MINUTES OF SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING

LONG TERM PLAN 2025/34 DELIBERATIONS HELD AT THE SUPPER ROOM, WAIHINGA CENTRE, TEXAS STREET, MARTINBOROUGH ON WEDNESDAY, 14 MAY 2025 AT 9:00 AM

- PRESENT:Deputy Mayor Melissa Sadler-Futter (Chair), Mayor Martin Connelly,
Cr Alistair Plimmer (from 9:23am), Cr Aaron Woodcock, Cr Aidan
Ellims, Cr Martin Bosley, Cr Colin Olds, Cr Pip Maynard, Cr Rebecca
Gray, Ms Violet Edwards, Cr Kaye McAulay (from 9:27am).
- APOLOGIES: Cr Aaron Woodcock.
- IN ATTENDANCE: Janice Smith (Chief Executive Officer), Russell O'Leary (Group Manager, Planning and Regulatory), Stefan Corbett (Group Manager, Infrastructure and Community Operations), Paul Gardner (Group Manager, Corporate Services), Charly Clarke (Chief Financial Officer), Nicki Ansell (Lead Advisor, Performance and Strategy), Alex Pigou (Manager, Communications), Matt Vins (Manager, Governance and Business Operations), 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 9:10am to 11:51am except where expressly noted.

OPEN SECTION

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA – OPENING

All in attendance opened the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES

2.1 APOLOGIES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/68

Moved: Cr R Gray Seconded: Cr P Maynard

Cr Woodcock for absence; Cr Plimmer and Cr McAulay for late arrival.

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

Cr Bosley acknowledged and congratulated Pieter Van Beek of Greytown, winner of Dairy Trainee of the Year at the Dairy Industry Awards 2025.

5 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 MINUTES OF THE STRATEGY WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 APRIL 2025

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/69

Moved: Cr M Bosley Seconded: Cr R Gray

That the minutes of the Strategy Working Committee meeting held on 16 April 2025 are confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

7 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There were no matters arising.

8 PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/70

Moved: Cr C Olds Seconded: Cr R Gray

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 - Featherston Green Space	s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities	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 consider options for green space in Featherston

Cr Plimmer arrived at 9:23am.

Cr McAulay arrived at 9:27am.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/73

Moved: Ms V Edwards Seconded: Cr C Olds

The Strategy Working Committee resolved to move out of public excluded into open session.

CARRIED

9 DECISION REPORTS FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND STAFF

9.1 DISESTABLISHING THE WAIRARAPA LIBRARY SERVICE

Mr Corbett spoke to matters included in the report, noting that CDC were also discussing this topic in their own meeting today. Mr Corbett highlighted that essentially the decision is to split the Wairarapa Library Service and officer had worked for number of years to create a service that operates well. This has been subject to challenges, such as different financial systems, employment contracts/conditions, IT systems, budgeting and accounting systems which affect the system as a whole. Mr Corbett assured the Committee that customers won't notice the difference once transition is complete.

Some members expressed disappointment in the outcome; noted there had been a specific committee in place for the oversight of the libraries service in the past.

Mr Corbett noted that CDC and SWDC will continue to collaborate, potentially through an MOU. Mr Corbett provided information on the staffing for both Councils: CDC 3.5 or 3.8 FTE, and 15 FTE for SWDC.

Mr Corbett responded to queries regarding the continuation of the Library Services Manager role, noting that this could not be discussed further due to employee's privacy and HR.

Members queried whether the same issues are experienced within other shared services. Mr Corbett noted that services such as waste management and roading have not had the same issues.

Ms Smith noted that the suggestion of implementing a CCO for libraries cannot be formed without community consultation.

Members queried the financial implications and raised that options had not provided by officers in the report. Ms Smith noted that everyone had worked hard to keep the service in collaborative space and council will do everything in power to keep budgets in line with existing state.

Members acknowledged the collaborative communications from both Councils prior to the meeting to ensure there were "no surprises" for staff, library users and ratepayers.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/74

Moved: Cr A Ellims Seconded: Cr R Gray

The Strategy Working Committee resolved to :

- Note that since its inception the Wairarapa Library Service has been struggling with significant operational challenges, stemming from different financial, IT, staffing, budgeting, planning, and service delivery systems/business processes between the two Councils. These challenges have generated inefficiencies that have affected productivity and customer focus.
- 2. Note that attempts have been made to improve our operational efficiency and streamline our systems, however unfortunately, we have not been able to improve the model to the point that both Councils can achieve their strategic objectives through the shared service model.

