

**MINUTES OF WESTERN BAY OF PLENTY DISTRICT COUNCIL
STRATEGY AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING NO. SPC23-3
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BARKES CORNER, 1484 CAMERON ROAD, TAURANGA
ON THURSDAY, 25 MAY 2023 AT 9.30AM**

1 PRESENT

Mayor J Denyer (Chairperson), Cr R Crawford (Deputy Chairperson), Cr T Coxhead, Cr G Dally, Cr M Murray-Benge, Deputy Mayor J Scrimgeour, Cr A Sole, and Cr A Wichers

VIA ZOOM

Cr M Grainger, Cr A Henry, Cr R Joyce and Cr D Thwaites

2 IN ATTENDANCE

J Holyoake (Chief Executive Officer), R Davie (General Manager Strategy and Community), A Henderson (General Manager Corporate Services), G Golding (Governance Manager), M Leighton (Policy and Planning Manager), N Rutland (Environmental Planning Manager), K McGinity (Senior Policy Analyst), M Va'ai Matatai (Senior Environmental Planner), H Wi Repa (Governance Systems Advisor), and P Osborne (Senior Governance Advisor)

VIA ZOOM

G Allis (Deputy CEO/General Manager Infrastructure Group), A Ali (Chief Financial Officer), T Miller (Strategic Advisor Resource Management) and C Hughes (Systems Advisor Policy and Planning)

3 APOLOGIES

Nil

4 CONSIDERATION OF LATE ITEMS

Nil

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

6 PUBLIC EXCLUDED ITEMS

Nil

7 PUBLIC FORUM

Nil

8 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

9 REPORTS

CHANGE TO ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chairperson requested that the next item of business be '9.2 SmartGrowth Quarterly Report – May 2023' in order to release the Strategic Advisor Resource Management from the meeting.

RESOLUTION SPC23-3.1

Moved: Cr R Crawford

Seconded: Cr A Sole

That in accordance with Standing Orders the order of business be changed and that the item '9.2 SmartGrowth Quarterly Report – May 2023' be dealt with as the first item of business.

CARRIED

9.1 SMARTGROWTH QUARTERLY REPORT – MAY 2023

The Committee considered a report dated 25 May 2023 from the Strategic Advisor Resource Management. The report was taken as read with the below points noted:

- The quarterly report provided highlights of where Council was at in relation to the SmartGrowth Strategy.
- The 'Housing and Business Development Capacity' assessment had been completed, which input directly into the SmartGrowth Strategy, and Future Development Strategy.
- An update on our priority development areas had been provided, with the most notable being Ōmokoroa.

The below comments were made by Elected Members:

- There was concern that the cost of housing in Tauranga and Western Bay needed to be addressed.
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- There were other areas that needed to be addressed if housing was to continue to increase in Ōmokoroa. Rooding and traffic issues that communities out west were already experiencing would be exacerbated.
 - If National were successful in the 2023 election, they had said they would review the current agreement relating to Medium Density Residential Standards (MDRS).
 - SmartGrowth was established to provide integrated planning, noting that the housing problems we were facing were complex.
 - It would be good to see more work undertaken in areas of concern. It seemed that legislation and regulations created barriers when it came to building additional housing.
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RESOLUTION SPC23-3.2

Moved: Cr A Sole

Seconded: Deputy Mayor J Scrimgeour

1. That the Strategic Advisor Resource Management's report dated 25 May 2023, titled 'SmartGrowth Quarterly Report – May 2023', be received.
2. That the report relates to an issue that is considered to be of low significance in terms of Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

CARRIED

Cr Murrery-Benge voted against the motion and requested that her vote be recorded.

9.2 REVIEW OF THE SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT POLICY 2020

The Committee considered a report dated 25 May 2023 from the Policy Analyst. The report was taken as read with the below points noted:

- The paper presented the Significance and Engagement Policy, which was reviewed every three years.
- There was general agreement that this remained fit for purpose.
- There was a range of criteria that was used to consider the significance of an item, which was still relevant at this point in time.
- This policy may require further review depending on how the Affordable Waters Reform progressed.

Staff responded to questions as below:

- Council had the ability to override a staff recommendation in relation to the significance and engagement on an item. Council could also request for staff to carry out further engagement if it saw fit.
 - The parameters outlined within the policy, in relation to the level of financial consequence of the proposal or decision, were unlike other matters for
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consideration. The other matters for consideration did not require the same level of parameters.

