



MINUTES

Emergency Council Meeting Friday, 9 April 2021

Ref: 1415963

**Minutes of Timaru District Council
Emergency Council Meeting
Held in the Council Chamber, District Council Building, King George Place, Timaru
on Friday, 9 April 2021 at 9am**

Present: Mayor Nigel Bowen (Chairperson), Cr Allan Booth, Cr Peter Burt, Cr Barbara Gilchrist, Cr Richard Lyon, Cr Gavin Oliver (via Zoom Video Link), Cr Paddy O'Reilly, Cr Stu Piddington, Cr Steve Wills

In Attendance: Chief Executive (Bede Carran), Group Manager Infrastructure (Andrew Dixon), Acting Group Manager Environmental Services (Ashley Harper), Acting Group Manager Environmental Services (Erik Barnes – via Zoom Video Link), Chief Financial Officer (Azoora Ali), Strategy and Corporate Planning Manager (Mark Low), Programme Delivery Manager (Lili Delwaide), Policy Analyst (Fabia Fox), Governance Advisor (Jo Doyle)

Audit NZ Director – John Mackey (via Zoom Video Link)

1 Apologies

Resolution 2021/49

Moved: Cr Paddy O'Reilly

Seconded: Cr Barbara Gilchrist

That the apology received from Cr Sally Parker be accepted and leave of absence granted.

Carried

2 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest.

3 Reports

3.1 Supporting Information to Long Term Plan 2021-31 Consultation Document

Council was presented with the supporting information for the Long Term Plan 2021-31 (LTP) Consultation Document (CD) for adoption.

The capital program was discussed, Council has emphasised that the capital programme assumes 90% deliverability of the full program. The programme includes multiple projects across Council's activities and delays of various forms can affect completion of various projects and so having a full programme of work enables the capital delivery programme to be optimised.

Audit NZ advised that the audit process had taken longer than hoped, a more robust process was directed by the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) and this occurred across the sector.

The current draft consultation document is fit for consultation with the community, it incorporates inflation and as better assets information with more accurate forecasts than previously.

Audit NZ are comfortable that the 90% assumption of do-ability on an ambitious programme is acceptable, and an additional review has confirmed this.

The Audit NZ Director asked the Councillors formally if they are aware of any suspected management fraud? The Councillors confirmed there was nothing to report.

The reason for the delay in this process was discussed, the robust process compounded on a short time frame from the late adoption of the Annual Report, on 22 December 2020 were contributing factors.

The increased level of robustness is to improve confidence across the sector for public institutions. The consultation document is a source of reliable information and is intended to increase the level of trust the community has in the Council.

A question was asked if the inclusion of Council still delivering 3waters activities in the long term plan was appropriate or whether an alternative plan should have been considered. The Society of Local Government Managers in consultation with OAG decided to adopt a pragmatic approach, that Councils should assume ongoing involvement. Until the 3Waters reforms are finally confirmed and it is known what form it will take, it would be highly speculative to as to what various scenarios may play out, hence the emphasis of matter in the Audit opinion and which draws the reader's attention to this uncertainty.

Audit NZ have received Council's letter of representation, and a report will be following with their recommendations and findings on the consultation document process.

Resolution 2021/50

Moved: Mayor Nigel Bowen

Seconded: Cr Barbara Gilchrist

That Council:

1. Adopts the following documents as supporting information for the Long Term Plan 2021-31 Consultation Document:
 - (a) Draft Financial Strategy as presented in Attachment 1 (all attachments under Separate Cover);
 - (b) Draft Infrastructure Strategy as presented in Attachment 2;
 - (c) Significant Forecasting Assumptions as presented in Attachment 3;
 - (d) Draft Revenue and Financing Policy as presented in Attachment 4;
 - (e) Draft Business Improvement District Policy as presented in Attachment 5;
 - (f) Draft Group of Activity Statements as presented in Attachment 6; and
 - (g) Draft Financial Information as presented in Attachment 7.
2. Notes that the following documents have been adopted previously as supporting information to the Long Term Plan 2021-31 Consultation Document:
 - (a) Timaru District Council Strategic Direction, including Community Wellbeing Outcomes;
 - (b) Significance and Engagement Policy;
 - (c) Rates Remission and Postponement Policy;
 - (d) Rates Discount Policy which is proposed to be repealed;
 - (e) Treasury Management Policy; and
 - (f) Draft Fees and Charges 2021/22.

3. Authorises the Chief Executive to make any minor and non-material corrections to the LTP 2021-31 supporting information prior to publication.

Carried

3.2 Revenue and Financing Policy Amendment - Consultation Document

Council was presented with the Revenue and Financing Policy Amendment Consultation Document for adoption and detail the consultation process in accordance with section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA).

The Policy Analyst advised that the amendment to this policy is considered important to the community and their feedback is sought on the effect on the funding of footpaths.

Resolution 2021/51

Moved: Cr Steve Wills

Seconded: Cr Peter Burt

1. That Council adopts the Revenue and Financing Policy Amendment Consultation Document.
2. That Council agrees to undertake the consultation in accordance with section 82 of the Local Government Act to seek feedback from the community on the proposed amendment to footpath funding within the Revenue and Financing Policy.
3. Authorises the Chief Executive to make any minor and non-material corrections to the Revenue and Financing Policy Consultation materials prior to publication.

Carried

3.3 Thriving Together - Long Term Plan 2021-31 Consultation Document

Council was presented with the Audit Opinion on the Consultation Document for the Long Term Plan 2021-31, and the community engagement approach.

The minor changes made in the consultation document were advised. The consultation period will start tomorrow for one month. This will be made live via the website and will be delivered in hard copy with The Courier newspaper next Thursday 15 April.

Resolution 2021/52

Moved: Cr Barbara Gilchrist

Seconded: Cr Peter Burt

1. That Council receives the Audit Opinion on the Consultation Document for the Long Term Plan 2021-31
2. That Council adopts the Consultation Document, including the Audit Opinion, for the Long Term Plan 2021-31
3. That Council notes the community engagement approach for the Long Term Plan 2021-31
4. Authorises the Chief Executive to make any minor and non-material corrections to the LTP 2021-31 consultation document and community engagement materials prior to publication.

Carried

The meeting closed at 9.23am.

Minutes confirmed 11 May 2021

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Mayor Nigel Bowen
Chairperson