- 3. Approve disestablishing the Wairarapa Library Service and return the management of our libraries to respective Councils effective from the 1st of July 2025.
- 4. Note there is expected to be no impact to customers and levels of service will remain the same. Both Councils have agreed and will implement a detailed transition plan with minimal disruption.
- 5. Note that SWDC and CDC will continue to cooperate closely on shared activity to the benefit of customers. We will actively explore that future cooperation via an MOU.

[Items 1-5 read together]

9.2 2025/34 LONG-TERM PLAN DELIBERATIONS REPORT

Cr Plimmer left the meeting at 9:56am.

Cr Maynard left the meeting at 9:57am.

Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter acknowledged the consultation process and noted the impact of decisions made today will affect the next three years significantly.

Cr Plimmer returned to the meeting at 9:58am

Cr Maynard returned to the meeting at 9:58am.

Ms Ansell outlined the process and provided an overview of the deliberations report, including budget requests.

Members discussed their views for and against for MOUs versus Community and Youth Grant funding.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/75

Moved: Cr P Maynard Seconded: Cr K McAulay

The Strategy Working Committee resolved to receive the 2025/34 Long-Term Plan Deliberations Report.

CARRIED

Ms Clarke noted that the amount currently allocated to Community and Youth Grants was \$120,000 and MOUs would mean increase to rates, over and above what was consulted on.

Ms Clarke noted that contestable fund could be increased to if the MOUs were not approved.

Members debate included: the existence of MOUs; fairness to ratepayers; how the Funding Coordinator role can support community members in accessing alternative funds in future; whether to return to grant funding of 150k or more instead of approving the MOUs (there was division amongst members for and against funding – cost to ratepayers versus developing economic growth, tourism and supporting communities).

With regard to the South Wairarapa Sports and Recreation service MOU, members queried what would success look like (officers noted that further report on would be presented to the Committee on 4 June, depending on whether the MOU was approved); socialisation of the

proposed model (noted that 41 organisations in support across district out of 100); and possible rates increases depending on approval.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION SWC2025/76

Moved: Cr C Olds

Seconded: Nil

Confirm additional operational budget for an MOU of \$18,400 for 1 year for Wairarapa Sports

Artificial Surface Trust for the Hockey Turf replacement.

FAILED

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION SWC2025/77

Moved: Cr P Maynard Seconded: Cr C Olds

Confirm additional operational budget for an MOU of \$10,000 for 1 years for Wairarapa Dark Sky Reserve for operational support.

In Favour: Cr C Olds and Cr P Maynard

<u>Against:</u> Cr A Plimmer, Cr A Ellims, Cr M Bosley, Mayor M Connelly, Deputy Mayor M Sadler-Futter, Cr R Gray, Ms V Edwards and Cr K McAulay

LOST 2/8

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION SWC2025/78

Moved: Cr C Olds

Seconded: Nil

Confirm additional operational budget for an MOU of \$20,000 for 1 year for Wairarapa Five Towns Trail Trust for governance and operational support.

LOST

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION SWC2025/79

Moved: Cr A Plimmer Seconded: Cr R Gray

Confirm additional operational budget for an MOU of \$80,600 per year for 2 years for delivery of a single South Wairarapa Sports and Recreation service.

In Favour: Cr A Plimmer, Cr A Ellims, Cr M Bosley and Cr R Gray

<u>Against:</u> Cr C Olds, Mayor M Connelly, Deputy Mayor M Sadler-Futter, Cr P Maynard, Ms V Edwards and Cr K McAulay

LOST 4/6

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION SWC2025/79

Moved: Cr C Olds

Seconded: Cr A Plimmer

Confirm additional operational budget for an MOU of \$25,000 for 1 year for Cobblestones for operational costs.

In Favour: Cr A Plimmer, Cr A Ellims, Cr M Bosley, Cr C Olds and Cr P Maynard

<u>Against:</u> Mayor M Connelly, Deputy Mayor M Sadler-Futter, Cr R Gray, Ms V Edwards and Cr K McAulay

The vote being EQUAL the Chair did not exercise a casting vote.

LOST 5/5

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION SWC2025/80

No mover or seconder for this recommendation:

Confirm additional operational budget for funding of \$50,000 for 2025/26 for Featherston

Community Centre.

LOST

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/81

Moved: Cr R Gray Seconded: Cr M Bosley

The Strategy Working Committee resolved to increase the Community & Youth Grant budget to

\$200,000 for 2025/26.

