

**MINUTES OF SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL
STRATEGY WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE SUPPER ROOM, WAIHINGA CENTRE, TEXAS STREET, MARTINBOROUGH
ON WEDNESDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 10:00 AM**

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Melissa Sadler-Futter (Chair), Mayor Martin Connelly, Cr Aidan Ellims, Cr Martin Bosley, Cr Colin Olds, Cr Pip Maynard, Cr Rebecca Gray, Cr Kaye McAulay and Ms Violet Edwards (Māori Standing Committee representative).

APOLOGIES: Cr Alistair Plimmer and Cr Aaron Woodcock.

IN ATTENDANCE: Māori Standing Committee - Andrea Rutene (Chair), Mark Fenwick, Dorothy Whittaker and Whitu Karauna.

Martinborough Community Board - Storm Robertson, Angela Brown and Karen Krogh.

Janice Smith (Chief Executive), Russell O'Leary (Group Manager, Planning and Regulatory), Paul Gardner (Group Manager, Corporate Services), James O'Connor (Manager, Community Operations), Sara Edney (Manager, Building Services), Matt Vins (Manager, Customer Support), Rob Thomas (Manager, Stakeholder Relationships), Alex Pigou (Team Lead, Communications), Nicki Ansell (Senior Policy Advisor), Kendyll Harper (Manager, Planning), Narida Hooper (Pou Māori), Robyn Wells (Principal Advisor – 3 Waters), Tim Langley (Principal Advisor - Roading), Andrew Finch (Principal Advisor – Water Services) and Amy Andersen (Lead Advisor, Democracy and Committees).

Laurence Edwards, Adam Mattsen (Wellington Water).

PUBLIC FORUM: John Broeren; Jamiee Burns; Roger Fraser; Louise Lyster; Martinborough Community Board - Storm Robertson, Angela Brown; Andy Hocquard; Sonia Wansbrough; John Errington; Herewini Ammunson; Māori Standing Committee - Andrea Rutene, Whitu Karauna and Dorothy Whittaker; Matthew Sherry; Garrick Emms and Marguerite Tait-Jamieson.

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 10:01am to 2:35pm except where expressly noted.

OPEN SECTION

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA – OPENING

Ms Hooper opened the meeting with a karakia.

2 APOLOGIES

2.1 APOLOGIES FROM MEMBERS

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2024/90**Moved: Cr R Gray****Seconded: Cr P Maynard**

To accept apologies from Cr Plimmer and Cr Woodcock

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 Ellims acknowledged the MCB and Angela Brown LGNZ conference award, resilience project.

Ms Edwards acknowledged the passing of the Māori King, Kīngi Tūheitia Pootatau Te Wherowhero VII.

Cr Gray acknowledged the urgent issues and risks relating to global climate change.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- John Broeren - Remission of Rates Policy

Mr Broeren shared his concerns in relation to the communications about the consultation on the Policy and the identification of properties he owns under SUIP (Separately Used or Inhabited Parts).

- Jamiee Burns (JR's Orchards) - Remission of Rates Policy

Ms Burns sought support from the Committee to include horticulture, alongside dairy and farm in remissions for primary production. Ms Burns shared her concerns in relation to housing overseas workers and the perceptions about profits made from accommodation, and the affordability of rates.

- Roger Fraser - Rates

Mr Fraser spoke about the rates increases and the impact on ratepayers (social and economic), as well as communications by council on the recent changes.

- Louise Lyster - Remission of Rates Policy

Ms Lyster asked the Committee to consider approving the proposed remissions policy, but with the recommendation of first principles strategic review as part of the Long Term Plan next year.

Ms Lyster noted Council and council officers have made improvements in how they are operating and that there had been dramatic increase in communication over the past year.

- Martinborough Community Board – Rates / Remission of Rates Policy

Mr Robertson and Ms Brown spoke on behalf of the Martinborough Community Board and presented on the views shared by the community at their meeting on the [29 August](#), including: rates and affordability, the impact on the community and what services Council should be focusing on in particular and communications from council in relation to the rates increase, as well as their concerns for the wellbeing of the community.

