

HUTT CITY COUNCILPOLICY, FINANCE AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE | KOMITI RATONGA
RANGATŌPŪ ME TE RAUTAKI

Minutes of a meeting held in the Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 30 Laings Road,
Lower Hutt on

Tuesday 10 September 2024 commencing at 3:00 pm

PRESENT:

Cr A Mitchell (Chair)	Mayor C Barry (from 5:27pm) (via audio-visual link)
Cr K Brown	Cr B Dyer
Cr Edwards	Deputy Mayor T Lewis (Deputy Chair)
Cr K Morgan	Cr C Parkin
Cr T Stallinger (until 5:20pm)	

APOLOGIES: Mayor Barry for lateness.

IN ATTENDANCE:

J Griffiths, Director Strategy and Planning
 J Livschitz, Group Chief Financial Officer
 B Cato, Chief Legal Officer
 R Hardie, Head of Strategy and Policy (part meeting)
 A Gordon, Senior Policy Advisor (part meeting)
 D Bentley, Environmental Health Manager (part meeting)
 M Quivooy, Strategy Advisor (part meeting)
 P Hewitt, Head of Transport (part meeting)
 M Nuth, Principal Advisor Research and Evaluation (part meeting)
 J Bromley, Engagement Advisor (part meeting)
 A Prebble, Principal Advisor City Strategy (part meeting)
 J Lamb, Head of Business and Economy (part meeting)
 K Stannard, Head of Democratic Services (part meeting)
 J Kilty, Democracy Advisor
 H Clegg, Minute Taker

PUBLIC BUSINESS**1. OPENING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA TIMATANGA**

Whakataka te hau ki te uru
 Whakataka te hau ki te tonga
 Kia mākinakina ki uta
 Kia mātaratara ki tai
 E hī ake ana te atakura
 He tio, he huka, he hau hū
 Tihei mauri ora.

*Cease the winds from the west
 Cease the winds from the south
 Let the breeze blow over the land
 Let the breeze blow over the ocean
 Let the red-tipped dawn come with a sharpened
 A touch of frost, a promise of a glorious day.*

2. APOLOGIES

RESOLVED: (Cr Mitchell/Deputy Mayor Lewis)

Minute No. PFSC 24401

"That the apology for lateness from Mayor Barry be received"

3. HEARING OF PUBLIC SUBMISSION ON THE CONTROL OF ALCOHOL IN PUBLIC PLACES BYLAW

Public Submissions on the Control of Alcohol in Public Places Bylaw

Inspector Shaun Lingard, representing the New Zealand Police, presented the submission. Inspector Lingard advised against creating new 24-hour Alcohol-Free Zones (AFZs) due to insufficient data and suggested the existing AFZ15 – City Wide was sufficient. He recommended reinstating current AFZs, improving signage, extending AFZ10 (Wainuiomata Queen Street shops and Hugh Sinclair Park) and AFZ12 (Lower Hutt CBD), and granting Council the power to install temporary AFZs for large events. Inspector Lingard said that while Waterloo and Moerā did not show significant crime data to warrant new AFZs, Moerā had high family harm incidents. He emphasised the need for more and larger signs and Police discretion in targeting alcohol-related disorder. Inspector Lingard outlined the penalties for public alcohol consumption, including confiscation, disposal, or fines up to \$250.

Jennifer Lamm and Andrew Galloway, representing Alcohol Watch, presented the submission. They noted the harmful nature of alcohol and its wide-reaching impacts on communities. They believed AFZs were important for both lessening alcohol harm and denormalising alcohol use. They stated it would be better to have an AFZ and not need it than to need it and not have one.

