HUTT CITY COUNCIL

KOMITI ITI MAHERE Ā-NGAHURUTANGA / MAHERE Ā-TAU LONG TERM PLAN/ANNUAL PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held in the Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt on Friday 17 May 2024 commencing at 10.32am

PRESENT: Mayor C Barry (Chair) Deputy Mayor T Lewis

Cr G Barratt Cr J Briggs (until 3.53pm)

Cr K Brown Cr B Dyer
Cr S Edwards Cr A Mitchell
Cr K Morgan Cr C Parkin
Cr N Shaw Cr T Stallinger

Cr G Tupou (from 11.10am)

APOLOGIES: Cr G Tupou for lateness

IN ATTENDANCE: J Miller, Chief Executive

A Blackshaw, Director Neighbourhoods and Communities

(part meeting)

J Griffiths, Director Strategy and Engagement

B Hodgins, Acting Director Environment and Sustainability

(part meeting)

J Kingsbury, Director, Economy and Development

J Livschitz, Group Chief Financial Officer

D Nunnian, Manager Financial Strategy and Planning R Hardie, Head of Strategy and Policy (part meeting) A Nelson, Head of Parks and Reserves (part meeting)

I Brown, Head of Aquatics (part meeting)

R Barton, Head of Building Control (part meeting)

A Andrews, Finance Transactions Services Manager (part

meeting)

T Johnstone, Head of Planning (part meeting)

J Scherzer, Head of Climate, Waste and Resource Recovery

(part meeting)

K Stannard, Head of Democratic Services (part meeting)

A Laban, Head of Assets and Facilities Management (part

meeting)

K Glanville, Senior Democracy Advisor

J Randall, Democracy Advisor

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 Tīhei 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 air.
A touch of frost, a promise of a
glorious day.

2. APOLOGIES

RESOLVED: (Mayor Barry/Deputy Mayor Lewis) **Minute No. LTPAP 24201(2)** "That the apology from Cr G Tupou for lateness be received."

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Comments are recorded under the item to which they relate.

4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

There were no conflict of interest declarations.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS TO TE KAUNIHERA O TE AWA KAIRANGI COUNCIL - 17 May 2024

a) Long Term Plan 2024-2034 10 Year Plan: Analysis of Submission

The Head of Strategy and Policy elaborated on the report.

In response to questions from members, the Head of Strategy and Policy explained that consolidating the Petone projects in the consultation document allowed submitters to have a comprehensive view of Petone funding requests. He stated that the consultation had been structured to reflect the various Long Term Plan funding envelopes.

RECOMMENDED: (Mayor Barry/Cr Briggs) Minute No. LTPAP 24202(2)

"That the Subcommittee recommends Council:

- (1) notes that consultation for the 10 Year Plan took place between 2 April and 3 May 2024;
- (2) notes the range of communications and engagement activity undertaken at Appendix 1 attached to the report;
- (3) notes that during the consultation period, Council received a total of 1,770 submissions;
- (4) notes that hearings on submissions took place on 15 and 16 May 2024; and
- (5) notes the full analysis of submissions is attached at Appendix 2 attached to the report."
- b) Progressing decisions on the final Long Term Plan 2024-2034 Financial aspects

Speaking under public comment, **Karen Yung** urged Council to assess its goals before implementing parking charges in Petone. She emphasised the need to review the impact of user-pays parking fees on local businesses, residents, and visitors.

In response to a question from a member, Karen Yung said user-pay parking would ideally target times of day when people visit from out of town.

The Group Chief Financial Officer elaborated on the report and shared a presentation that can be viewed here: <u>Decisions for Final Long Term Plan</u> 2024-2034.

In response to questions from members, the Group Chief Financial Officer advised that if the parking revenue from Petone were removed from the proposed budget, an adjustment would be necessary, either through increased rates or by finding additional cost savings.