- Andy Hocquard – Various

Mr Hocquard thanked Council for their work on the lighting project in the Martinborough square and addressing health and safety concerns; however, he also shared his concerns about food truck parking and costs relating to the project. Mr Hocquard also conveyed his concerns about no new water connections in Martinborough and Greytown, funding from central government and employment in the district. Mr Hocquard also sought assurance about Pain Farm funds and expenses.

- Sonia Wansbrough - Remission of Rates Policy

Ms Wansbrough shared her concerns with the Committee regarding effect of the implementation of SUIP on her own property, consultation and communication by council on the Policy. Ms Wansbrough noted she was “for” rates increases, but had concerns about the rating methodology and underlining data used for SUIPS, as well as the application of the Policy to similar properties.

- John Errington - Māori Ward

Mr Errington shared with the Committee his belief that the decision for a Māori Ward be rescinded. Consultation and lack of independent research. MSC role and whether this is being fulfilled. Councillors must be sure that a referendum will vote for a Maori Ward.

- Herewini Ammunson, Papawai Marae / Ngāti Moe - Māori Ward

Mr Ammunson spoke in support of the Maori Ward, and noted he also had the support of Tia Tuuta, Pou Whakahaere, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Iwi Development Trust, who was unable to participate in the meeting today. Mr Ammunson urged the Committee to recommend that the Council uphold the decision made with regard to establishing a Māori Ward on 23 November 2023.

- Māori Standing Committee - Māori Ward

Ms Rutene, supported by Ms Whittaker and Mr Karauna, spoke in support of the Māori Ward and noted that they also spoke on behalf of many people in the community who keen to see this ward retained for the 2025 local election. Ms Rutene urged the Committee to recommend that

the Council uphold the decision made with regard to establishing a Māori Ward on 23 November 2023.

- Matthew Sherry, Wairarapa Racing Club

Mr Sherry spoke in relation to a rates remission application for the Wairarapa Racing Club at Tauherenikau and why it should be approved, highlighting major events which have been and will be held at this venue.

- Garrick Emms and Marguerite Tait-Jamieson, Longwood

Ms Tait-Jamieson and Mr Emms spoke to matters relating to the rates remission policy and asked the Committee to consider reversing the 2024/25 rates decision, engaging in lessons learned and in depth consultation.

The meeting was adjourned 11:14am.

The meeting was resumed at 11:20am.

6 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

7.1 MINUTES OF THE STRATEGY WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 31 JULY 2024

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2024/91

Moved: Cr R Gray

Seconded: Mayor M Connolly

Abstained: Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter

That the minutes of the Strategy Working Committee held on 31 July 2024 are confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2024/92

Moved: Cr C Olds

Seconded: Cr R Gray

Abstained: Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter

That the public excluded minutes of the Strategy Working Committee meeting held on 31 July 2024 are confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

8 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There were no matters arising.

9 DECISION REPORTS FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND STAFF

9.1 MĀORI WARD AMENDMENT ACT

Ms Ansell spoke to matters included in the Report.

Members queried matters in relation to option B as presented in the paper, including costs and additional work required, if the decision of November 2023 was rescinded.

Members made comments on the changes made within central government and the impact this has had on local government and ratepayers. Members acknowledged the public participants who presented at the meeting today on this item.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2024/93

Moved: Mayor M Connelly

Seconded: Cr R Gray

To receive the *Māori Ward Amendment Act* report.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2024/94

Moved: Mayor M Connelly

Seconded: Cr R Gray

Recommend to Council to:

1. Resolve to retain the decision of 22 November 2023 to establish a Māori Ward for the 2025 election; and
2. Note, as per Option A, the need to carry out a binding poll on Māori Wards as part of the 2025 election process.

CARRIED

9.2 REMISSION OF RATES POLICY CONSULTATION

Ms Ansell, supported by Mr Thomas spoke to matters included in the report.