<u>In Favour:</u> Cr A Plimmer, Cr M Bosley, Cr C Olds, Deputy Mayor M Sadler-Futter, Cr P Maynard, Cr R Gray, Ms V Edwards and Cr K McAulay

Against: Cr A Ellims and Mayor M Connelly

CARRIED 8/2

Meeting adjourned at 10:57am.

Meeting resumed at 11:16am

Members discussed the requests of the Community Boards and acknowledged their contributions and the initiatives which had been put forward for this Long Term Plan.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/82

Moved: Cr P Maynard Seconded: Cr A Ellims

The Strategy Working Committee resolved to include the request from Martinborough Community Board to fence the small childrens area at the Waihinga playground to be funded from the Waihinga Reserve up to the balance of the reserve.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/83

Moved: Cr C Olds

Seconded: Cr R Gray

Resolve to include the Featherston greenspace as requested by the Featherston Community Board.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/84

Moved: Cr C Olds Seconded: Cr P Maynard

Resolve to direct council officers to extend the Arbor reserve in Greytown as requested by the Greytown Community Board and delegate beautification to the Greytown Community Board.

CARRIED

Members debated the options for recommendations relating to the consultation questions. Ms Clarke provided rates modelling in response to members queries (as per Appendix 1).

The Committee then proceeded to adopt the following options from the 2025/34 Long Term Plan consultation as per the resolutions below.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/85

Moved: Mayor M Connelly Seconded: Cr P Maynard

The Strategy Working Committee resolved to adopt the consultation question 1, option 2: maintain the current level of uniform charges at 21% of total rates.

In Favour: Cr A Ellims, Cr M Bosley, Cr C Olds, Mayor M Connelly, Deputy Mayor M Sadler-Futter, Cr P Maynard, Cr R Gray, Ms V Edwards and Cr K McAulay

Against: Cr A Plimmer

CARRIED 9/1

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/86

Moved: Cr A Plimmer Seconded: Cr C Olds

The Strategy Working Committee resolved to adopt the consultation question 2, option 2 -continue with current funding approach of funding town based facilities and services where everyone contributes equally through General Rates regardless of their proximity to a town centre.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/87

Moved: Cr A Plimmer Seconded: Cr K McAulay The Strategy Working Committee resolved to adopt the consultation question 3, option 1 – refine the definition of Separately Used or Inhabitable Parts (SUIPs) by adding exclusions

CARRIED

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/88

Moved: Cr A Plimmer Seconded: Cr R Gray

The Strategy Working Committee resolved to adopt the consultation question 4, option 1 –

charge the Refuse & Recycling Charge per rating unit.

CARRIED

Members debated the options for question 5 (water network), focusing in on options 1 and 2; Ms Clarke noted that option 2 would mean a 6.4% rates increase, 100\$ per extra per SUIP extra. Members also queried the intent of the operating contingency fund if approved – Ms Clarke noted that a contestable fund would mean that rates are being collected for the purposes of an emergency which would improve on previous experiences of having to find savings elsewhere. Members discussed the challenges experienced under current water services provider and transitional changes under Local Water Done Well, in the context of question 5 and future maintenance and operations).

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/89

Moved: Mayor M Connelly Seconded: Cr C Olds

The Strategy Working Committee resolved to adopt the consultation question 5, option 1 for Spend operating and maintaining our water network: \$6.05m - slight increase to add inflation to the current level of funding providing a minimum viable option for the delivery of services.

In Favour: Cr A Ellims, Cr C Olds, Mayor M Connelly, Deputy Mayor M Sadler-Futter, Cr P Maynard, Ms V Edwards and Cr K McAulay

Against: Cr A Plimmer, Cr M Bosley and Cr R Gray

CARRIED 7/3

Ms Clarke noted that the Principal Advisor Roading had been successful in SWDC being approved by NZTA for \$1.1 M additional subsidy against a 2.4M spend, across the four year roading improvements programme.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/90

Moved: Cr A Plimmer Seconded: Cr C Olds

The Strategy Working Committee resolved to adopt the consultation question 6, option 1 – fund

100% of the roading improvements programme with additional capital spend.