PRECEDENCE OF BUSINESS

RESOLVED: (Mayor Barry/Cr Briggs) Minute No. LTPAP 24203(2)

"In accordance with Standing Order 10.4, Mayor Barry accorded precedence to items 5c) 'Development and Financial Contributions Policy 2024 Update', 5d) 'Petone Wharf update', 5e) 'Update on Huia Pool refurbishment and decarbonisation project' and 5f) Proposed initiative to improve equity in access to aquatic services'."

The items are recorded in the order that they appear in the agenda.

Progressing decisions on the final Long Term Plan 2024-2034 - Financial aspects

The Chair directed members to Tables 2, 3, 4, and 5 (consultation matters requiring review and decisions) in the officer's report.

Members discussed Table 2.

Food Organics and Green Organics collection (FOGO)

In response to questions from members, the Chief Executive noted that government funding for organic waste was uncertain and that the proposal needed better community support during the Long Term Plan consultation. She said officers would continue to investigate procurement options and work in partnership with Wellington and Porirua City Councils. She suggested that officers report back to the Subcommittee later in 2024.

The Chair advised that funds for FOGO would be retained in budgets until a decision was made later. He agreed that further work was needed before Council could decide whether to proceed with the initiative.

RECOMMENDED: (Mayor Barry/Cr Briggs) Minute No. LTPAP 24204(2)

"That the Subcommittee recommends that, recognising feedback received from our community during the consultation, as well as the uncertainty regarding food and organic participation rates, reliance on unconfirmed government funding, and the need to accommodate those who currently compost, asks officers to do further work to identify how these concerns might be met before proceeding further."

Rates Remissions Policy - proposed rates relief for low income households

The Chair proposed an annual \$250,000 emergency relief fund for individual cases as an alternative to the proposals in the Rates Remissions Policy (the policy). He highlighted that this was half the cost of the policy proposals.

In response to questions from members, the Chair confirmed that the fund would not be available to those renting.

Members agreed to consider the Chair's proposal to establish an annual emergency relief fund for individual cases. The Chair asked for more information on the fund's administration to decide on 4 June 2024.

Members endorsed the remaining budgets in Table 2 and all in Table 3.

Members discussed Table 4.

Petone Parking Fees

In response to questions from members, the Director of Economy and Development confirmed that if parking meters were installed in Petone, it would be feasible to temporarily suspend charging until the road works were completed in 2025. He advised that Council would still be required to pay a rental fee for the meters. Additionally, he confirmed that it would be possible to implement parking charges after the first hour of parking. He also agreed to report back to the Subcommittee on the feasibility of applying parking charges after the first half hour of parking.

Mayor Barry stated that Council would need to consider whether to suspend

parking charges in Lower Hutt during the RiverLink project.

Members asked that officers provide data and survey results from a previous parking trial in Lower Hutt and assess the trial's impact on retailers. They also asked for a report on the hours of operation for paid parking in Lower Hutt, focusing on ensuring consistency across the city.

RECOMMENDED: (Mayor Barry/Cr Briggs) Minute No. LTPAP 24205(2)

"That the Subcommittee recommends that Council:

- (1) agrees with the introduction of paid parking in Petone; and
- (2) directs officers to provide options around the timing of the implementation date and the first half hour free, the first hour free or full payment at the Subcommittee meeting on 4 June 2024."

Cr Stallinger requested that his dissenting vote be recorded against the above matter.

Members endorsed the remaining budgets in Table 4.

Cr Brown left the meeting at 2.59pm.

Members discussed Table 5.

<u>Integrated Transport Strategy (the strategy)</u>

In response to a question from a member, the Director Economy and Development said the strategy set out officers' operational decision making process. He advised that a plan for major infrastructure projects would follow the strategy and include KPIs. He confirmed that officers would provide the process and timeline for the Subcommittee meeting on 4 June 2024.

Urban placemaking rephasing

Cr Tupou left the meeting at 3.01pm.

In response to a question from a member, the Director Economy and Development stated that the Urban Placemaking Programme would help attract people back to the Lower Hutt CBD.