Members discussion included: the work required to reconsider the current rating methodology; whether the decisions could be deferred to rectify the issues raised in public participation (unable to do so at this time due to special consultative procedure); clear communications and the definitions included in the Policy; drilling down on the details of the possible impacts and consequences; concerns regarding equity and fairness across the district.

Ms Smith noted there will be a first principles review of rates as part of the LTP consultation. This work is already in progress with planned workshops scheduled over the next few months.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2024/95**Moved: Mayor M Connelly****Seconded: Ms E Edwards**

To continue the meeting past 12:08pm in order to complete discussion on Item 9.2.

CARRIED

Members queried the services to rural properties. Ms Smith noted that rural properties are not usually connected for water, but they are charged the UAGC and other services; furthermore, Ms Smith reiterated that rates are a tax, not payment for services.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2024/96**Moved: Cr R Gray****Seconded: Cr K McAulay**

To receive the *Remission of Rates Policy Consultation* Report.

CARRIED**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2024/97****Moved: Cr K McAulay****Seconded: Cr R Gray**

To agree to the Policy Definitions and Criteria, as outlined in the report, for each remission policy.

CARRIED**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2024/98****Moved: Cr A Ellims****Seconded: Ms E Edwards**

To adopt the Remission of Uniform Annual General Charge and Uniform Targeted Rates on Residential Properties in Certain Circumstances Policy.

CARRIED**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2024/99****Moved: Cr A Ellims****Seconded: Cr C Olds**

To adopt the Remission of Uniform Annual General Charge and Uniform Targeted Rates on Pastoral and Dairying Properties in Certain Circumstances Policy.

CARRIED**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2024/100****Moved: Cr R Gray****Seconded: Ms E Edwards**

To adopt the Remission of Uniform Annual General Charge and Uniform Targeted Rates on Retail Properties in Certain Circumstances Policy.	
<u>In Favour:</u>	Cr A Ellims, Cr M Bosley, Cr C Olds, Deputy Mayor M Sadler-Futter, Cr P Maynard, Cr R Gray, Cr K McAulay and Ms E Edwards
<u>Against:</u>	Mayor M Connelly
CARRIED 8/1	
COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2024/101	
AMENDMENT	
Moved:	Deputy Mayor M Sadler-Futter
Seconded:	Cr P Maynard
To instruct the CEO to instigate a data integrity check on the relevant urban property data this is used to define the application of a SUIP.	
CARRIED	
<i>The amendment became the substantive resolution.</i>	
The meeting was adjourned at 12:25pm	
The meeting was resumed at 1:02pm	
Noted that Cr Bosely left the meeting during the break to return at a later point in the meeting.	

9.3 SWDC OFFICE ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

Ms Smith referenced the recent comments made at the LGNZ conference about “vanity projects” and that the item for discussion could not be delayed due to the office building’s ongoing deterioration and safety of staff. Ms Smith thanked Mr Vins for his development of the report.

Mr Vins, supported by Mr Gardner spoke to matters included in the report.

Members queried funding (possibilities of amalgamation and future proofing), timeframes, plans for short term accommodation and immediate options, using land already owned by Council and building design.

Cr Bosley returned to the meeting at 1:23pm.

Members discussed the health and safety issues for staff, communications with the community relating to costs, building standards and value for money (leasing vs building office space).

Members acknowledged the work that went into the report, and noted that resolving health and safety issues was a priority. Furthermore, it was noted that any new building needed to be environmentally friendly and sustainable, as well as an asset for the district and a potential hub for civil defence.

Members requested assurance that the office space is safe for staff to work in currently. Mr Vins and Mr Gardner provided further detail on how the issues are being managed and provided assurance that ongoing work to keep staff safe is happening.

When asked by members, Ms Smith explained her preferred options (2 & 4).

Members further discussed the options to clarify their position, considering costs to the ratepayer and the health and safety of staff.

The majority of members gave a steer for the CEO to investigate options 2 and 4. Noted that Cr Maynard was against taking this direction.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2024/102

Moved: Cr A Ellims

Seconded: Cr C Olds

To note the current issues, and ongoing deterioration, of the 19 Kitchener Street office building.

