

MINUTES

Policy and Services Committee

F22/55/05 – D25/2499

Date: Tuesday 28 January 2025 at 3.00PM
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

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

In attendance

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director – Assets Mrs V Araba, the Director – Corporate Services – Mrs R Johnson, 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 Parks and Reserves Officer – Mrs M McBain (*part meeting*), the Services Asset Manager – Mr J Cooper (*part meeting*), the Roding Asset Manager – Mr S Bowden (*part meeting*), the Community Engagement and Development Lead – Ms A Crane (*part meeting*), one member of the media (Stratford Press) and one member of the public.

1. Welcome

The opening karakia was read.

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

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

2. Apologies

An apology was received from Councillor C M Tongaawhikau

Recommendation

THAT the apology be received.

HALL/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/25/1

3. Announcements

The Deputy Mayor vacated the chairperson role for this meeting, in accordance with standing order 14.2 and with the following resolution was made:

Recommendation

THAT the District Mayor preside as Chairman for the Policy and Services Committee, 28 January 2025.

BOYDE/SANDFORD
Carried
P&S/25/2



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.

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 –26 November 2024 D24/53930 Page 9

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 26 November 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

JONES/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/25/3

7. Matters Outstanding

D16/47 Page 16

Recommendation

THAT the Matters Outstanding be received.

BECK/McKAY
Carried
P&S/25/4

The District Mayor noted that consultation on the Parking Bylaw had now closed. A hearing was scheduled to be held on 25 February 2025.

8. Decision Report – Draft Victoria Park Reserve Management Plan 2025 – Release for Public Consultation

D25/302 Page 17

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received

VOLZKE/ERWOOD
Carried
P&S/25/5

2. THAT the *draft* Victoria Park Reserve Management Plan 2025 be approved and formally released for public consultation, pursuant to Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977.

WATT/McKAY
Carried
P&S/25/6

Recommended Reasons

The approval and release of the *draft* Victoria Park Reserve Management Plan 2025 for public consultation is required under the Reserves Act 1977. This process allows Council to seek public submissions on the feedback collated in the first round of public consultation which started in August 2024.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The Parks and Reserves Officer clarified that suggestions received via feedback were summarised in Appendix 1 of the management plan. The Director – Assets clarified that feedback had also been included in the plan.
- Councillor Jones requested clarification if additional croquet courts would be fenced and therefore not available for public utilisation like other sports fields.
- Councillor Boyde noted feedback on the rugby/cricket fields says the condition has worsened and not been improved despite the investment made to these and the higher level of service. Mrs McBain noted that there were different opinions on the fields, rugby played their entire season on it last year with no closures or cancellations and it held up really well, cricket has said this is the best the field has been in 15 years. She noted advice is sought from sport ground professionals and officers were currently working on the concept design for field 2. It was noted that \$30,000 - \$40,000 a year was spent on key task maintenance of these grounds.
- It was requested to remove 4.7.3 Future Projects – Croquet Green as this falsely signalled that council would look for additional spaces for croquet. Mrs McBain noted that the croquet club had provided feedback and would likely be submitting to the draft plan. This to be changed to “*No future projects have been allocated to this activity*”.
- 4.7.2 Level Of Service to remain as “*To maintain the croquet green to a standard that meets the needs of the community*”
- 4.10.4 – amend extension of cricket clubrooms to “*to enable the extension of the cricket clubrooms by the users*” to enable the cricket club should they wish to extend the clubrooms. It was noted that any alterations would be undertaken by the cricket club but was required to be in the reserve management plan to allow them to do them. If it was removed and extensions were required then the plan would need to be re-consulted on.
- It was clarified that the feedback received was collected to build the document for consultation and should be considered at this point. The draft document would then go out for formal consultation and a hearing held to consider submissions. Those who have provided feedback will be advised of the process and the requirement to submit officially to the draft document. This process is set by the Reserves Management Act. Councillor Harris noted her concern that the document seemed largely unchanged, Mrs Araba noted that suggestions had been incorporated into the plan and the Deputy Mayor noted that these were largely under the future projects sections.
- 4.9.4 – change grandstand seating to “*terraced seating or spectator seating*”
- It was clarified that the suggested water fountain in the skate park area had been previously spoken about by the Lions Club who wish to provide one, this will make this space more user friendly.

9. Monthly Reports

9.1 Assets Report
D24/54769 Page 71

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/25/7

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde noted that the council farm was 10% above budgeted production which is outstanding considering how dry it has been.
- It was clarified that the universal water metering installation job had been awarded and was less than budgeted, however there were also some further upgrades required which would utilise the remaining funds.
- Councillor Sandford noted the damage caused on the grass verge on the Seyton Street/Broadway intersection caused by trucks not being able to get around the corner easily since the installation of the traffic island. The Roading Asset Manager noted that he would look into this.
- The District Mayor noted the significant increase in the roading revaluations and annual depreciation. Mr Bowden clarified that council would need to put away an extra \$4.5 million per annually for renewals. Council will need to consider if it wants to fully cover replacement costs for these assets as depreciation is funded from rates. This will be considered as part of the Annual

Plan. It was clarified that these figures are in effect now and will feed the deficit for this current financial year.