Parks building renewals

In response to a question from a member, the Director Neighbourhoods and Communities explained that the costs associated with the process and consent for demolishing buildings on heritage sites had increased. She clarified that the \$1.02M mentioned in the officer's report would not be used solely for demolishing buildings on a heritage park site. She agreed to report to the Subcommittee with more information on the demolition costs.

Members endorsed the remaining budgets in Table 5.

Cr Tupou rejoined the meeting at 3.05pm.

Proposed fees and charges

In response to a question from a member, the Director Neighbourhoods and Communities agreed to report back to the Subcommittee explaining the significant changes to the proposed Little Theatre fees and bookings structure.

Proposed rates revenue changes

In response to questions from members, the Chief Executive agreed to report back to the Subcommittee on 4 June 2024 regarding the possibility of further budget reductions through staff, project or service reductions. She mentioned that Council maintained a 6% vacancy budget for staff. She clarified that staffing costs were not contributing to the increase in rates. She suggested that Council's Corporate Leadership Team was best positioned to advise on changes to staffing numbers.

Cr Mitchell asked that the financial information for the 4 June 2024 meeting include the impact of each decision Council voted on.

Cr Stallinger expressed dissatisfaction regarding the proposed increase in rates.

Cr Brown rejoined the meeting at 3.18pm.

Rangatahi Action Plan

Cr Morgan emphasised that appointing a person to lead the Rangatahi Action Plan would facilitate meaningful and sustainable engagement with rangatahi.

In response to a question from a member, Cr Morgan confirmed that rangatahi had made it clear they wanted a specific point of contact to partner with them and champion their issues.

The Chair indicated that if members agreed, officers would be tasked with scoping a new role to lead the Rangatahi Action Plan. He confirmed that the workload would only be distributed among certain roles.

The Chief Executive asked that members consider the desired outcomes and the additional level of service they were seeking from the proposed role.

In response to a question from a member, the Director of Strategy and Engagement confirmed that the officer's advice was that the Rangatahi Strategy plan could be delivered using existing staff resources. He agreed with the Chief Executive's comments that officers would need to understand what specific outcomes members sought from the additional resource.

The Chair asked that officers provide the Subcommittee with high-level information on the additional level of service required for the proposed role and its budget implications.

RECOMMENDED: (Cr Morgan/Cr Briggs) Minute No. LTPAP 24206(2)

"That the Subcommittee recommends the Council directs officers to appoint a full-time FTE position (covered by one person as the one point of contact) to lead the Rangatahi Action Plan."

Cr Edwards and Deputy Mayor Lewis requested that their dissenting votes be recorded against the above matter.

Science kits for schools

The Chair reaffirmed the recommendation to remove funding for school science kits and urged organisations to collaborate on funding.

Cr Parkin expressed opposition to the recommendation.

Water meters

Members asked that officers provide additional information for the meeting on 4 June 2024.

Minoh House

Crs Dyer and Mitchell abstained from the discussion and voting on the matter.

The Chair confirmed that the payment proposed in the report for a 30-year celebration of Minoh House was a one-off payment and would not impact rates.

RECOMMENDATION: (Mayor Barry/Cr Briggs) Minute No. LTPAP 24207(2)

"That the Subcommittee recommends that Council agrees to fund \$30,000 for Minoh House's 30 year celebration with \$15,000 from the Events budget and \$15,000 from the Parks and Reserves budget."

Sister Cities

The Chair confirmed that funding for Sister Cities travel was not currently included in Council's budget.

The Chair asked for a report to the Subcommittee on the equity of students selected for Sister Cities travel before deciding on 4 June 2024.

Cross Valley Link

The Director Economy and Development advised that officers were awaiting government direction on funding priorities and its associated infrastructure outcomes. He mentioned that more information would be included in a comprehensive business case to be delivered by Council and Waka Kōtahi.

Micromobility programme

The Director Economy and Development agreed to report to the Subcommittee on 4 June 2024 regarding cycleway options if government funding was not received. He advised that the report's completion would depend on having the necessary information available in time for the meeting.

