

**TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 107 TE HEUHEU STREET, TAUPŌ
ON TUESDAY, 19 MARCH 2024 AT 10.30AM**

PRESENT: Mayor David Trewavas (in the Chair), Cr Duncan Campbell, Cr Karam Fletcher (via MS Teams), Cr Sandra Greenslade, Cr Kylie Leonard, Cr Danny Loughlin, Cr Anna Park, Cr Rachel Shepherd, Cr Kevin Taylor, Cr Kirsty Trueman (via MS Teams), Cr Yvonne Westerman, Cr John Williamson (via MS Teams, from 10.35am)

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive (J Gardyne), General Manager People and Community Partnerships (L O'Brien), General Manager Strategy and Environment (W Zander), Acting General Manager Operations and Delivery (T Hale), Legal and Governance Manager (N McAdie), Communications Manager (L McMichael), Finance Manager (J Paenga), Iwi and Co-Governance Manager (D Rameka), Property Manager (S Attenborough), Infrastructure Manager (R Stokes), Policy Manager (N Carroll), Team Leader Corporate Planning (A Smith), Senior Policy Advisor (K Goode), Digital Content Creator (C Hollinger), Executive Assistant People, Community and Performance (M Bennett), Executive Assistant Operations, Strategy and Environment (M Niva), Legal and Governance Coordinator (D Periam), Governance Quality Manager (S James)

MEDIA AND PUBLIC: Five members of the public (via MS Teams)

Note: Cr John Williamson joined the meeting via MS Teams at 10.35am. He was not present for resolution TDC202403/01

1 KARAKIA

Cr Rachel Shepherd recited Taupō District Council's opening karakia.

2 WHAKAPĀHA | APOLOGIES

TDC202403/01 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Anna Park

Seconded: Cr Sandra Greenslade

That the apologies received from Cr Christine Rankin and Cr John Williamson (for lateness) be accepted.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Council meeting voted in favour of resolution TDC202403/01 above.

3 NGĀ WHAKAPĀNGA TUKITUKI | CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

4 NGĀ KAUPAPA HERE ME NGĀ WHAKATAUNGA | POLICY AND DECISION MAKING

4.1 DELAY ADOPTION OF LONG-TERM PLAN 2024-34

Cr John Williamson entered the meeting via MS Teams at this point (10.35am).

The Senior Policy Advisor summarised the report. The Policy Manager added that:

- Significant decisions were best made in the context of a Long-term Plan (LTP), because many of those decisions had long-term funding implications. The LTP process would allow Council to look at a 10 year picture, and for the Infrastructure Strategy (one of the LTP's supporting documents), a 30 year picture.
- The other benefit to continuing with the LTP process (as opposed to pivoting to an enhanced Annual Plan

process) was an LTP would provide certainty sooner. Council had already completed a significant amount of work, including on kerbside waste options; rating policy changes; and development contributions. Changing to an enhanced Annual Plan process would delay those decisions until an LTP could be adopted in 2025.

- Council would still be meeting legislative requirements by adopting the LTP by 30 September 2024. The later-than-usual adoption date would however have significant flow-on implications for the collection of rates. If Council decided to continue with development of its LTP by 30 September, a report would be brought to the 30 April 2024 Council meeting, setting out options for rates collection for elected members' consideration.
- It was recommended that current fees and charges (with the exception of animal and health fees and charges) be rolled over until a new set of fees and charges could be adopted as part of the LTP process. A report would be brought to the 26 March 2024 Council meeting to enable Council to progress the animal and health fees and charges separately, with consultation and adoption for those particular fees and charges by 30 June 2024.

In answer to a question about the risks around meeting timeframes, the Policy Manager advised that a flexible approach may need to be taken to the proposed audit process in May 2024. The audit was discretionary unlike the audit of the final LTP. Instead of providing a package of documents for audit by a certain date as had been the process in the past, documents may be provided to audit staff as they become available, to keep the process moving. There was also the option to bypass this first audit phase altogether if Council needs more time to resolve work programme or budget changes.

The Chief Executive responded to another question, explaining that Local Government New Zealand and Taituarā had been advocating to Central Government on behalf of the sector. The enhanced Annual Plan option and the 30 September LTP adoption date had come about as a result of that advocacy. Advocacy was continuing.

Members agreed to continue with the Long-term Plan 2024/34 process, with the LTP to be adopted by 30 September 2024. The following points were noted during debate:

- Members were very concerned about the impact on ratepayers of striking the rates so late.
- It would be important to clearly communicate with the community, explaining the reasons for delays and the different approach to rates invoicing this year.
- The responsible approach was to continue with the LTP, rather than delay to 2025, which was a local government election year. The strategic direction should be set as soon as possible, to give Taupō district communities clarity and focus.
- Councils were in this situation as a result of Central Government decisions.
- Staff wellbeing was of concern and it would be important to monitor this as the LTP process continued.
- Taupō District Council was fortunate to be in a strong financial position relative to some other councils and able to continue with development of its LTP.

TDC202403/02 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Anna Park

Seconded: Cr Danny Loughlin

That Council:

1. Directs officers to prepare the Long-term Plan for the 2024/25 year and notes that it will be adopted after 30 June 2024 with an expectation that it will be adopted by the legislative deadline of 30 September 2024.
2. Acknowledges that the review of the existing Development Contributions Policy, including consultation, will be extended until Council is able to consult on a draft Long-term Plan.
3. Adopts the fees and charges (excluding those related to Health and Animal Control) that were applied in the 2023/24 year for the 2024/25 year until such time as a new set of fees and charges are adopted as part of the Long-term Plan process.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Council meeting voted in favour of resolution TDC202403/02 above.

5 NGĀ KŌRERO TŪMATAITI | CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Nil

The meeting closed at 11.02am with a karakia recited by Cr Rachel Shepherd.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 30 April 2024.

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CHAIRPERSON