<u>In Favour:</u> Cr A Plimmer, Cr A Ellims, Cr M Bosley, Cr C Olds, Mayor M Connelly, Deputy Mayor M Sadler-Futter, Cr P Maynard, Ms V Edwards and Cr K McAulay

Against: Cr R Gray

CARRIED 9/1

Members acknowledged the work of the team on the Long Term Plan to date. Members queried the position of council in terms of the adverse Audit opinion on LTP consultation document. Ms Smith noted that the team is currently working on removing waters from the Long Term Plan from 2027. Officers are hopeful that this will satisfy the requirements when the document this in the next few weeks prior to adoption.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/91

Moved: Deputy Mayor M Sadler-Futter Seconded: Cr R Gray

Note that a Council meeting is scheduled for 25 June 2025 to adopt the 2025/34 Long-Term Plan and set the budget for the 2025-26 Financial Year.

CARRIED

10 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING

All in attendance closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 11:51am.

Appendix 1 – Rates modelling information

Confirmed as a true and correct record.

..... (Chair)

..... (Date)

..... (Chief Executive)

..... (Date)

Appendix 1

	Average of	Number of	Properties better off	Properties better off	Average	Average		
Sector Code (Manual)	CV	Properties	under 21%	under 28%	rates 21%	Rates 2	28%	
Commercial	\$ 1,027,060	166	120	43	\$ 7,222	\$ 7,3	17	
Industrial	\$ 707,630	119	81	37	\$ 4,399	\$ 4,40	64	
Lifestyle	\$ 1,045,798	1,437	732	705	\$ 2,849	\$ 2,84	49	
Other	\$ 885,901	177	39	82	\$ 3,475	\$ 3,4	79	
Residential	\$ 725,418	4,705	3,940	753	\$ 4,806	\$ 4,93	12	
Rural - Dairy-Pastoral-Arable	\$ 3,506,795	660	127	532	\$ 7,180	\$ 6,5	13	
Rural - Forestry	\$ 2,225,903	31	15	16	\$ 5,218	\$ 4,88	83	
Rural - Horticulture	\$ 2,378,778	126	22	104	\$ 5,657	\$ 5,2	73	
Rural - Other	\$ 1,450,455	11	5	6	\$ 3,409	\$ 3,34	49	
Utilities	\$ 2,501,675	53	38	13	\$ 5,899	\$ 5,43	33	
Grand Total	\$ 1,090,069	7,485	5,119	2,291	\$ 4,677	\$ 4,6	77	

