

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

**PRESENT:** Deputy Mayor Melissa Sadler-Futter (Chair), Cr Alistair Plimmer, Cr Aaron Woodcock, Cr Martin Bosley, Cr Colin Olds, Mayor Martin Connelly, Cr Pip Maynard, Ms Violet Edwards (from 10:35am, via Teams), and Cr Kaye McAulay.

**APOLOGIES:** Cr Aidan Ellims.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Janice Smith (Chief Executive Officer), Stefan Corbett (Group Manager, Corporate Services), Narida Hooper (Pou Māori), Matt Vins (Manager, Governance & Business Operations), Lina McManus (Coordinator, Grants & Funding), Siv Fjaerestad (Lead Advisor, Community Development), Joanna Baldwin (Advisor, Welcoming Communities) and Amy Andersen (Lead Advisor, Democracy & Committees).

Anna Nielson, Lisa Portas - Destination Wairarapa; Nicola Belsham - Business Wairarapa; and Matt Carrere, Natasha Kyd – Wairarapa Economic Development Strategy.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Nil.

**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 10:02am to 12:34pm except where expressly noted.

**OPEN SECTION**

**1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA – OPENING**

All in attendance opened the meeting.

**2 APOLOGIES**

**2.1 APOLOGIES**

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/136**

**Moved:** Cr C Olds

**Seconded:** Cr P Maynard

The Strategy Working Committee resolved to accept apologies from Cr Ellims and Ms Edwards.

**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**

There were no acknowledgements and tributes.

**5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

**6 URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business.

**7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES****7.1 MINUTES OF THE STRATEGY WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 30 JULY 2025****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/137**

**Moved:** Mayor M Connelly

**Seconded:** Cr C Olds

That the minutes of the Strategy Working Committee meeting held on 30 July 2025 are confirmed as a true and correct record.

**CARRIED**

**7.2 MINUTES OF THE STRATEGY WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6 AUGUST 2025****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/138**

**Moved:** Mayor M Connelly

**Seconded:** Cr K McAulay

That the minutes of the Strategy Working Committee meeting held on 6 August 2025 are confirmed as a true and correct record.

**CARRIED**

### 7.3 MINUTES OF THE STRATEGY WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 AUGUST 2025

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/139****Moved:** Cr C Olds**Seconded:** Cr M Bosley

That the minutes of the Strategy Working Committee meeting held on 20 August 2025 are confirmed as a true and correct record.

**CARRIED**

### 8 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There were no matters arising. Members to council officers for effort on all the reports from previous minutes.

### 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

There were no reports or updates.

### 10 DECISION REPORTS FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND STAFF

#### 10.1 DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES 2024/2025

Ms Wilton spoke to the report and noted that on Page 30 of the agenda that three figures will be amended in the report that is sent to the Department of Internal Affairs. These figures are shown under the Dog Registration, Enforcement and Service Request Statistics, 2024/2025 column:

- Number of registered dogs - 3328 (shown as 2999)
- Number of rural dogs - 2021 (shown as 2031)
- Number of urban dogs - 1307 (shown as 1302).

Ms Wilton provided further information regarding the reduction in complaints, noting that it may be officer engagement and work undertaken in the community, but this cannot be confirmed. It may also be the influence of social media and helping to short circuit a *find* before it needs to be reported to the council.

Members debated the purpose of annual dog registration rather than once only when there is microchipping. Noted that Council is bound by legislation on to ensure dogs are registered on an annual basis.

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/140**

**Moved: Cr P Maynard**  
**Seconded: Cr A Woodcock**

The Strategy Working Committee resolved to:

1. Receive the *Dog Control Policy and Practices 2024/2025* Report;
2. Adopt the *Dog Control Policy and Practices 2024/2025* Report;
3. Authorise the Chief Executive to make the report publicly available; and
4. Authorise the Chief Executive to give public notice of the *Information and statistics on Councils dog control activities for the year 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025* section of this report.

[Items 1-4 read together]

**CARRIED**

## **10.2 2025 RESIDENTS SURVEY RESULTS**

Mr Corbett spoke to the report and responded to questions from members including: further governance input on where things can be improved, what the next steps to address the results of the survey might be.

Members queried the purpose and process of the survey (originally intended to fulfil KPIs), focusing on results where there has been no change over the past three years, and the role of community boards in engaging with Council to address survey results where they need improvement.

Ms Edwards arrived at 10:35am, via Teams.

Members noted the opportunities for the new Council to work on KPIs and queried the setup of the email for surveys which have gone to governance members who cannot respond to the survey.

Members were pleased to see positive results for libraries and swimming pools, highlighting the level of engagement and work that has been done achieved by the team. Members requested that the opening/closing times for swimming pools are correct and there was not a repeat of issues experienced last year when setting those up.

