



Minutes of a meeting of the Strategy, Growth and Planning Committee held in the Council Chamber, 156 High Street, Dannevirke on Wednesday 7 May 2025 commencing at 9:30 am.

1. Present

Councillor S M Wards (Chairperson), 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 (via Teams), and S A Wallace

In Attendance

Mr B Nicholson	- Chief Executive
Mrs K Tani	- Group Manager – Strategy and Community Wellbeing
Mr P Wimsett	- Chief Advisor
Mrs S Walshe	- Finance Manager
Mrs S Anthony	- Democracy Support Officer

2. Welcome and Meeting Opening

The Chairperson opened the meeting with karakia.

3. Apologies

Nil

4. Public Forum

Nil

5. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda

Nil

6. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest in Relation to this Meeting's Items of Business

Nil

7. Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 5 March 2025 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Johns/Gilmore

Carried

8. Reports

8.1 Strategy Update

The Strategy, Growth and Planning Committee considered the report of the Group Manager – Strategy and Wellbeing dated 17 April 2025 that provided a review of existing strategies and plans, outline of future strategies and plans, and upcoming legislative changes affecting Council reporting. It was highlighted that the report focussed on the strategies that are invested on and the strategies that are linked to the Long Term Plan, and it was noted that the Procurement Strategy in item 2.4.3 is an error, this is a proposed internal strategy and the Procurement Policy was presented at the Audit and Risk Committee on 29 April 2025.

It was queried what further work had been completed regarding the urban growth strategy and development contributions and it was advised that the functions of development contributions are included in the Long Term Plan and are also driven by Government where there is a lot of ongoing legislative change. It was acknowledged that planning for growth is needed; and investment in growth and readiness was important. Certainty is required in a risky and constantly moving landscape and efforts should be made to ensure our district is able to put its best foot forward.

In discussion it was noted that urban growth and development, as well as the Housing Strategy, needs to be presented in the next Long Term Plan, it was advised that this had not been a strong focus in the past due to sensitivities around Three Waters and a focus on asset compliance.

It was noted that the Town Centre Upgrade Projects - Urban Centres Enhancement Strategy 2025 in item 2.3.6 was a long term district wide strategy and while Eketāhuna and Pahiātua have had upgrades completed, there are other towns that are still to be upgraded by priority. The upgrades entail connectivity, green spaces, and traffic flow; beautifying is only one aspect, It is an urban focus rather than a main street focus and is externally funded. It was recommended

that the wording is changed to remove 'Centres' from the Strategy title to prevent confusion and better illustrate overall urban upgrade rather than a main street focus .

It was advised that the Economic Development Plan was not detailed as a Council decision had been made to refocus in this area.

Further clarification was sought regarding the funding of the district's I-site and it was advised that this is not externally funded and does not meet the criteria for funding such as large population and high tourism.

It was queried whether the table within the report was a direct lift out from Taituara and it was clarified that the Taituara extract had a Tararua District Council lens applied to it, and it was acknowledged that there is a need to identify explicitly which reference is used.

It was suggested that an oversight committee is formed utilising staff, to tidy up processes and assist with the workplan and prioritisation. It was advised that it is important to be ready and have processes in place as legislative changes come through. The Chief Advisor showed the government website and the list of changes to legislation, demonstrating ease of identifying and viewing legislative changes and to ascertain what is relevant to our district.

It was advised that Performance reporting is in final stages of completion due for completion in the next 2 weeks, and will be presented to the Executive Leadership Team. The Department of Internal Affairs dashboards are designed to complement reporting to avoid duplication of effort. It was noted that Department of Internal Affairs requirements are met and followed. It was also advised that the Department of Internal Affairs rural and provincial presentation report is due to be released in June.

Clarification was sought as to whether lessons were learnt from recent community engagement following low levels of engagement. It was advised that this is a focus for the Communications team and they sought to improve avenues of engagement. Information had been sought from other councils where success has been identified, to seek ideas around better ways to engage, and reassurance was provided around consultation being wide reaching. It was suggested that the advice also be sought from businesses and organisations outside of local councils, and it was also suggested that due to lack of confidence from the public during consultations that there could be value in sharing-changes that have occurred as a result of submissions with the public at time of adoption of plan.. It was emphasised that the summary of engagement in the report is based on facts, and it was suggested that the Communications team go back after a consultation to close the loop.

That the report from the Group Manager - Strategy and Community Wellbeing dated 17 April 2025 concerning the Strategy Update be received.

Wallace/Gilmore

Carried

8.2 Policy and Bylaw Update

The Strategy, Growth and Wellbeing Committee considered the report of the Policy and Planning Advisor dated 21 March 2025 that provided an update on the policies and bylaws work programme.

It was noted that two policies were missing from the policy schedule for the Strategy, Growth and Planning Committee and yet those policies are due, these were the Enforcement policy which is to be reviewed 3 yearly, and the Class 4 Gambling and Racing Board Venue policy. It was explained that this omission is due to prioritisation of all policies and bylaws and staff resourcing, and legislation dictating implementation of policies.

It was also queried where the smokefree policy is sitting within the workplan, and it was advised that if there is a legislative change, high need, or high public interest, then this can be bumped up the priority workplan list.

An action was raised to bring the Smokefree policy back to the Strategy, Growth and Planning Committee for further discussion due to strong interest from the Committee, along with gathered information including what impacts this would have on other policies, resourcing and timelines, being mindful of current processes. A status report is to be provided by the Group Manager – Strategy and Wellbeing and the Chief Executive.

That the report from the Policy and Planning Advisor dated 21 March 2025 concerning the Policy and Bylaw Update be received.

Johns/Chase

Carried

9. Items not on the Agenda

Nil

There being no further business the Chairperson thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 10.52am.

Chairperson