

**MINUTES OF SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL
ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE SUPPER ROOM, WAIHINGA CENTRE, TEXAS STREET, MARTINBOROUGH
ON THURSDAY, 19 MARCH 2026 AT 1:30 PM**

PRESENT: Cr Chris Archer (Chair), Cr Andrea Rutene, Cr Simone Baker, Cr Collier Isaacs, Cr Colin Olds, Cr Rupert Watson (via MS Teams) and Mayor Fran Wilde.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cr Rachel Clarke, Janice Smith (Chief Executive Officer), Stefan Corbett (Group Manager, Corporate Services), Lina McManus (Advisor, Grants & Funding), Matt Vins (Manager, Corporate Support), Hayley Gastmeier (Advisor, Digital Communications) and Amy Andersen (Lead Advisor, Democracy and Committees).

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS: This meeting was held in the Supper Room, Waihinga Centre, Texas Street, Martinborough and via audio-visual conference. This meeting was live-streamed is available to view on our YouTube channel. The meeting was held in public under the above provisions from 1:30pm to 4:43pm except where expressly noted.

OPEN SECTION

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA – OPENING

All in attendance opened the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

3 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No interests were disclosed relating to items on the agenda or interests not already recorded on a relevant register.

4 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND TRIBUTES

There were no acknowledgements and tributes.

5 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

6 CHAIRPERSON REPORTS

6.1 A NEW APPROACH TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN WAIRARAPA

Members discussed the report and thanked Cr Archer for bringing this to the Committee's attention.

Members emphasised the importance of progressing the approach and noted this model was suggested several years ago in a report commissioned by all three local councils; however, there was no further action following the report's completion.

Members queried the model and whether the value of a trust model was preferred – Mayor Wilde noted she had no experience of this but knows of other councils that have used it, noting that this gives the trust separation from local government and also enables private sector money to come into it.

Next steps and timeframes – Council will be going to actively engage with communities. Members noted that in the past, money has been collected by Grow Wellington to further economic development in the whole region and more benefits are being sought for Wairarapa. Members were keen to ensure that money comes back to Wairarapa, that local decisions are made locally and to work for the business community here.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EGC2026/01

Moved: Mayor F Wilde

Seconded: Cr C Isaacs

The Economic Growth Committee resolved to:

1. Receive the Chairperson's report - *A New Approach to Economic Development in Wairarapa*.
2. Agree to explore the development of the following:
 - a) the consolidation of existing economic development funding from the three district councils and other sources to create a sustainable, adequate resource base.
 - b) the establishment of an independent Wairarapa Economic Development Agency (WEDA) through either joint CCO or Trust structure, incorporating governance and accountability frameworks (including specific performance measures) from the outset and having fully delegated responsibility for leading and implementing the Wairarapa Economic Development Strategy and Destination Management Plan.
3. If it is considered that appropriate support is apparent, make recommendations to the full council on how to progress such an initiative.

[Items 1-3 read together]

CARRIED

7 DECISION REPORTS FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND STAFF

7.1 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND DISCUSSION REPORT

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EGC2026/02

Moved: Cr C Olds

Seconded: Cr A Rutene

The Economic Growth Committee resolved to:

1. Receive the *Economic Development Funding Discussion Report*.

2. Receive the shortlisted applicants' presentations.

[Items 1-2 read together]

CARRIED

6 PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EGC2026/03

Moved: Cr C Archer

Seconded: Cr A Rutene

The Economic Growth Committee resolved that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject matter of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

| General subject of each matter to be considered | Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter | Ground(s) under section 48 for the passing of this resolution | Plain English reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter |
|---|---|--|---|
| 8.1 - Economic Development Funding Decision Report | s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons s7(2)(f)(i) - free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of any local authority | s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7 | Applicants to the Economic Development Fund have share private and sometimes commercially sensitive information, we need to keep their personal details and intellectual property protected. Enabling decision makers to freely express their opinions within a transparent weighted scoring system allows robust discussion that leads to strong, well-reasoned decisions about grants investment. |

CARRIED

7 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING

All in attendance closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 4:43pm.

Confirmed as a true and correct record.

..... (Chair)

..... (Date)

..... (Chief Executive)

..... (Date)