

**MINUTES OF SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL
STRATEGY WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE SUPPER ROOM, WAIHINGA CENTRE, TEXAS STREET, MARTINBOROUGH
ON WEDNESDAY, 12 MARCH 2025 AT 10:00 AM**

PRESENT: Cr Martin Bosley (Chair) Cr Alistair Plimmer, Cr Aaron Woodcock, Cr Aidan Ellims (until 12:00pm), Mayor Martin Connelly (until 12:55pm), Cr Pip Maynard, Cr Rebecca Gray, Ms Violet Edwards, Cr Kaye McAulay.

APOLOGIES: Deputy Mayor Melissa Sadler-Futter and Cr Colin Olds.

IN ATTENDANCE: Storm Robertson (Martinborough Community Board, Chair).

Janice Smith (Chief Executive Officer), Russell O'Leary (Group Manager, Planning and Regulatory), Stefan Corbett (Group Manager, Infrastructure and Community Operations), Charly Clarke (Chief Financial Officer), Matt Vins (Manager, Customer Support), Nicki Ansell (Senior Advisor Policy & Projects), Melissa Stockley (Principal Advisor, Project Management), Peter Trafford (Principal Advisor – Waters), Tim Langley (Principal Advisor, Roading), James O'Connor (Manager, Community Operations), Graham Carson (Roading Manager), Siv Fjaerestad (Lead Advisor, Community Development), Sara Edney (Manager, Building Services) and Amy Andersen (Lead Advisor Democracy and Committees).

Mark Owens (Waka Kotahi).

PUBLIC FORUM: Jim Hedley.

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 10:00am to 2:34pm except where expressly noted.

OPEN SECTION

Cr Bosley noted that a minor item would be added to the agenda in Item 10.2 – Speed Management Plan update (a letter from the Wairarapa Winegrowers Association).

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA – OPENING

All in attendance opened the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES

2.1 APOLOGIES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/23**Moved: Cr R Gray****Seconded: Cr A Plimmer**

The Strategy Working Committee resolved to accept apologies from Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter and Cr Olds; and apologies for early departure from Mayor Connelly, Cr Woodcock and Cr Ellims.

CARRIED

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

Ms Edwards acknowledged the passing of Kristin TeWhaiti who was part of the Aranui and TeWhaiti whanau Martinborough and Pirinoa, also uri o Ngatihinewaka me Hikawera raised in Martinborough, son of Beryl, son in law to Whana and Ruby Flutey, part of the local shearing community.

Cr Maynard acknowledged the passing of Lance Phelps, who was a big part of the Martinborough and Paraparaumu communities, and known in top golfing circles.

Cr Bosley acknowledged the passing of Ray Thompson of Tirohana Estate, known for his work in the music and film industries, as well his work for the Cloud Nine children's foundation.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Hedley spoke to members about a petition he lodged earlier this year –for details and a copy of the petition, please refer to item 10.1 in the agenda. Mr Hedley read his statement (please refer to Appendix 1) and sought support for a First Principles review of rates.

6 URGENT BUSINESS

Cr Woodcock requested that *actions from public participation* section be added back into the agenda.

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**7.1 MINUTES OF THE STRATEGY WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 FEBRUARY 2025****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/24****Moved: Ms V Edwards****Seconded: Cr R Gray**

The Strategy Working Committee resolved that the minutes of the Strategy Working Committee meeting held on 12 February 2025 are confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED**7.2 MINUTES OF THE STRATEGY WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 26 FEBRUARY 2025****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/25****Moved: Cr R Gray****Seconded: Cr K McAulay**

The Strategy Working Committee resolved that the minutes of the Strategy Working Committee meeting held on 26 February 2025 are confirmed as a true and correct record.

In Favour: Cr A Plimmer, Cr A Ellims, Cr M Bosley, Mayor M Connelly, Cr P Maynard, Cr R Gray, Ms V Edwards and Cr K McAulay

Against: Nil

Abstained: Cr A Woodcock

CARRIED 8/0**8 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

There were no matters arising.

9 REPORT BACKS AND REQUESTS FROM MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY BOARDS**9.1 REPORT BACK AND UPDATES FROM THE MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY BOARDS**

Ms Edwards provided a brief update on the Māori Standing Committee's forum held on 11 March, including the planning and logistics for upcoming Matariki celebrations.