CARRIED

9.4 GREYTOWN DRINKING WATER SERVICES: CONSULTATION

Mr Thomas spoke to matters included in the report.

Members discussed the consultation being completed across the district rather than just with the Greytown community.

Members acknowledged that the report concerns raised previously by Council.

Members requested that all reports going forward discuss the impact of climate change on projects.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2024/103

Moved: Cr C Olds

Seconded: Cr M Bosley

1. Receive the *Greytown Drinking Water Services: Consultation Report*.
2. Adopt the Statement of Proposal and Consultation Document in *Appendix 1*.
3. Note the Strategy Working Committee will hear submissions received, if any, on the consultation.

CARRIED

9.5 ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT WAIRARAPA LOCAL ALCOHOL POLICY AND STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL

Ms Ansell and Mr Thomas spoke to matters included in the report.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2024/104

Moved: Cr R Gray

Seconded: Cr M Bosley

1. Receive the *Adoption of the Draft Wairarapa Local Alcohol Policy and Statement of Proposal*.
2. Notes that a joint review of the Wairarapa Local Alcohol Policy (the Policy) is underway;

3. Endorses the recommendations for the Wairarapa Policy Working Group to make amendments to the Policy.
4. Adopt the draft Policy (Attachment 1) and the Statement of Proposal (Attachment 2) for consultation with the community (option 1).
5. Note that the proposed consultation, using the special consultative procedure, will run between 20 September – 20 October 2024.
6. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive to approve minor edits that do not alter the intent of the consultation, prior to publication of the draft Policy and Statement of Proposal for consultation.
7. Notes that the Wairarapa Policy Working Group will hear submissions on 23 October 2024 and undertake deliberations on 6 November 2024.
8. Notes that following hearings and deliberations the Wairarapa Policy Working Group will make final recommendations to Council in December 2024.

CARRIED

10 INFORMATION REPORTS FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND STAFF

10.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S UPDATE

Ms Smith responded to queries regarding the timeframes to repair the Tauherenikau pipeline (work commencing in March 2025). Member requested SWDC's Pou Māori work with Wellington Water and iwi to provide reports back to the Committee.

10.2 ACTION ITEMS

Action 407 – completed and closed. Cr Gray noted that different silos of work are happening across the region/district with regard to climate change. Cr Gray will continue to be a voice for Council on these issues through her portfolio appointment.

11 APPOINTMENT REPORTS

11.1 COUNCILLOR FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY BOARDS

Cr Ellims reported that Martinborough Community Board are engaging with the community in discussions on rates increases and SUIPs, communicating with residents on the representation review, and attendance at a storm water workshop and another on granny flats legislation.

Cr Gray noted that Featherston Community Board had a number of grants applications, acknowledged John Dennison for engaging with Cr Bosley on a proposed berm planting policy.

Cr Bosley noted that Greytown Community Board had allocated grants funding and communicating with residents on the representation review.

Next month, this section of the agenda will include updates from Māori Standing Committee.

11.2 PLANNING AND REGULATORY PORTFOLIO UPDATE

Cr Olds spoke to matters in his report to the Committee, and highlighted the work undertaken in relation to the dog pound.
Members acknowledged the presentation of the data included in the report and were pleased to see this provided to the Committee.

11.3 INFRASTRUCTURE PORTFOLIO UPDATE

Cr Ellims spoke to matters included in his report, highlighting key areas for roading developments and Ecoreef consents (extending).
Cr Ellims thanked the Infrastructure and Community Operations team, particularly for the improvements made recently to the public toilet doors in the Martinborough Square.
Cr Ellims sought further information on new water connections in Martinborough.
Mr Finch gave an update from the Community Liaison Group meeting on desludging - tenders haven't gone out yet and are being actively followed up.

12 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING

Ms Hooper closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 2:35pm.

Confirmed as a true and correct record.

..... (Mayor/Chair)

..... (Date)

..... (Chief Executive)

..... (Date)