



SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL
Summary of Business from
Ordinary Meeting 29 April 2020

Present: (via audio/tele conference)	Mayor Alex Beijen (Chair), Deputy Mayor Garrick Emms, Councillors Pam Colenso, Rebecca Fox, Leigh Hay, Brian Jephson, Pip Maynard, Alistair Plimmer, Ross Vickery, Brenda West, and Raihania Tipoki (Chair of Māori Standing Committee).
In Attendance: (via audio/tele conference)	Harry Wilson (Chief Executive Officer), Russell O’Leary (Group Manager Planning and Environment), Karen Yates (Acting Manager Policy and Governance), Katrina Neems (Chief Financial Officer), Amy Wharram (Communications Manager), Godwell Mahowa (Planning Manager), Suzanne Clark and Steph Dorne (Committee Advisors)
Conduct of Business:	Due to L4 COVID-19 restrictions it was not possible for South Wairarapa District Council to conduct this meeting with members and the public physically present. This meeting was held in accordance with clause 25B of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002 in accordance with clause 47A of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

A7. Extraordinary Business

Council agreed to consider the Local Government Funding Agency Report as item B5.

B Decision Reports from Chief Executive and Staff

B1. South Wairarapa Spatial Plan Programme and Enhanced Community Engagement Proposal

The purpose of the report was to outline an updated programme to complete the South Wairarapa Spatial Plan so that it aligns with the development of the Council’s 2021-31 Long Term Plan (LTP); and

To outline proposals as requested by the Mayor and councillors for enhanced community and stakeholder engagement as a key input into the development of the South Wairarapa Spatial Plan; and

To seek the Council’s endorsement of an enhanced community and stakeholder engagement plan in particular, Proposal (ii) *Chart 2 (Comprehensive Plan)* outlined in section 1.6 of the report.

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Discussion points:

There was a lot of debate about getting it right, survey methodologies, requesting quotes from more than one qualified agency, utilising local business, utilising post COVID-19 research and timeliness of the final document to inform the LTP.

Decision:

- Agreed that the spatial plan be kept as an active item on the Planning and Regulatory Committee agenda and once COVID-19 recovery and growth planning information becomes available, the Committee will make a recommendation to Council on the preferred methodology.

B2. Liquefaction Prone Land –Risks and Impact on Building and Resource Consent Processes

Removed from the agenda.

B3. Listing of the Carkeek Observatory as a Heritage Building

The purpose of the report was to inform Council about the potential listing of the Carkeek Observatory as an historic place on the New Zealand Heritage List and to obtain approval to make a submission supporting that listing.

Discussion points:

The unknown costs for a conservation plan, to make the Observatory accessible to the public and for any restorative or replica building work required. The positive links to South Wairarapa tourism. Noted that Heritage NZ were consulting with the public on listing the building, SWDC had limited option except to respond by way of submission, and trust its views would be taken into account when submissions were considered.

Decision:

- To support, in principle, the listing of the Carkeek Observatory by Heritage New Zealand through Heritage New Zealand’s public consultation process.
- To delegate to the Chief Executive and Mayor the authority to make the submission to Heritage New Zealand subject to councillor comment on said submission.
- To inform the public about the Heritage New Zealand process and Council’s support for the listing.
- To undertake further investigation, including costings, to conserve Carkeek Observatory as recommended by Heritage New Zealand.

B4. Rates and Other Relief in Response to COVID-19

The purpose of the report was to allow Council to discuss tools available to support ratepayers during the economic uncertainty of Covid-19.

Discussion points:

That changes to key policies adopted under the LTP would require consultation, that the existing policies allowed case-by-case assessment and could be nimble.

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Consistency of assessment, payment plans and options and their success to date, and weekly payment of suppliers was also discussed.

Decision:

- Information report only, but an action was taken by officers to provide enhanced communications in a bullet proof list of the proactive ways Council is providing relief to the community due to COVID-19.

B5. Local Government Funding Agency – Amendments to Borrowing Programme

The purpose of the report was to report to Council regarding the Local Government Funding Agency – Amendments to Borrowing Programme. Consideration of the documents was required by 30 April 2020.

Discussion points:

That the changes would require Council Controlled Organisations to borrow directly through the LGFA borrowing programme rather than Council's borrowing on their behalf. That this change would reduce risk.

Decision:

- To approve the documents and delegates authority to the Mayor and the Chair of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee to sign on behalf of Council.

C1. Finance Report

The purpose of the report was to present the Finance Report for 29 February 2020.

Discussion points:

That the end of year surplus will not be as much as anticipated.

Decision:

- To unsuspend the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee to allow the Committee to meet at the earliest convenience.

D1. Mayor's Report

COVID-19 matters and economic recovery are the focus of meetings attended. Mayor had met with the Maori Standing Committee and was working on a 0% youth unemployment initiative with Cr Plimmer.

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