10 DECISION REPORTS FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND STAFF**10.1 PETITION ON RURAL WARDS AND RATES**

Ms Ansell spoke to matters included in the report and noted that only point two could be spoken to due the status of the Representation Review proposal (LGC decision is yet to be confirmed).

Members commented on the work completed on the petition, and noted the number of known names from rural community.

Members thanked Mr Hedley for his work on the petition.

Members queried whether there was anything in the petition material that showed that SWDC had completed a First Principles review. Ms Smith confirmed there was a First Principles review completed in 2022-2023, there is no official feedback from Council Officers on the petition and discussions about modifying rates are taking place through the Long Term Plan (LTP) 2025/34 process. The consultation period is now open for the LTP until 6 April.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/26

Moved: Cr A Woodcock

Seconded: Cr P Maynard

The Strategy Working Committee resolved to receive the information and thank the petitioner.

CARRIED

ITEM MOVED IN SCHEDULE**13.2 INFRASTRUCTURE PORTFOLIO UPDATE**

Cr Ellims spoke to matters included in the report.

Members acknowledged the work on the Greytown Pavilion by the Community Operations team.

Members queried issues relating to the delays on the Tauwharenikau pipeline repairs. Mr Corbett acknowledged there had been failures in performance, and there are plans to get work underway before the wet season (April 2025 – dates to be confirmed).

Mr Owens gave a presentation on SH53 / Princess Street which was included in the agenda.

Members thanked Mr Owens for the presentation and commented on potential improvements and posed alternative solutions. Cr Ellims proposed another option as per Appendix 2. Members were encouraged to pass any further feedback or ideas onto Mr Corbett.

Mr Owens also presented on a Greytown crossing relocation and responding to members queries including the loss of parking spaces and impact of Main Street road rebuild scheduled in April 2025. Cr Bosley noted that Waka Kotahi have been communicating well with the business community on the upcoming roadworks.

Mr Corbett thanked Mr Owens for his presentation and highlighted the positive relationship with Waka Kotahi whilst working through current issues and projects.

10.2 SPEED MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Mr Corbett and Mr Langley spoke to matters included in the report.

Members sought clarification on the decisions relating to the SMP in August 2023 and signage in Martinborough township for 40km speed limit (noted by council officers that this is the responsibility of Waka Kotahi, who have the ability to look at this from 1 July 2025).

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/27

Moved: Cr A Ellims

Seconded: Cr P Maynard

The Strategy Working Committee resolved to receive the *Speed Management Plan Update* report.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/28

Moved: Mayor M Connelly

Seconded: Cr A Ellims

The Strategy Working Committee resolved to note the content of this report including the possibility of a re-consultation with the community on a Speed Management Plan being necessary in Financial Year 2024/25.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/29

Moved: Cr P Maynard

Seconded: Cr A Ellims

The Strategy Working Committee resolved to approve the Chief Executive to write to the Minister of Transport requesting permission to implement the Speed Management Plan that we recently consulted with the community on, and which has been approved by the Director of Land Transport, on the basis that the SMP is largely consistent with the newly introduced Land Transport Rules.

In Favour: Cr A Ellims, Cr M Bosley, Cr P Maynard, Cr R Gray, Ms V Edwards and Cr K McAulay

Against: Cr A Woodcock and Mayor M Connelly

Abstained: Cr A Plimmer.

CARRIED 6/2

ITEM MOVED IN SCHEDULE**11.1 LAKE FERRY WHAKATOMOTOMO ROAD EMERGENCY FUNDING SITE**

Cr Plimmer left at 11:20am.

Mr Corbett, supported by Mr Carson and Mr Langley, spoke to matters included in the report and the measures and mitigations in place to resolve the current issues and risks at the site.

Members queried timeframes for completion, communication with Michael Smith (has previously presented to the Committee on this issue), location of the degradation at the site, and photos of work completed on benching.

10.3 LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS 2025

Cr Maynard left at 11:29am.

Ms Ansell spoke to the report, highlighting the key dates of 11 July (start of pre-election period) and the upcoming report on confirming the order of candidate names.

Cr Plimmer returned at 11:29am.