The Chair asked that the report include options, such as budget allocation and project priorities, in case government subsidy was not forthcoming.

In response to a question from a member, the Group Chief Financial Officer agreed to report to the Subcommittee on whether the capital budget for cycleways would be included in the final three years of the draft Long Term Plan at the meeting on 4 June 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 3.53pm and resumed at 4.03pm.

Cr Briggs left the meeting at 3.53pm.

RECOMMENDED: (Mayor Barry/Deputy Mayor Lewis)

Minute No. LTPAP 24208(2)

"That the Subcommittee recommends that Council:

- (1) notes that the public consultation on the draft Long Term Plan 2024-2034 took place from 2 April to 3 May 2024;
- (2) notes the separate report included in the agenda which provides the results and analysis of the public consultation and related feedback;
- (3) agrees to the budget and policy matters as detailed in Table 2 contained in the report, included in the consultation process, as per the feedback and direction provided at the meeting;
- (4) agrees to the budget matters as detailed in Tables 3, 4 and 5 as per the feedback and direction provided at the meeting;
- (5) notes that further advice is to be presented to the Long Term Plan/Annual Plan Subcommittee meeting on 4 June 2024 relating to RiverLink, Infrastructure Acceleration Fund projects and Wellington Water Limited advice;
- (6) notes the latest projected debt and balanced operating budget results, as detailed in Section G and graphs 2 and 3;
- (7) agrees the fees and charges to be included in the final Long Term Plan 2024-2034, refer to Section F contained in the report and as per feedback provided at

the meeting;

- (8) notes that officers found cost savings and re-prioritised within the base budget to balance rising costs where possible, which is reflected in the proposed rates revenue increase of 16.9% (after growth);
- (9) endorses the rates revenue increase of at least 16.9% plus a 1.1% growth assumption for 2024-25 as set out in Sections G and H of the officer's report, subject to further information to be provided at the 4 June 2024 meeting;
- (10) endorses the adjustments to the rates revenue increases for full 10-year period of the final Long Term Plan as detailed in table 6, subject to further information to be provided at the 4 June 2024 meeting; and
- (11) notes the further direction and guidance provided to officers ahead of the preparation of the final Long Term Plan 2024-2034 reports and advice to be presented to the Long Term Plan/Annual Plan Subcommittee on 4 June 2024."

c) Development and Financial Contributions Policy 2024 Update

Dwayne Fletcher, from Vale Consulting, was in attendance for the item (via audio-visual link).

Dwayne Fletcher elaborated on the report and shared a presentation that can be viewed here: <u>Decisions for Final Development and Development</u> <u>Contributions Policy</u>. He highlighted two significant proposed changes to the Development and Financial Contributions Policy 2024 (the policy):

- adding a category for 'four plus bedroom' houses to ensure fair funding for development contributions; and
- the new growth programme by Council would be covered under the principle that growth pays for growth. This would increase charges, especially for the valley floor and Wainuiomata.

Cr Tupou joined the meeting at 11.10am.

Dwayne Fletcher advised that while submitters had been mostly indifferent, more were in favour of the policy than against it. He mentioned that if Council chose to implement the development contribution changes, the variance would need to be financed through a loan.

In response to questions from members, Dwayne Fletcher provided the following advice:

- it would be reasonable to anticipate a similar level of development to occur over the next 10 years.
- the higher charges proposed for some areas were not expected to discourage development in those places since the increases were small relative to house values.
- if development were only part of community housing, the development contributions charge would be applied in two parts.
- the policy excludes Kainga Ora housing, so any changes in their structure would not affect the policy.
- if the sale and purchase agreements fell through, remissions for the owners of developments might need to be retrospective.
- the level of development contributions Council received would not be affected by staged development contributions. Staged development Contributions could be included in the final policy for adoption.
- residential developments from 2013-2018 included approximately 16% of four-plus bedroom units.

- the recommended option of a 20% reduction in year one would not result in a leap in charges from year two. From 2027, the revised Long Term Plan charges would need to be reviewed.
- environmental mitigations should be assessed based on merit.
 Detention tanks should not be considered a mitigation as they do not reduce property discharges.

