

**TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 107 TE HEUHEU STREET, TAUPŌ
ON FRIDAY, 31 MAY 2024 AT 9.30AM**

PRESENT: Cr Kevin Taylor (in the Chair), Cr Duncan Campbell, Cr Karam Fletcher (from 9.42am via MS Teams), Cr Sandra Greenslade, Cr Danny Loughlin, Cr Anna Park, Cr Rachel Shepherd, Cr Kirsty Trueman (via MS Teams), Cr Yvonne Westerman, Cr John Williamson

IN ATTENDANCE: Acting Chief Executive (S Matthews), General Manager People and Community Partnerships (L O'Brien), Acting General Manager Operations and Delivery (T Hale), General Manager Strategy and Environment (W Zander), Legal and Governance Manager (N McAdie), Environmental Services Manager (J Sparks), Community Engagement and Development Manager (H Tattle), Finance Manager (J Paenga), Project Management Office Manager (P Fletcher), Communications Manager (L McMichael), Policy Manager (N Carroll), Infrastructure Manager (R Stokes), Property Advisor (T Wood), Team Lead Transportation Operations (I Cruz), Team Leader – Resource Management (E O'Callaghan), Infrastructure Project Manager – Operations (E May), Environmental Impact Manager (B Aitken, via MS Teams), Senior Policy Advisors (P Caruana, K Goode), Policy Advisor (A Wilson), Digital Content Creator (C Hollinger), Senior Committee Advisor (K Watts)

MEDIA AND PUBLIC: None

Notes: (i) Cr Anna Park opened and closed the meeting with a karakia.
(ii) Cr Karam Fletcher entered the meeting at 9.42am via MS Teams. He was not present for resolutions TDC202405/21-22.

1 KARAKIA

2 WHAKAPĀHA | APOLOGIES

TDC202405/21 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Kevin Taylor
Seconded: Cr Rachel Shepherd

That apologies from Crs Kylie Leonard, Christine Rankin, and Mayor David Trewavas (for absence), and from Cr Karam Fletcher (for lateness) be received and accepted.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Council meeting voted in favour of resolution TDC202405/21 above.

3 NGĀ WHAKAPĀNGA TUKITUKI | CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

4 WHAKAMANATANGA O NGĀ MENETI | CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Nil

5 NGĀ KAUPAPA HERE ME NGĀ WHAKATAUNGA | POLICY AND DECISION MAKING**5.1 REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF THE WASTE MINIMISATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The Environmental Impacts Manager summarised the report and in response to questions, advised the following:

- The Waste Minimisation and Management Plan looked at landfill operations, food diversion and rescue which was linked to emission control and reduction for the district and would reduce the need for Council to buy carbon credits.
- Existing contract arrangements had been put in place for another year and there would be a requirement to consult with contractors about service provisions before awarding any new contracts.
- Council officers recognised that it was important to engage with youth regarding waste minimisation and management and acknowledged that it was part of the wider Long-term Plan consultation process.

Members thanked officers for the comprehensive and insightful report showing that Council was headed in the right direction.

TDC202405/22 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Rachel Shepherd

Seconded: Cr Anna Park

That Council:

1. receives the Waste Assessment 2023 (objective reference A3289248);
2. receives the feedback from the Medical Officer of Health (objective reference A3374440);
3. in light of the completed Waste Assessment 2023, agrees to proceed with the development of a new Waste Management and Minimisation Plan in accordance with section 50(3) of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008; and
4. adopts the draft Waste Minimisation and Management Plan for consultation (objective references A3369464 and A3539473).

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Council meeting voted in favour of resolution TDC202405/22 above.

5.2 ADOPTION OF THE SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR THE LONG-TERM PLAN 2024-34 CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Cr Karam Fletcher entered the meeting via MS Teams at this point (9.42am).

The Senior Policy Advisor thanked Council staff involved in the audit process and for quick turnarounds to the auditors during the previous 4 weeks.

She summarised the key changes made as a result of feedback from Audit New Zealand and tabled the following documents:

- Long-term Plan Financial Statements (A3568177)
- Consultation Document (Designed version) (A3568214)

She noted that performance management was not included in the consultation document but that officers would continue to talk to Audit New Zealand about this for the Long-term Plan (LTP) audit in August.