Cr Maynard returned at 11:31am.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/30

Moved: Cr R Gray

Seconded: Ms V Edwards

The Strategy Working Committee resolved to receive the *Local Body Elections 2025* Report.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/31

Moved: Cr A Plimmer

Seconded: Cr A Ellims

The Strategy Working Committee resolved to:

1. Note in 2011 Council appointed Warwick James Lapp as the Electoral Officer for South Wairarapa District (from electionz.com) under resolution DC2011/108.
2. Note Warwick Lapp has appointed Paul Gardner as the Deputy Electoral Officer for South Wairarapa District.

[Items 1-2 read together]

CARRIED

10.4 OPTIONS FOR SPORTS AND RECREATION IN SOUTH WAIRARAPA

Cr Ellims left the meeting at 11:36am.

Mr Vins spoke to the matters included in the report.

Members acknowledged the work of council officers to produce the report.

Members debated the merits of the proposed service and commented on the benefits to the district as noted in the report.

Members queried Long Term Plan (LTP) budget inclusion and how this would affect the current consultation. Ms Smith noted this has not been consulted on as it does not trigger the Significance and Engagement Policy, however, if approved - it would be entered into deliberations on LTP in May 2025.

Members were provided with individual appendices 2 & 3 due to formatting issues in the agenda.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/32

Moved: Ms V Edwards

Seconded: Cr A Plimmer

The Strategy Working Committee resolved to:

1. Receive the 'Options for Sports and Recreation in the South Wairarapa' Report.
2. Note the findings detailed in the 'Options for Sports and Recreation in the South Wairarapa' report.
3. Approve the establishment of a South Wairarapa Sports and Recreation Governance Group overseeing a single shared sports and recreation service.
4. Approve a 2-year funding contribution of \$161,200 towards the delivery of a single South Wairarapa Sports and Recreation service, as part of 2025/34 LTP deliberations, to be reviewed for the 2027/37 LTP.

In Favour: Cr A Ellims, Cr A Plimmer, Cr M Bosley, Cr P Maynard, Cr R Gray, Ms V Edwards, Cr K McAulay, and Cr A Woodcock

Against: Mayor M Connelly

5. Approve the Chief Executive seeking provisional expressions of interest from interested entities for the delivery of a single South Wairarapa sports and recreation service if the funding is approved.

[Items were voted on individually with the same mover and seconder – all items were carried unanimously, with the exception of point 4]

CARRIED

11 INFORMATION REPORTS FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND STAFF

11.2 ACTION ITEMS

409 – Cr Gray noted that a members report on No Mow would be coming to the Featherston Community Board. Cr Bosley noted that Greytown Community Board are looking for alternative area for their trial.

461 – Actioned, to be closed.

135 – No update. Noted that going into Autumn, teams will check on / clear gutters etc for drainage. Mr Corbett agreed to check on this in the lead up to the wet season.

126 – no updates.

Members requested that the Hearings Committee actions 321 and 322, from 16 August 2023 in relation to the Speed Management Plan, are re-opened and listed in the next actions report.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00pm.

Meeting reconvened at 12:30pm.

Cr Ellims left during the adjournment.

All members present, except Cr Woodcock and Mayor Connelly.

12 MEMBER REPORTS

12.1 SOCIAL MEDIA AND AI POLICY

Cr Gray spoke to matters included in the report. Cr Gray noted it was important the council makes conscious decisions on what it supports and stands for in relation to the use of social media platforms.

Mayor Connelly returned at 12:32pm.

Cr Woodcock returned at 12:34pm.

Mr Vins spoke to the work in progress with regards to guiding staff on artificial intelligence (AI), what is appropriate and the use of a closed system AI. Mr Vins spoke about how the council is able to control use of AI and data input in a closed system. Furthermore, a digital communications strategy would be created in the next year which would guide work in the social media space and will consider social media in context of costs and reachability.

Members commented on needing further advice on the use of social media platforms in order to make decisions with regard to any changes, and debated the issues with relation to social media and AI usage.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/33

Moved: Cr A Woodcock

Seconded: Cr P Maynard

The Strategy Working Committee resolved to accept the *Social Media and AI Policy* report.

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 12:55pm.

Mayor Connelly left during in the break.

Meeting reconvened at 2:03pm.

All members were present, except Cr McAulay.