In response to a question from a member, the Chief Executive explained that a clawback period would apply if a Community Housing Provider (CHP) decided to sell a development on the open market.

In response to questions from members, the Group Chief Financial Officer suggested that Council could reconsider the policy in a year once there was more clarity on government housing policy changes. She explained that a rates-funded fund for CHP remissions had been proposed to avoid increasing debt and incurring higher interest. She estimated that the 20-30 CHP units built annually would utilise \$500,000 in remissions.

In response to questions from members, the Director Economy and Development said there were still pending road improvements for intensively developed streets. He also noted that approximately 100 streets still needed to be assessed. He expressed doubt that Council would secure funding for the necessary work through government's Land Transport Policy.

The Chair said he would ask the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee to consider a targeted review of development contributions in its work programme.

Members provided their preferred direction for Dwayne Fletcher's summary in the presentation.

Mayor Barry suggested gradually increasing development contributions over a three-year period for the valley floor, following option 2 in the officer's report. He also recommended implementing a clawback period of 15 years for CHPs' remissions. He asked officers to provide additional advice for the Subcommittee meeting on 4 June 2024.

Members discussed assessments conducted in bedrooms for housing units with four-plus bedrooms.

The Chair asked that officers supply additional information on the requirement proposed in the policy for 'four plus bedroom' houses.

RECOMMENDED: (Mayor Barry/Cr Stallinger) Minute No. LTPAP 24209(2)

"That the Subcommittee recommends that Council:

- (1) notes the separate report, which provides the results and analysis of the public consultation and related feedback;
- (2) agrees to the proposed project changes as detailed in table 1 of the officer's report for the final Development and Financial Contributions Policy 2024;
- (3) based on feedback from within our consultation process, agrees to option 2 for development contribution charges, which would see Development Contributions for the valley floor catchment increase over a three-year period;
- (4) supports the introduction of a Development Contributions remission for registered Community Housing providers as proposed in Section D of the officer's report;
- (5) agrees to change the assessment rate for aged care rooms to 0.4 EHUs for water, wastewater, and stormwater and to 0.2 EHUs for transport;
- (6) agrees to change the assessment rate for retirement units to 0.4 EHUs for transport;
- (7) agrees to maintain the extension of bedroom-based assessment to four or more bedrooms;
- (8) asks the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee to consider within its workplan any further review of targeted Development Contribution remissions to help support broader city outcomes; and
- (9) notes the further direction and guidance provided to officers ahead of the preparation of the final Development and Financial Contributions policy 2024 to be presented to the Long Term Plan/Annual Plan Subcommittee on 4 June 2024."

d) Petone Wharf and assets update

The Director Neighbourhoods and Communities elaborated on the report.

The Chair advised the following:

- independent advice would be sought to ensure that \$12M for the Petone Wharf repair would be sufficient for the work.
- the officers would advise on the tender process and timeframes.
- the Petone Wharf would be demolished if the budget did not allow remediation.

In response to questions from members, the Director Neighbourhoods and Communities provided the following advice:

• a report would be commissioned to assess the lifetime costs, conduct

a quantitative risk assessment, and provide a timeline for the repair of the Petone Wharf. This would help officers in managing the cost of the process. Additionally, an updated report on the cost of demolishing the Petone Wharf would be commissioned.

- the risk for the Petone Wharf project had been set at a P95 rating, but officers would seek advice.
- officers would seek advice from project leaders regarding the need for an engineering report before inviting tenders. An engineering report would ensure cost certainty.
- the additional budget allocated to the Petone Grandstand was meant to cover the cost of retaining the roof and seating.
- \$5M was the initial cost estimate for repairing the Petone Library building, excluding additional work or upgrades. Further assessment would be required to scope the project properly.