The Acting Chief Executive provided context around the forecasts for the Long-term Plan. The last few years had been different in terms of the economy. Central government had injected money into the economy, China had shut down and infrastructure costs had increased by 20%. Council funded asset depreciation and these assets had been revalued and had risen in cost. Extreme weather events had substantially changed insurance and the inflationary environment caused rises in these costs to insure the assets. At the last LTP in 2021, inflation was in line with central government forecasts. To get on top of inflation, the interest was increased so that made Council's costs increase. There was work being done in the local government sector to look at the validity of LTPs. She noted that the more you looked at it, the more unpredictable it got.

In response to a member querying the level of detail in the supporting information and in particular the Infrastructure Strategy, the following was clarified:

- Line items for projects included in the LTP with spending from year 4 onwards such as a new bridge over the Waikato River were generally estimates based on the information available, and were reviewed in subsequent Annual Plans and Long-term Plans.
- The Infrastructure Strategy had a time horizon of 30 years and the line item in the LTP was a placeholder for future money to be spent. It reassured the community that Council was listening and complied with the 30 year forecast of the strategy.
- The planning process included Council signing off on growth assumptions that affected projects such as the bridge over the Waikato River.

The Senior Policy Advisor confirmed that the draft LTP did not propose to change levels of service but the community would be asked to submit on whether they thought the balance was right. Analysis of submissions would be brought before Council to consider when they heard submissions and deliberated following consultation.

In response to further queries regarding spending on three waters, members agreed that they had received reassurance from the Risk and Assurance Committee as well as Audit New Zealand, both of which looked for discrepancies. One member was not assured and believed some of the projects needed to be assessed by contractors and/or engineers. In response, it was highlighted that these concerns should be brought forward once feedback from the community via the consultation process had been sought. In addition, the cost to ratepayers for more detailed review was unnecessary given that it might need to be carried out again when the projects were further advanced.

Members were conscious of doing things in the correct order and were keen to engage with the community and receive feedback on the draft consultation document and supporting information. They acknowledged that there were many opportunities for members of the community to attend LTP engagement sessions throughout the district in June and the first week of July. They thanked staff for making themselves available to support these engagement sessions after hours.

TDC202405/23 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Danny Loughlin

Seconded: Cr Anna Park

That Council adopts the following documents for consultation, as supporting information for the Long-term Plan 2024-34 Consultation Document (circulated separately):

- a. Draft Financial Strategy
- b. Draft Infrastructure Strategy
- c. Draft Development Contributions Policy and associated charges
- d. Draft Revenue and Financing Policy and associated s101(3) considerations report
- e. Draft Treasury Management Policy
- f. Draft Performance Measures
- g. Draft Significant Forecasting Assumptions
- h. Draft Funding Impact Statement
- i. Draft Financial Information.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Council meeting except for Cr Duncan Campbell voted in favour of resolution TDC202405/23 above. Cr Duncan Campbell abstained from voting on resolution TDC202405/23 above.

5.3 ADOPTION OF THE LONG-TERM PLAN 2024-34 CONSULTATION DOCUMENT FOR CONSULTATION

The Policy Advisor thanked elected members for their time getting to this point, and also staff. She brought attention to the designed version of the Consultation Document which had been tabled at the meeting.

The Whareroa targeted rate had increased and engagement with the community would be focused to explain this. The transfer station was open all of the time and the cost had not increased in 10 years.

Members thanked the staff for all of the time and effort put into the the Long-term Plan Consultation Document.

In answer to a question, the Acting Chief Executive advised that around the country, 19 councils had opted not to produce a Long-term Plan and were producing an enhanced Annual Plan. 12 councils were adopting their Long-term Plans after 30 June, including Taupō District Council. Some councils that were affected by weather events were not doing one at all.

TDC202405/24 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr John Williamson

Seconded: Cr Rachel Shepherd

That Council adopts the Long-term Plan 2024-34 Consultation Document for consultation (circulated separately) in accordance with section 93A(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2002.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Council meeting voted in favour of resolution TDC202405/24 above.

6 NGĀ KŌRERO TŪMATAITI | CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Nil

The meeting closed at 10.39am with a karakia from Cr Anna Park.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 25 June 2024.

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CHAIRPERSON