George Lajpold, Healthy Families Hutt Valley Practice Lead, presented the submission. George Lajpold asked for AFZs in areas frequented by rangatahi and tamariki. He clarified that he was not seeking a city-wide ban but rather a more comprehensive assortment of AFZs in areas frequented by young people and children. He added that sports fields and bus stops should be AFZs, as they were extensively used by tamariki and rangatahi.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

Cr Parkin declared a conflict for item 9: 'Submission on the redesign of the vocational education and training system', as he worked for a vocational training entity. The Chair did not believe that Cr Parkin's conflict constituted a conflict of interest.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS TO TE KAUNIHERA O TE AWA KAIRANGI COUNCIL - 1 OCTOBER 2024

a) Public Submissions on the Control of Alcohol in Public Places Bylaw

The Senior Policy Advisor elaborated on the report.

In response to questions from members, the Senior Policy Advisor stated that there was insufficient evidence for alcohol-related crime and disorder to meet the statutory threshold for alcohol-free zones in areas requested by submitters. She agreed to investigate further whether data existed for Frederick Wise Park.

The Chief Legal Officer advised that existing evidence was needed to justify an alcohol-free zone legislatively.

In response to further questions from members, the Senior Policy Advisor clarified that the Local Government Act's requirements would encompass environmental harm or neighbourhood disorder, with data necessary to demonstrate where these occur.

RESOLVED: (Cr Mitchell/Cr Morgan)

Minute No. PFSC 24402

"That the Committee:

- (1) notes that consultation on the Control of Alcohol in Public Places ran from 26 July 2024 to 25 August 2024;*
- (2) accepts the late submission from the National Council of Women in New Zealand;*
- (3) notes copies of the four written submissions from respondents who have requested to provide a verbal submission are attached as Appendix 1 to the report; and*
- (4) notes a complete set of submissions received via the survey and email are attached as Appendix 2 to the report."*

Pursuant to Standing Order 10.4, the Chair gave precedence to the remaining items on the agenda. The items are recorded in the order they were listed on the agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 4:53pm to allow members to deliberate in private on the Control of Alcohol in Public Places Bylaw.

Cr Stallinger left the meeting at 5.20pm. Mayor Barry joined the meeting at 5.27pm.

RECOMMENDED: (Cr Mitchell/Cr Morgan)	Minute No. PFSC 24403
<i>“That the Committee recommends that Council approves the draft Control of Alcohol in Public Places Bylaw (attached as Appendix 3 to the report), subject to the following considerations and amendments:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>(a) officers to propose suitable areas for alcohol-free zones in Moerā and Waterloo for the reason that the data demonstrates a high level of alcohol-related crime and disorder in these areas;</i> <i>(b) officers to investigate if there is alcohol-related crime and disorder data to support alcohol-free zones in Frederick Wise Park and Burdan’s Gate for the reason that public submissions have called for alcohol-free zones in these areas, but there is not yet data to support this; and</i> <i>(c) officers to review the design, messaging, and placement of alcohol-free zone signage.”</i> 	

b) Review of Class 4 Gambling Venue and Board Venue Policy

The Senior Policy Advisor elaborated on the report. She advised that the current sinking lid policy was in place, and Council approved no new consents for gambling venues or machines. She noted that more data would be available in 2027 when the policy is up for renewal again.

In response to questions from members, the Director Strategy and Engagement advised that the Class 4 Gambling Venue and Board Venue Policy had long term goals. He said that data was unavailable as the policy was still new.

In response to questions from members, the Senior Policy Advisor agreed to report back with data on requests for new gambling venues and machine licenses received by Council since 2021.

Cr Stallinger believed the sinking lid policy represented a good balance and looked forward to receiving further information from officers.

Crs Dyer and Parkins expressed support for Cr Stallinger’s comments.

The Chair said it would be interesting to see the movement of businesses that were unable to get a license from the local authority to other areas.

