

**MINUTES OF WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL
INFRASTRUCTURE AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL, CORONATION SQUARE, WAIROA
ON TUESDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 1:30 PM**

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor Craig Little, Cr Chaans Tumataroa-Clarke, Cr Denise Eaglesome-Karekare, Mr Chris Olsen, Cr Benita Cairns

IN ATTENDANCE: **Kitea Tipuna** (Tumu Whakarae | Chief Executive), **Gary Borg** (Pouwhakarae – Pūtea/Tautāwhi Rangapū | Group Manager Finance and Corporate Support), **Hinetaakoha Viriaere** (Pouwhakarae Whakamahere me te Waeture | Group Manager Planning & Regulatory), **Hinemoa Hubbard** (Kaitauira Mana Ārahi | Governance Cadet), **Hira Campbell** (Kaiwhakahaere Hua Pūmau Huarahi | Transport Asset Manager), **Richard Grimmett** (Kaiurungi Matua Rawa | Senior Property Officer)

1 KARAKIA

The Opening Karakia was given by the Chair, Cr Tumataroa-Clarke.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Nil.

3 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil.

4 CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair acknowledged the passing of Erina Kauī (nee Carroll) and Ian Gemmell.

5 LATE ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A maximum of 30 minutes has been set aside for members of the public to speak on any item on the agenda. Up to 5 minutes per person is allowed. As per Standing Order 14.14 requests to speak must be made to the meeting secretary at least one clear day before the meeting; however this requirement may be waived by the Chairperson.

7 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2024/86

Moved: Cr Benita Cairns

Seconded: Cr Denise Eaglesome-Karekare

That the minutes [and confidential minutes] of the Ordinary Meeting held on 12 December 2023 be confirmed.

CARRIED

8 GENERAL ITEMS

8.1 ASSETS & INFRASTRUCTURE GROUP - UPDATE

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2024/87

Moved: Cr Denise Eaglesome-Karekare

Seconded: Mr Chris Olsen

The Committee receive the report, and provide direction where appropriate.

CARRIED

The Chief Executive introduced this report in the absence of the Group Manager of Assets & Infrastructure and highlighted the presence of the Transport Asset Manager and the Senior Property Officer to answer questions.

Regarding Item 9.2-Landfill Decision of the report:

His Worship highlighted:

- The challenge of believing that opting for an out-of-district disposal solution is more cost-effective than establishing a local Landfill in Wairoa.
- That similar decisions are being made in other areas, and even if the choice is to transition to an out-of-district disposal area, the Wairoa Landfill will persist.
- Concerns related to carbon emissions and compliance cost with the option of developing a new cell.
- The ethical consideration as to whether it is culturally acceptable to transport waste to another area and whether it aligns with the preferences of Tangata Whenua of that area.

Mr Chris Olsen queried the viability of using rail as a mode of transportation. His Worship noted the requirement of a transfer station by the railway line and was uncertain on if the line travelled to where we would need it to go. Cr Cairns noted that the decision to pursue an out-of-district solution is not solely a cost-effective decision; instead, it is aligned with a comprehensive waste management and minimisation plan.

Regarding Item 7-Three Waters of the report:

- His Worship acknowledged a large forthcoming expense, particularly concerning cultural considerations, lie in the discharge from the river.
- Cr Eaglesome-Karekare noted the aging nature of our infrastructure, highlighting the need for careful consideration when participating in any regional initiatives, such as the Hawkes

Bay Regional Water model.

- The Chief Executive mentioned engaging Castalya for a peer review of the Hawkes Bay Regional model. He raised questions to them regarding the ongoing confidence in the presented numbers and potential challenges for elected members.
- Regarding the water treatment lab, the Chief Executive highlighted the risk of closure due to the lack of IANZ level 1 accreditation. If this were to happen, samples would need to be sent out of town, and considering the lab serves rural communities with their water supplies, the consequential effects need to be taken into consideration.

Mr Chris Olsen inquired whether the absence of IANZ level 1 accreditation was a resource problem or a cost-related issue. He proposed exploring the possibility of partnering with a compliant lab in Gisborne or Napier, thus leveraging their existing systems.

The Chair highlighted the importance of moving beyond the mere planning for extreme weather events, emphasising the necessity to concentrate on preparing for the subsequent infrastructure changes as well. The Transport Asset Manager noted the intention to renew maintenance contracts within the upcoming three years.

Mr Chris Olsen noted a nationwide trend, highlighting an average 40% increase in costs when contracts were renewed elsewhere and emphasised the importance of anticipating the costs that will come with the expiration of existing contracts. He mentioned a prevalent practice among councils involved making a trade off in levels of service, prioritising maintenance over construction; however such approach is not suitable for Wairoa District Council as we are in recovery.

Cr Eaglesome-Karekare highlighted that the Blacks Beach revetment had been tendered and queried if there would be a shift in emphasis from cost-effectiveness to a greater focus on the quality of the design in the ensuing contract to keep Blacks Beach where it is.

The Transport Asset Manager noted that there will be changes in pricing, highlighting a revision with contractors for a specific specification. Additionally, he mentioned that the revetment will resemble the existing structures at Blacks Beach.

