



# **MINUTES**

## **Commercial and Strategy Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, 31 August 2021**

**Ref: 1443019**

**Minutes of Timaru District Council  
Commercial and Strategy Committee Meeting  
Held via Zoom  
on Tuesday, 31 August 2021 following the Community Services Committee**

**Present:** Cr Peter Burt (Chairperson), Cr Allan Booth (Deputy Chairperson), Cr Richard Lyon, Cr Gavin Oliver, Cr Paddy O'Reilly, Cr Barbara Gilchrist, Cr Sally Parker, Cr Stu Piddington, Cr Steve Wills, Mayor Nigel Bowen

**In Attendance:** Venture Timaru Chief Executive – Nigel Davenport – for item 7.2

Ross Munro – Pleasant Point Community Board  
Charles Scarsbrook – Temuka Community Board

Bede Carran (Chief Executive), Acting Commercial and Strategy Group Manager (Erik Barnes), Acting Chief Financial Officer (Jason Rivett), Joanne Brownie (Governance Support)

**1 Apology**

**Resolution 2021/26**

Moved: Cr Peter Burt  
Seconded: Cr Barbara Gilchrist

That the apology received from Wayne O'Donnell - Geraldine Community Board be accepted.

**Carried**

**2 Identification of Items of Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business identified.

**3 Identification of Matters of a Minor Nature**

There were no items of minor nature identified.

**4 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

**5 Chairperson's Report**

The Chairperson reported on duties he had carried out and meetings he had attended since the last Committee meeting including Council meetings, citizenship ceremony, District Licensing Agency work, Tenders and Procurement Committee meeting and People and Performance Committee meeting.

**Motion**

**Resolution 2021/27**

Moved: Cr Peter Burt

Seconded: Cr Sally Parker

That the Chairperson's report be received and noted.

**Carried****6 Confirmation of Minutes****6.1 Minutes of the Commercial and Strategy Committee Meeting held on 20 July 2021****Resolution 2021/28**

Moved: Cr Steve Wills

Seconded: Cr Barbara Gilchrist

That the Minutes of the Commercial and Strategy Committee Meeting held on 20 July 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting and that the Chairperson's electronic signature be attached.

**Carried****7 Reports****7.1 Investments and Borrowing Treasury Report for Quarter Ending 30 June 2021**

The Committee considered a report on the status of Council treasury activities as at 30 June 2021. The Acting Chief Financial Officer spoke to the report and answered questions from the Committee.

Council's treasury management involves holding a range of investments and borrowing to fund long term capital projects and operational expenditure as agreed in the Annual Plan or Long Term Plan. The Acting Chief Financial Officer confirmed all transactions have been transacted in compliance with Council Policies, and performance of Council Treasury activities are well managed.

In response to a question around the floating facility of \$5m, it was explained that this fund is a provision for urgent, emergency use and is an undrawn facility available if required. Council has strong liquidity outside of this emergency facility.

Taking into account Council's liquidity in the form of debt, investments, depreciation, and cash reserves, Council's net position is \$75million.

**Resolution 2021/29**

Moved: Mayor Nigel Bowen

Seconded: Cr Sally Parker

That the Committee receives and note the report.

**Carried**

## 7.2 Venture Timaru Quarterly Report April to June 2021

The Committee considered the Venture Timaru quarterly report for the period ending 30 June 2021. Venture Timaru Chief Executive spoke to the report, expanding on highlights such as the Economic Development Strategy and the Destination Management Plan which are currently being refreshed, for presentation to the Venture Timaru Board. Venture Timaru has also launched the 'Celebrating Success' and 'Did You Know' programmes to celebrate the success of local businesses.

The total visitor spend for the year of \$132m compares favourably with \$129m in the previous year, despite the challenges of Covid and the lack of international activity.

In regards to the events funding of \$230,000 from Council, the VT Chief Executive was able to confirm that this funding enabled Venture Timaru to secure further funding from the government, with the second round of tourism funding having been confirmed and received. Some of this funding will be allocated to a new event to take place in February/March 2022 and for promotional activities in the rural wards, with Venture Timaru due to consult the three community boards at their next round of meetings.

The meeting was assured that spending of the events support funding is consistent with the comprehensive policy and strict criteria which was submitted to Council as part of the original funding application.

In view of public interest, a request was made for additional reporting from Venture Timaru on activities associated with this funding, ie more than the current quarterly reports. VT's Chief Executive said he is happy to provide additional reports and will work with the Committee Chair and the Chief Executive to make this happen.

The KPI's of Venture Timaru were queried, as to whether they need amending in view of the changing economic environment. VT's Chief Executive explained that job seeker reduction and quarter on quarter increases in visitor spend are a challenge, and the KPIs for the current year will be different.

In regard to a question on a programme for increasing vaccination levels for our essential workers, VT's Chief Executive confirmed that South Canterbury has a higher level of essential workers than the national average and vaccination of these workers is a discussion VT continues to have. However any vaccination programme is still constrained by the ability of the local District Health Board to deliver the programme. Fortunately the local DHB is outperforming the rest of the country in its delivery.

### Resolution 2021/30

Moved: Mayor Nigel Bowen

Seconded: Cr Richard Lyon

That the Venture Timaru report for the period ending 30 June 2021 be received and noted.

**Carried**

## 8 Consideration of Urgent Business Items

There were no urgent business items.

**9 Consideration of Minor Nature Matters**

There were no minor nature matters.

**The Meeting closed at 10.13am.**

**Minutes Confirmed 12 October 2021**

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**Cr. Peter Burt**  
**Chairperson**