										Increase or (Decrease) if Uniform Charges at 21%			Increase or (Decrease) if Uniform Charges at 28%					
		Capital		2024/25		2025/26 with 21% Uniform	v	2025/26 vith 28% Uniform										
Ward	Category	Value		Rates		Charges		Charges		Annual	%	Weekly	4	Annual	%	Weekly	w	hich is best?
Featherston	Residential																	
Featherston	Residential	+	\$		\$	1,147	\$	1,379	\$	13	1% ;		\$	245	22% \$			better off at 21%
Featherston	Residential		\$	4,451	\$	4,833	\$	4,995	\$	382	9% ;		\$	544	12% \$			better off at 21%
Featherston	Residential	\$ 1,200,000	\$	3,944	\$	4,047	\$	4,004	\$	103	3% ;	1.98	\$	60	2% \$	1.98	1%	better off at 28%
Greytown	Residential											-						
Greytown	Residential		\$	4,557	\$	4,932	\$	5,078	\$	375	8% ;		\$	521	11% \$		3%	better off at 21%
Greytown	Residential		\$	5,175	\$	5,505	\$	5,563	\$	330	6% \$		\$	388	7% \$		1%	better off at 21%
Greytown	Residential	\$ 1,850,000	\$	7,263	\$	7,443	\$	7,202	\$	180	2%	3.46	(\$	61)	(1%) \$	3.46	3%	better off at 28%
Martinborough	Residential																	
Martinborough	Residential	\$ 570,000	\$	4,536	\$	4,912	\$	5,062	\$	376	8% ;	5 7.24	\$	526	12% \$	7.24	3%	better off at 21%
Martinborough	Residential	\$ 760,000	\$	4,941	\$	5,288	\$	5,379	\$	347	7%	6.68	\$	439	9% \$	6.68	2%	better off at 21%
Martinborough	Residential	\$ 1,390,000	\$	6,283	\$	6,533	\$	6,433	\$	251	4%	4.82	\$	150	2% \$	4.82	2%	better off at 28%
Coastal	Residential												Γ					
Martinborough	Residential	\$ 135,000	\$	1,332	\$	1,387	\$	1,669	\$	56	4%	1.07	\$	338	25% \$	1.07	20%	better off at 21%
Martinborough	Residential	\$ 480,000	\$	1,949	\$	1,981	\$	2,158	\$	32	2%	0.61	\$	208	11% \$	0.61	9%	better off at 21%
Martinborough	Residential	\$ 660,000	\$	1,778	\$	1,766	\$	1,888	(\$	12)	(1%) (\$	0.23)	Ś	110	6% (\$	0.23)	7%	better off at 21%
Lifestyle										, i		,				,		
Greytown	Lifestyle	\$ 660,000	\$	2,020	\$	1,766	\$	1,888	(\$	254)	(13%) (\$	4.88)	(\$	132)	(7%) (\$	4.88)	7%	better off at 21%
Featherston	Lifestyle	\$ 1,040,000	\$	2,298	\$	2,420	\$	2,426	\$	122	5%		\$	128	6% \$		0%	better off at 21%
Martinborough	Lifestyle		Ś	5,953	Ś	6,314	Ś	6,189	Ś	361	6%	6.94	Ś	236	4% \$	6.94	2%	better off at 28%
Commercial & In	,		i.	,	÷		÷		÷				i i					
Featherston	Commercial	\$ 580,000	\$	4,557	\$	4,932	\$	5,078	\$	375	8%	7.21	Ś	521	11% \$	7.21	3%	better off at 21%
Martinborough	Commercial		Ś	4,919	Ś	5,191	Ś		Ś	272	6%		(\$	42)	(1%) \$		6%	better off at 28%
Martinborough	Commercial	1 -1 1	\$	11,043	Ś	11,911	Ś	11,573	Ś	868	8%		\$	530	5% \$			better off at 28%
Greytown	Industrial		\$	3,287	\$	3,366	\$		Ś	79	2%	1.53	\$	189	6% \$	1.53	3%	better off at 21%
Greytown	Industrial		\$	4,366	Ś	4,754	\$	4,928	\$	388	9% 3		\$	562	13% \$			better off at 21%
Featherston	Industrial		Ś	7,697	\$	6,733	\$		(\$	964)	(13%) (1,095)	(14%) (\$			better off at 28%
Agriculture & Ho		<i>• 1111111111111</i>	Ŷ	1,001	Ŷ	6,700	Ť	0,001	(¥	50.1	(20%) (2010 1	I.	2,0007	(2007)(2010 1	270	
Martinborough	Rural - Dairy-Pastoral-Arable	\$ 436,000	\$	1,377	\$	1,381	\$	1,571	\$	4	0%	0.07	Ś	194	14% \$	0.07	14%	better off at 21%
Martinborough	Rural - Dairy-Pastoral-Arable		Ś	7,477	Ś	7,300	Ś		(\$	177)	(2%) (\$		(\$	601)	(8%) (\$		_	better off at 28%
Featherston	Rural - Dairy-Pastoral-Arable		\$	8,742	ŝ	8,458	\$		(\$	284)	(3%) (\$			1,348)	(15%) (\$,		better off at 28%
Martinborough	Rural - Horticulture		Ś	1.940	Ś	1.921	Ś	2,016		18)	(1%) (\$		Ś	76	4% (\$	· · ·		better off at 21%
Martinborough	Rural - Horticulture	1	\$	4,786	ŝ	4,656	\$	4,266		129)	(3%) (\$			520)	(11%) (\$	· · ·		better off at 28%
Martinborough	Rural - Horticulture		Ś	5,973	Ś	5,224	\$	4,733		750)	(13%) (1,240)	(21%) (\$			better off at 28%
Martinborough	Rural - Other		ŝ	2,226	ŝ	2,196	ŝ	2,242		30)	(1%) (\$		\$	1,240)	1% (\$			better off at 23%
Greytown	Rural - Other		ŝ	2,220	ŝ	3,534	ş Ś	3,382	-	1.215	52%		\$	1.062	46% \$			better off at 28%
Featherston	Rural - Other		ې \$	11,797	ې Ś	11,509	ې \$	10,774	-	289)	(2%) (\$		ې (\$	1,002	(9%) (\$			better off at 28%
Martinborough	Rural - Forestry		ې \$	2,643	ې Ś	3,052	ې \$		\$	409	15%		Ś	384	15% \$			better off at 28%
			ş Ş	6,647	ş Ş	3,052	ş Ş		ş Ş		15% ;		\$ \$	437				better off at 28% better off at 28%
Martinborough	Rural - Forestry		\$ \$	-	ş Ś			7,084	\$ \$	1,144	17% ;			437 510	7% \$ 4% \$			
Martinborough	Rural - Forestry	\$ 6,500,000	Ş	12,232	Ş	14,400	\$	12,742	Ş	2,168	18%	41.70	\$	510	4% Ş	41.70	13%	better off at 28%