Mayor Barry asked that officers provide advice on the P-rating needed at Petone Wharf before the Subcommittee meeting on 4 June 2024. He emphasised the significance of Council engaging with the Petone Community Board, the Petone Steering Group, and the Save Petone Wharf campaign throughout the independent process Council was organising. He stressed the importance of all parties having trust in the process.

RECOMMENDATION: (Mayor Barry/Cr Edwards)

Minute No. LTPAP 24210(2)

"That the Subcommittee recommends that Council:

- (1) directs officers to commission an independent report to consider the options for Petone Wharf, including the merits of different technology, heritage aspects, lifetime costs and associated risks;
- (2) agrees for the report to be considered by the Petone Community Board and the Pito One Steering Group for feedback before being considered by Council for a decision on which option to progress;
- (3) agrees to budget a maximum cap of \$12M in the Long Term Plan (LTP) 2024-34 for Petone Wharf, and any options explored through the independent process must not exceed this budget;
- (4) agrees to budget \$5M in the LTP 2024-34 to repair Petone Library, noting this is a high-level estimate, and the facility is in poor condition; and
- (5) agrees to budget \$3M in the LTP 2024-34 for Petone Recreation Ground Grandstand and directs officers to report back on options for the grandstand, including the toilets and changing block."

The meeting adjourned at 12.48pm and resumed at 1.17pm.

e) Update on Huia Pool refurbishment and decarbonisation project

The Director Neighbourhoods and Communities elaborated on the report.

In response to questions from members, the Director Neighbourhoods and Communities mentioned that \$4.1M from the Assets Maintenance and Renewals Contingency Fund (the fund) had been redirected to the work on the Huia Pool. She anticipated that there would be fewer requests for maintenance and renewals from the fund due to Council's Asset Management Plans.

RECOMMENDATION: (Mayor Barry/Cr Brown) Minute No. LTPAP 24211(2)

"That the Subcommittee recommends that Council:

- (1) notes the increased cost of the Huia Pool refurbishment and decarbonisation projects;
- (2) notes the options provided by officers;
- (3) agrees to option 1 progressing the projects in 2024/25 as planned; and
- (4) agrees to fund this by reallocating \$0.9M from lower-priority projects within the decarbonisation programme and reducing the Assets Maintenance and Renewals contingency fund to \$670k over the 10 years of the Long Term Plan."
- f) Proposed initiative to improve equity in access to aquatic services

The Director Neighbourhoods and Communities elaborated on the report.

In response to questions from members, the Head of Aquatics explained that discounted access and free entry for their caregivers were already provided for individuals with disabilities.

In response to questions from members, the Director of Neighbourhood and Communities explained that offering free casual entry for all Community Services Card holders would result in a substantial revenue loss. She agreed to calculate the estimated revenue loss if discounted casual entry was provided to Lower Hutt pools. She committed to sharing the financial modelling with members at the upcoming Subcommittee meeting on 4 June 2024.

RECOMMENDED: (Mayor Barry/Cr Mitchell) **Minute No. LTPAP 24212(2)**

"That the Subcommittee recommends that Council:

(1) notes officers were asked to provide options for elected members to consider which would provide better equity in access to aquatic services; and

(2) agrees to the proposed option of 'under 10s swim free where whānau have a Community Services Card."

The meeting moved to the public excluded business part of the meeting at 1.28pm. The public part of the meeting resumed at 2.05pm.

6. **QUESTIONS**

There were no questions.

7. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: (Mayor Barry/Deputy Mayor Lewis) Minute No. LTPAP 24213(2)

"That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

8. Long Term Plan 2024-34 Financial aspects - Supplementary savings information

The general subject 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(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

(A) (B) (C)

General subject of the matter to be considered.

Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter.

Ground under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution.

Long Term Plan 2024-34 Financial aspects - Supplementary savings information.

The withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons. (\$7(2)(a)). The withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) (\$7(2)(i)).

That 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 exist.

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as specified in Column (B) above."

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at $4.06\ \mathrm{pm}$.

C Barry CHAIR

CONFIRMED as a true and correct record Dated this 25th day of July 2024