13 APPOINTMENT REPORTS

13.1 MEMBERS FEEDBACK FROM THE MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY BOARDS

This item was not discussed, business will be referred to the next meeting.

13.3 PLANNING AND REGULATORY PORTFOLIO UPDATE

Mr O’Leary spoke to matters included in the report.
 Cr McAulay returned at 2:04pm.
 Cr Plimmer provided an update on the Wairarapa Combined District Plan hearings, noting there had been good discussions and presentations to the Joint Review Committee. Further information on the final plan will come back to each council in June 2025, following sign off from the Joint Review Committee.

14 PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/34

Moved: Cr P Maynard

Seconded: Cr R Gray

The Strategy Working 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
<p>14.1 - Public Excluded Minutes of the Strategy Working Committee Meeting held on 12 February 2025</p>	<p>s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>(Land purchase report) To allow negotiations to occur should council decide to pursue the purchase of land; (48 Brandon Street Featherston - Collapsed Wastewater</p>

	commercial and industrial negotiations)	under section 6 or section 7	Pipe Report) To allow for the completion of negotiations in line with current practice.
14.2 - Public Excluded Minutes of the Strategy Working Committee Meeting held on 26 February 2025	s7(2)(f)(i) - free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of any local authority s7(2)(f)(ii) - the withholding of the information is necessary to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of Council members, officers, employees, and persons from improper pressure or harassment	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	Includes discussion of the audit outcomes from the audit of the LTP consultation document.
14.3 - Appointment to Wairarapa Safer Community Trust	s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons	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	To allow discussion which involves personal information relating to this appointment.
CARRIED			

15 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING

All in attendance closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 2:34pm.

Appendix 1 – Public participation presentation by Jim Hedley, Agenda Item 5

Appendix 2 – Photos on Gore round intersection presented by Cr Ellims, Agenda Item 13.2

Confirmed as a true and correct record.

..... (Chair)

..... (Date)

..... (Chief Executive)

..... (Date)

Appendix 1 - Public Participation

12 March 25 Rates Review

I am presenting Part 2 of the Petition as Part 1 is out of Council hands now. There are over 300 signatures to the Petition.

We want SWDC to immediately conduct a First Principles Rates Review to identify all communities and the benefits they receive from rates as per Local Government Act (S101 LGA 2002)

Rates are not a wealth tax they are a charge put against one's property to pay for Council services and activities.

It is up to each persons or communities to pay their share of Councils costs based on the benefit they receive or can receive from the rates they pay. There are two significant communities in South Wairarapa urban and rural.

Presently water, sewerage, urban storm water, refuse and recycling collection, roading, footpaths, the allocation of costs is more inline with the use of and the benefits one receives from Council services.

It is not the same for functions funded by the general rate, an average Featherston residential capital value portion pays \$691 and an average dairy farm pays \$5796, both receiving similar benefits, except for urban facilities which urban need more and receive more benefit from than rural. So should be paid more by urban than rural, was funded by a UAC 70% urban 30% rural by the previous Council which is more in line with use of those urban facilities. They had it right.

The rest of the function funded by the general rate, Council say benefit the "community as a whole which means residents and ratepayers". Then wrongly go straight to general rate on capital value which has little relationship to the use of Council services in today's world and with some UAGC.

First Council should look as to where the residents and ratepayers are which is 64% urban and 36% rural. So those functions should be funded 64% urban 36% rural.

The Council have said "that the benefit of almost all Council services and activities accrues to all properties equally therefore Council considers all properties should contribute a relative similar level regardless of the value of their property. The only tool Council have which would deliver that is a UAC with a differential which would see urban pay 64% and rural 36% for those functions. A UAC is not limited to 30% like a UAGC is, as long as it has a differential.

By my calculations with the information I have shows if all the functions that are now funded by the general rate urban paying their 64% is \$2278 per rating unity and rural 34% is \$1516 per rating unit. Rural's is smaller mainly because rural have more rating units per population. Rating units are 54% urban 46% rural. This does not take into account SUIPS.

By increasing the UAGC to 28% is only a step in the right direction. The 28% is very mis-leading as Council only effectively use about 67% of the 30% because of the 2% not used

and inclusion of refuse and recycling with in the 30% cap as it already funded by a fixed charge, does not change anything. The whole 30% should be used.

