-34.

Wallace/Peeti-Webber

Carried

5. **Closure**

There being no further business the Mayor thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 3:14pm.

Mayor