Queries regarding the survey's current methodology and format (online), and whether this could be open to all, rather than a small sample. Mr Corbett noted this can be reviewed in the coming triennium when addressing the next steps.

Mr Corbett also noted that KPIs are structured around survey feedback, which have been modified to not relying on survey results, this now sits in the Long Term Plan.

### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/141**

**Moved: Deputy Mayor M Sadler-Futter**  
**Seconded: Mayor M Connelly**

That the Strategy Working Committee resolved to receive the 2025 Resident Survey Results Report.

**CARRIED**

**11 INFORMATION REPORTS FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND STAFF****ITEM MOVED****11.2 DESTINATION WAIRARAPA QUARTERLY REPORTING**

Ms Nielson spoke to the report and highlighted that visitation numbers to the region are still up and that accommodation was full around the time of the Greytown Christmas Festival. Ms Nielson also noted that people are concerned about cost of living /jobs, but still need time out with their families; Wairarapa has excellent activities for a variety of needs. In terms of international tourism, there is a focus on trade-ready products and the need more of this in the region.

Members queried the closure of the Masterton i-Site, support for businesses and gaps in product development and the current financial health of tourist business.

Members thanked Destination Wairarapa for their continued efforts and work to support business in the region.

Ms Portas also highlighted Ms Nielson's high standard of work and the positive views of the Destination Wairarapa Board in relation to this.

**11.1 BUSINESS WAIRARAPA QUARTERLY REPORTING**

Ms Belsham spoke to the report and highlighted: the recent Business Summit where local leaders and legends briefed attendees on a Wairarapa identity – utilising that to create a district wide project; judging for Business Wairarapa awards; and a range of emerging businesses coming to the district.

Ms Belsham noted she would be leaving her role at Business Wairarapa just after 19 September, moving into roles for with Te Hauora Runanga o Wairarapa and as a Programme Lead for the Mayor's Task Force for Jobs.

Members thanked Ms Belsham for her service, and congratulated her on the Business Summit, connecting the work of Business Wairarapa and Destination Wairarapa, and her on her new roles.

**11.3 WAIRARAPA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (WEDS) QUARTERLY REPORTING**

Mr Carrere spoke to the report and noted they have supported the Greytown Christmas Festival, Golden Shears and other activities across the district and wider region. The key focus is on supporting projects involving water, workforce and the health sector.

Ms Kyd spoke to the implementation plan, noting that the population continues to grow – workforce and skills development remains a focus (bringing health care workers and their families into the area, digital fluency, businesses ready to adopt technologies, pathways for youth, the WaiHost programme), food and fibre (supporting businesses and their resilience, producers want to know how to grow for success, working on shared narratives), water (not as big a role to play, but will continue to support the Summer series work programme from economic development lens).

Members queried ways to deliver outcomes for economic development and the plans to merge WEDS, Destination Wairarapa and Business Wairarapa into to one organisation. Noted at a previous Strategy Working Committee this year, the governance in relation to economic development action/strategy will be reviewed in next triennium.

It was noted that operationally, the organisations already work closely and will sit in new office space together.

Members queried the digital fluency programme (Lead - Waitech Trust) which is currently on hold. Ms Kyd noted that there are plans to start this up again in the near future once access to the platform has been confirmed.

#### **11.4 ACTION ITEMS**

Item SWC 2024/137: Rural and Coastal Advisory Group, Terms of Reference – noted that draft documents are ready for the new Council to review and approve in the next triennium.

### **12 APPOINTMENT REPORTS**

#### **12.1 MEMBERS FEEDBACK FROM THE MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY BOARDS**

Noted that Martinborough Community Board have their next meeting Thursday, 11 September. Cr Woodcock shared that the parks and reserves meeting held last week was productive.

Meeting adjourned at 11:23am.  
Meeting resumed at 11:46am.

### **13 PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS**

#### **RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC**

Members queried the reasoning to enter public excluded.

Officers stated that the report and details had not yet been shared with the organisations who responded to the tender. Ms Smith confirmed this was no different to any other tender which had been previously discussed in public excluded and noted the intention was for the information to be made public following the meeting.

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/142****Moved: Cr P Maynard****Seconded: Cr C Olds**

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
<b>13.1 - South Wairarapa Sports and Recreation Service</b>	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	Relates to tender information which is sensitive to ongoing negotiations for Sports and Recreation Services.

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

**Against:** Cr A Plimmer, Cr A Woodcock, Cr M Bosley and Mayor M Connelly

**CARRIED 5/4****14 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING**

All in attendance closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 12:34pm.

**Confirmed as a true and correct record.**

..... (Chair) ..... (Chief Executive)

..... (Date) ..... (Date)