8.2 PLANNING AND REGULATORY UPDATE

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2024/88

Moved: Cr Chaans Tumataroa-Clarke

Seconded: Cr Benita Cairns

The Committee receive the report.

CARRIED

The Group Manager of Planning & Regulatory spoke briefly to this report and noted there is now a Planning Administator and Support Officer undergoing training which means there is an

opportunity to increase their work capacity.

The Chair queried why the limited data provided in the report, specifically covering a span of three months and delve into whether there are trends during specific times of the year or if occurrences are seemingly random. The chair highlighted whether, for instance dog complaints show an increase during Christmas time or are generally distributed throughout the year.

The Chief Executive noted the presence of seasonal trends, particularly emphasising an increase in resource requests during summer months. This prompted considerations for a more in-depth analysis to gather additional data.

The Chair queried the cost-effectiveness of employing two full-time staff members for monitoring freedom camping or opting for the alternative of engaging four or five part-time staff during the three-month summer period along with one full-time staff member. Mr Chris Olsen noted the building control statistics of December, highlighting the 57.1% proportion of building consents processed within statutory timeframes. He inquired about the existence of a legislative requirement for achieving 100% compliance within these timeframes.

The Group Manager of Planning and Regulatory suggested that the lower percentage might be attributed to a capacity issue, specifically a shortage of staff. She mentioned the recent addition of a building compliance officer and noted that the challenges of working in a recovery space might be contributing added pressure on the compliance team.

8.3 MINOR UPDATES TO REVENUE AND FINANCING POLICY AND SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT POLICY

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2024/89

Moved: His Worship the Mayor Craig Little

Seconded: Mr Chris Olsen

The Committee endorses the policy updates to Council and in doing so supports the position that, due to the editorial nature of the updates, no consultation is required.

CARRIED

The Group Manager of Finance and Corporate Support spoke briefly to this report and noted that:

- An update under Principles of Engagement on page 41, the addition of “Māori and iwi” was considered unnecessary when presented to the Finance, Assurance and Risk committee, as it tends to create a separation between iwi and Māori when, in reality, iwi are Māori.
- There is more information on surpluses to offer comprehensive details about definitions.
- The inclusion of the preamble to Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993.

Cr Cairns inquired in light of Cyclone Gabrielle, whether there had been consideration given to

providing rates relief for those who are unable to access their properties. Cr Eaglesome-Karekare acknowledged that there is a rates rebate scheme, and clarified that the rates relief entails eventual repayment rather than a complete cessation of payment.

Cr Cairns suggested creating a policy for similar scenarios involving large numbers, to consider an exemption or relief from rates. The Chair noted the necessity of identifying a location to recuperate costs before implementing a rates remission.

The Chief Executive inquired about the possibility of considering the development contribution policy in the future within the framework of the revenue and finance policy. The Group Manager of Finance and Corporate Support noted that there is a brief section highlighting a Development Contribution policy. Due to the informal direction provided during a workshop for policy creation, the likelihood is that it will be taken into account in the review of the District Plan rather than the Long-term plan. He further noted that the Long-term plan will come before the review of the District Plan.

9 PUBLIC EXCLUDED ITEMS

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2024/90

Moved: Cr Chaans Tumataroa-Clarke
 Seconded: Cr Denise Eaglesome-Karekare

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting at 2:48pm.

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
<p>Item 8.1 – Assets and Infrastructure Group – Update Discussion</p>	<p>s48(2)(a)(i) - the exclusion of the public from the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting is necessary to enable the Council to deliberate in private on its decision or recommendation where a right of appeal lies to any court or tribunal against the final decision of the Council in these proceedings.</p>	<p>The grounds on which part of the Council or Committee may be closed to the public are listed in s48(2)(a)(i) of the <i>Local Government Act 2002</i>.</p>

<p>Item 8.2 – Planning and Regulatory Update Discussion</p>	<p>s48(2)(a)(i) - the exclusion of the public from the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting is necessary to enable the Council to deliberate in private on its decision or recommendation where a right of appeal lies to any court or tribunal against the final decision of the Council in these proceedings.</p>	<p>The grounds on which part of the Council or Committee may be closed to the public are listed in s48(2)(a)(i) of the <i>Local Government Act 2002</i>.</p>
<p>Item 8.3 – Minor Updates to Revenue and Financing Policy and Significance and Engagement Policy Discussion</p>	<p>s48(2)(a)(i) - the exclusion of the public from the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting is necessary to enable the Council to deliberate in private on its decision or recommendation where a right of appeal lies to any court or tribunal against the final decision of the Council in these proceedings.</p>	<p>The grounds on which part of the Council or Committee may be closed to the public are listed in s48(2)(a)(i) of the <i>Local Government Act 2002</i>.</p>
<p>CARRIED</p>		

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2024/91

Moved: Cr Chaans Tumataroa-Clarke

Seconded: Cr Benita Cairns

That Council moves out of Closed Council into Open Council at 3:11pm.

CARRIED

The Meeting closed with a karakia by the Chair at 3:11pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Infrastructure and Regulatory Committee Meeting held on 26 March 2024.

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CHAIRPERSON