District services rate to fund urban facilities those in the rural area within the 10km areas already pay a higher rate than those in the urban area who needs those facilities and get most of the benefit. Council option within 10kms will see a Featherston average residential pay \$482 and get most of the benefit whereas an average lifestyle pay \$1165 an average dairy farm pays \$4036. Need them less and get less benefit.

Its about time urban paid their share for the benefits they receive and not be subsidise by rural.

Its all about keeping urban rates low at the expense of rural.

There is no limit on the use of a UAC as long as it has a differential.

A UAGC only changes a capital value rate into a fixed charge

Urban facilities are:

- Community building halls
- swimming pools
- parks and reserves
- public toilets
- dog park and pound

Boundary of the 3 towns is defined mainly by their respective spatial plans, the land is able to be subdivided into very small sections 1/4 acre or less, very densely populated not much room to swim a cat in so need urban facilities and mostly connected to urban water and sewerage. The rest is rural mostly large open green spaces, mostly have their own facilities and mostly can not be subdivided to such small sections as in the urban village.

I wish to have my speech and charts recorded.

Jim Hedley
Farmer

sr functions unded by the general rate communities Categories	average Capital Value.	UAGC	General rate Capital value	within 10Km District services rate	Total within 10km	Last year general rate	difference	Over 10km District services rate	Difference between 10km under and over	under 10km X more then featherston general rate.
Featherston residential	\$508000	\$792	\$36	\$482	\$1310	\$115	\$195			general rate
Greytown residential	\$817000	\$792	\$57	\$775	\$1624	\$1536	\$88			1.6
Martinborough residential	\$775000	\$792	\$54	\$734	\$1580	\$1479	\$101			1.5
Lifestyle	\$1229000	\$792	\$86	\$1165	\$2043	\$2097	\$54	\$1143	\$22	2.4
Pastoral	\$3328000	\$792	\$227	\$3155	\$4174	\$4955	\$781	\$3095	\$60	6.5
Dairy	\$4257000	\$792	\$298	\$4036	\$5126	\$6220	\$1094	\$3959	\$77	8.4
Vineyard	\$2451000	\$792	\$172	\$2324	\$3288	\$3818	\$530	\$2280	\$44	4.8
Forestry	\$4195000	\$792	\$294	\$3977	\$5063	\$6135	\$1072	\$3902	\$75	8.2

10. APRIL - 2009.8

10.0093

Based on 2024/25 figures from CEO
 for functions funded by the general rate
 benefit the community as a whole means residents and rat payers.
 Total general rate \$14056810

Population split urban 64% \$8996358.4
 rural 36% \$5060451.6

÷ by ratable unites as per 16/12/22

Featherston 1356

Greytown 1426

Martinborough 1168

urban $\frac{3950}{3339} = \$2278$

rural $\frac{3339}{3339} = \$1516$

average properties

extra for -

Featherston residential \$423 old uAGC \$691 old C/V portion = 1114 + \$1164

Greytown residential \$423 \$1112 = 1535 + \$743

Martinborough residential \$423 \$1055 = 1478 + \$800

Lifestyle \$423 \$1673 = 2096 - \$580

Pastrol \$423 \$4531 = 4954 - \$3438

Dairy \$423 \$5796 = 6219 - \$4703

Vineyard \$423 \$3394 = 3817 - \$2301

Forestry \$423 \$5711 = 6134 - \$4618

ratable property split urban 54% rural 46%

The rural figure is lower because rural have more properties per population.

If all the general rate could be done ~~based~~ by UAGC
 Base on 2024/25 figures from CEO

\$UAGC \$423 per property = \$3033000

Total rates general rate \$14056810 ÷ \$3033000 =

4.64 times × \$423 = \$1963 per ratable property.

average values.	Present UAGC	Present C/U Portion	Present Total	
Featherston residential.	\$423	\$619	\$1114	+ 1113
Greytown residential	\$423	\$1112	\$1535	+ 428
Martinborough residential	\$423	\$1055	\$1478	+ 485
Lifestyle	\$423	\$1673	\$2096	- 133
Pastrol	\$423	\$4531	\$4954	- 2991
Dairy	\$423	\$5796	\$6219	- 4256
Vineyard	\$423	\$3394	\$3817	- 1854
forestry	\$423	\$5711	\$6134	- 4171