RECOMMENDED: (Cr Mitchell/Cr Morgan)	Minute No. PFSC 24404
<i>“That the Committee recommends that Council:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>(1) notes the Gambling Act 2003 and the Racing Industry Act 2020 require Class 4 Gambling Venue and Board Venue Policies to be reviewed every three years, as attached as Appendix 1 to the report;</i> <i>(2) notes that Hutt City Council’s Class 4 Gambling Venue and Board Venue Policy was last reviewed in 2021, and a sinking lid policy was adopted;</i> <i>(3) notes that only two years of gambling machine and venue data has been collected since 2021, and no changes in the number of machines or venues were noted;</i> 	

- (4) *notes legislation allows for the Class 4 Gambling Venue and Board Venue Policy to be rolled over if no amendments are proposed; and*
- (5) *agrees to roll over the existing Class 4 Gambling Venue and Board Venue Policy with no changes."*

c) Draft Parking Strategy

The Head of Transport and the Strategy Advisor elaborated on the report.

In response to questions from members, the Strategy Advisor stated that officers would address the questions and incorporate them in the public consultation document if the draft Parking Strategy was approved. He agreed to provide an update on the parking occupancy rates in the Lower Hutt CBD.

In response to questions from members regarding Electric Vehicle (EV) charging parks, the Strategy Advisor recognised that there was little demand for EV charger parking. He agreed to review the priority list and to designate EV charger parking as a medium priority instead of a high priority. He also mentioned that Parking Management Plans would be created to guide the development of EV charger parking, which aligned with the overall draft of the Parking Strategy.

In response to further questions from members, the Head of Transport confirmed that the mobility spaces would be dedicated 24/7 parking spaces. He agreed to review the wording regarding the location of time-restricted carparks near cycleways.

Cr Brown and Deputy Mayor Lewis expressed support for making EV charger parking a lower priority.

Cr Parkin believed the Parking Strategy should be developed in collaboration with the disabled community.

RECOMMENDED: (Cr Mitchell/Cr Dyer)	Minute No. PFSC 24405
<p><i>“That the Committee recommends that Council:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="387 1366 1433 1411"><i>(1) receives and notes the report;</i> <li data-bbox="387 1422 1433 1534"><i>(2) notes that feedback from engagement with key stakeholder groups is broadly supportive of the development of a Parking Strategy and Parking Management Plans;</i> <li data-bbox="387 1545 1433 1657"><i>(3) approves the draft Parking Strategy for public consultation from 3 until 15 October 2024, as attached as Attachment 1 to the report with amendments arising from the direction of the meeting; and</i> <li data-bbox="387 1668 1433 1780"><i>(4) notes that following public consultation, the final draft Parking Strategy will be considered by the Committee at its meeting on 19 November 2024, before being recommended to Council at its meeting on 10 December 2024.”</i> 	

6. RESIDENT SATISFACTION SURVEY 2024: SUMMARY REPORT AND INSIGHTS

Report No. PFSC2024/4/251 by the Principal Advisor Research and Evaluation

The Principal Advisor Research and Evaluation elaborated on the report.

In response to questions from members, the Engagement Advisor stated that attending marae and community events had improved survey engagement. The Director Strategy and Engagement noted that sending targeted survey invitations to people on the Māori Electoral Roll had led to higher response rates from Māori participants.

In response to further questions from members, the Principal Advisor Research and Evaluation acknowledged that conducting surveys at marae and community events may have influenced the results. He pointed out that while the survey included a more diverse group of participants, it still did not fully represent the diversity of Lower Hutt. He mentioned that the survey format was restrictive and that officers were looking for better ways to engage with the community by 2025.

Cr Stallinger thanked the officers and acknowledged their efforts to increase diversity among respondents. Crs Dyer and Morgan agreed with Cr Stallinger's comment.

Cr Brown thanked the officers but noted that more was needed to ensure respondent diversity.

The Chair asked that future reports include references to actions taken due to the survey to demonstrate that community insights were valued.