- Councillor Hall noted the abatement notice issued following the inspection of the Waste Water treatment ponds in October. The Services Asset Manager noted that this inspection was standard process but was delayed between the Taranaki Regional Council's science team, inspection team and compliance team completing their parts. He felt this was likely due to the failure of the DIOTOMI to have the desired result. The desludging of the waste water ponds was budgeted for in Year 4 but officers would be requesting this be brought forward to the next financial year during the annual plan process.
- Mr Cooper noted that the delay with the e-coli testing had been addressed at the highest possible level.
- Councillor Hall noted the positive feedback received on the cemetery during the Christmas period. Given the concerns raised during the section 17a reviews she was pleased to see these issues addressed.
- Councillor Beck noted the collapsed storm water tunnel and asked if other tunnels were getting to the point of costing for repairs? Mr Cooper noted there were a number of factors contributing with climate change, increased flow and prolonged dry periods. Mr Hanne noted that these issues have been worked on for the last decade and will form part of the annual plan but officers would not be recommending replacing all of the tunnels immediately.
- Councillor Sandford noted the map at King Edward Park says to go to the right to get to Whangamomona and asked officers to investigate. The District Mayor noted that a simple realignment would solve the problem as the map is correct but appears wrong from the angle it is read from.
- Councillor Dudley noted she had received complaint from a resident taking their glass to the transfer station and being turned away due to the bins being full. Mr Cooper noted that the new contractors had been relying on the operator to report when the bin was nearing being full, however she was unable to predict what would be coming in and the speed it may fill up. The pods had been designed to standardise the service across the region, however due to the complaints they have reinstated the skip bins but there is an economic impact of changing back to those including trucking. There is an element of behaviour change required and it does take people time to get used to change.

The Parks and Reserves Officer left the meeting at 3.52pm.

9.2 Community Services Report
D24/54674 Page 107

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/25/8

The Director – Community Services noted the following points:

- The Summer Nights concert was very successful with the Lady Killers, the movies were postponed to this coming Sunday.
- The Stratford District Youth Council will be sworn in next Tuesday, all councillors will have received an invitation.
- The Pool Business Plan is being worked on and will be brought to a workshop very soon.
- There are 533 registered swim school students this term with another 50 on the wait list for next term. The District Mayor requested that councillors appreciation for the growth in swim school numbers be conveyed back to the staff.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Hall asked how officers had found the new timings and process for shortlisting youth council candidates? The Community Engagement and Development Lead thanked councillors who had assisted with this process and noted there had been 24 applicants which was helped by completing the process during the school term with presentations made at schools. There were only 5 positions available but unsuccessful applicants will be invited to events to keep in touch. There

were an additional 5 that were shortlisted and they will be invited to meetings and trainings where possible as well.

- It was clarified that the variance of total revenue for the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs budget was largely due to timing issues between the funding being received and expenditure. The first tranche of \$117,000 was received at the start of the contract but the additional \$143,000 was only received when the first 9 outcomes are met.
- Councillor Dudley noted finding a naming sponsor for Wai o Rua – Stratford Aquatic Centre was discussed during the Annual Plan. Ms Whareaitu confirmed this option was in the business plan. Councillor Dudley requested that the business plan be added to the matters outstanding table.

The Services Asset Manager left the meeting at 3.57pm.

Points noted in discussion:

- Councillor Hall updated council that the Percy Thomson Trust has received the letter of expectation. The new Gallery Director begins on Monday. Councillors were invited to the exhibition opening next Friday. The District Mayor noted that Mr Ellis had resigned as a trustee however his end date was yet to be decided.
- The District Mayor noted there had been significant changes with the MTFJ programme. It is much more managed now and funding is allocated on a per head basis and withdrawn if targets are not achieved. He noted Stratford was still seeing good results.
- The District Mayor noted that certificates for the Trade Graduations had been delivered to recipients places of work last year. Feedback on this was overwhelmingly supportive.

The Community Engagement and Development Lead left the meeting at 4.05pm.

9.3 Corporate Services Report
D25/1264 Page 137

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

SANDFORD/McKAY
Carried
P&S/25/9

The Director – Corporate Services noted the following points:

- Mrs Craig was thanked for her work while in the acting Director – Corporate Services role.
- The financials are tracking well except for the depreciation issue discussed earlier. The declining of the NZTA funding request is capital expenditure so the impact will not be as bad as it looks.
- Rates collections have remained consistent.
- IT are very busy with a lot of projects, there is also a focus on cyber security.

The Roading Asset Manager left the meeting at 4.07pm.

9.4 Environmental Services Report
D24/52379 Page 155

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/ERWOOD
Carried
P&S/25/10

The Director – Environmental Services noted that the issuing of the earthquake prone building notices is now complete.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The District Mayor asked for clarification on the process and timeframe for the earthquake prone buildings? Mr Sutherland noted a desktop assessment was undertaken to identify possible earthquake prone buildings, the owners were written to and given the opportunity to get an assessment completed. It was noted that those who did not get an assessment are considered earthquake prone. Building officers then issued notices to be displayed to inform the public that the building is considered earthquake prone. The government then changed the timeframe so now most of the owners have until 2053 to be fixed. The next phase will be a mapping exercise to make sure all buildings were covered and then all notices will need to be submitted to the earthquake prone building register. Notices will remain on the building until they are fixed or there is a change in legislation. Mr Sutherland confirmed there were three buildings that were granted a 12 month extension and will not be issued notices until after that timeframe. The notices were government standard. Mr Sutherland noted that Stratford was the first council in the region to complete this but it is required to be done by 2027 so we will start to see notices on buildings in other towns soon.

10. Questions

There were no questions.

11. Closing Karakia

D21/40748

Page 164

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 4.15pm



N C Volzke
Chairman

Confirmed this 25th day of February 2025.



N C Volzke
District Mayor