RESOLVED: (Cr Mitchell/Cr Brown)

Minute No. PFSC 24406

"That the Committee:

- (1) notes that the 2024 Resident Satisfaction Survey took place from 12 February to 15 March 2024;*
- (2) notes the results of the Resident Satisfaction Survey attached as Appendix 1 to the report; and*
- (3) agrees to proactively release the survey results along with a press release, which gives examples of how residents' views have historically been factored into decision making."*

7. TŌ TĀTOU TĀONE 2055 - OUR CITY 2055

Report No. PFSC2024/4/252 by the Principal Advisor City Strategy

The Principal Advisor City Strategy elaborated on the report.

In response to questions from members, the Principal Advisor City Strategy advised that the future-focused strategy for the city would undergo regular reviews once it was implemented. She also noted that a specific review timeframe had not been determined yet. The Director Strategy and Engagement added that monitoring and regular reviews would be part of the process.

RESOLVED: (Cr Mitchell/Cr Morgan)

Minute No. PFSC 24407

"That the Committee:

- (1) *notes the approach to developing Tō Tātou Tāone 2055 – Our City 2055 contained within the report;*
- (2) *notes the timeline for this project contained within the report; and*
- (3) *notes the Lower Hutt City Summit will be held on 18 September 2025, which will formally launch engagement on Tō Tātou Tāone 2055 – Our City 2055."*

8. 2024 STANDARD AND POOR'S CREDIT RATING

Report No. PFSC2024/4/264 by the Treasury Officer

The Group Chief Financial Officer elaborated on the report. She mentioned that Council's credit rating had been downgraded from AA to AA-, in line with downgrades seen in other local authorities in New Zealand. She also mentioned that officers were currently assessing the potential impact of borrowing.

In response to questions from members, the Group Chief Financial Officer advised that a potential Wellington Regional Council Controlled Organisation for water management might have flow-on effects on the credit ratings of councils as shareholders. She explained the comments made by Standard & Poor's regarding the repeated encroachment of debt limits.

RESOLVED: (Cr Mitchell/Cr Dyer)

Minute No. PFSC 24408

"That the Committee receives and notes the report."

9. **SUBMISSION ON THE REDESIGN OF THE VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING SYSTEM**

Report No. PFSC2024/4/265 by the Head of Business and Economy

The Head of Business and Economy elaborated on the report.

The Chair, Deputy Mayor Lewis and Cr Edwards expressed their appreciation to the officers for their work and acknowledged the importance of the submission.

RESOLVED: (Cr Mitchell/Deputy Mayor Lewis)

Minute No. PFSC 24409

"That the Committee:

- (1) *receives and notes the report;*
- (2) *approves the joint submission regarding the proposed changes to the Vocational Education and Training System attached as Appendix 1 to the report; and*
- (3) *notes that the consultation closes on 12 September 2024."*

10. **INFORMATION ITEM**

**Komiti Ratonga Rangatōpū me te Rautaki | Policy, Finance and Strategy
Committee Forward Programme**

Memorandum dated 26 August 2024 by the Democracy Advisor

RESOLVED: (Cr Mitchell/Cr Stallinger)

Minute No. PFSC 24410

"That the Committee receives and notes the draft forward programme for 2024 attached as Appendix 1 to the memorandum."

11. **QUESTIONS**

There were no questions.

12. **CLOSING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA**

Unuhia!

Unuhia!

Unuhia i te uru-tapu-nui

Kia wātea, kia māmā

Te ngākau, te tinana, te wairua i te ara takatū

Koia rā e Rongo whakairihia ake ki runga

Kia wātea, kia wātea!

Ae rā, kua wātea!

Hau, pai mārire.

Release us from the supreme sacredness of

To be clear and free

in heart, body and soul in our continuing j

Oh Rongo, raise these words up high

so that we be cleansed and be free,

Yes indeed, we are free!

Good and peaceful

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 5.33 pm.

Cr A Mitchell
CHAIR

CONFIRMED as a true and correct record
Dated this 1st day of October 2024