- The financial thresholds were one of the tools used to guide the decisions relating to the level of significance. There was a comment that these thresholds were too high, which could take away from the consultation that would be required if the thresholds were lower.
 - It was clarified that when presented with reports, Council did have the ability to change the level of significance if they felt strongly that it needed to be.
 - The \$8 Million specified in the financial thresholds referred to the capital expenditure where as the 5% referred to the rates impact.
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RESOLUTION SPC23-3.3

Moved: Cr M Murray-Benge

Seconded: Cr T Coxhead

1. That the Policy Analyst's report dated 25 May 2023 titled 'Review of the Significance and Engagement Policy 2020' be received.
2. That the report relates to an issue that is considered to be of **low** significance in terms of Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.
3. That the Significance and Engagement Policy, included as **Attachment 1** to this report, be adopted.

CARRIED

9.3 SUBMISSION TO THE REVIEW OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT (INFRINGEMENT OFFENCES) REGULATIONS 1991

The Committee considered a report dated 25 May 2023 from the Policy Analyst. The report was taken as read.

RESOLUTION SPC23-3.4

Moved: Cr R Crawford

Seconded: Deputy Mayor J Scrimgeour

1. That the Policy Analyst's report dated 25 May 2023 titled 'Submission to the Review of the Resource Management Act (Infringement Offences) Regulations 1991' be received.
 2. That the following submission, shown as **Attachment 1** to this report, is received by the Strategy and Policy Committee and the information is noted.
 - a. Submission on the Review of the Resource Management Act (Infringement Offences) Regulations, dated 31 March 2023.
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CARRIED

9.4 SUBMISSION ON “CHARGING OUR FUTURE: A DRAFT LONG-TERM ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STRATEGY FOR AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND.”

The Committee considered a report from the Strategic Advisor: Legislative Reform and Special Projects dated 25 May 2023. The report was taken as read.

Staff responded to questions as below:

- It was confirmed that within the submission, Council would support Central Government funding and subsidies to provide for public charging stations and onsite home-based solutions. At this stage, this was a submission and not a firm proposal.
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RESOLUTION SPC23-3.5

Moved: Cr M Murray-Benge

Seconded: Mayor J Denyer

1. That the Strategic Advisor: Legislative Reform and Special Projects report dated 25 May 2023 titled ‘Submission on “Charging our Future: A Draft Long-Term Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy for Aotearoa New Zealand” be received.
2. That the submission, shown as **Attachment 1** to this report, is received by the Strategy and Policy Committee and the information is noted.

CARRIED

9.5 WESTERN BAY OF PLENTY DISTRICT COUNCIL SUBMISSION TO THE OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION REFORMS IN THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

The Committee considered a report dated 25 May 2023 from the Senior Environmental Planner. The report was taken as read.

Staff responded to questions as below:

- It was never ok for Council staff to suffer abuse when out in the field. However, it was acknowledged that this was a natural consequence of being a consent authority within the regulatory environment.
 - Council’s responsibility under the Building Act 2004 was to administer the building code, which ensured that any building/structure built was safe for occupants.
 - It was noted that all Council staff within this particular space were highly qualified, and required to maintain competency regularly. Tension was sometimes felt between Council and tradespeople, who did not necessarily
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understand how the building code changed and evolved. There was also quantitative evidence that suggested Council offered an incredibly good service within the building services space.

- It was noted that a Code of Conduct may not necessarily address the abusive behaviour issue raised through the submission.
- Within the submission, it was noted that Council agreed with the proposal that a supervision endorsement was needed for Licensed Building Practitioner's (LBPs), which would help provide a level of confidence in the supervision work being undertaken.
- Council had Health and Safety procedures in place for all regulatory services, particularly for those where staff were working out in the field. In the event of a conflict, which did not happen often, staff were trained to de-escalate the situation. Further detail relating to Health and Safety would come through the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee.
- Council had historically surveyed the building services sector however, the final customer was not necessarily the agent that Council dealt with. Council was looking at mechanisms (technology solutions) to collect 'just in time' feedback from their consultant community in the future. There was support from Elected Members in relation to this idea.
- The submission had been produced in close conjunction with the Building Services team.
- There was a comment in relation to the review of the Registered Architects Act 2005, and an observation that there was an existing Code of Ethics and Conduct for architects. The comments in the submission implied these were not being enforced.

RESOLUTION SPC23-3.6

Moved: Cr R Crawford

Seconded: Mayor J Denyer

1. That the Senior Environmental Planner's report dated 25 May 2023, titled 'Western Bay of Plenty District Council Submission to the Occupational Regulation Reforms in the Building and Construction Sector' be received.
2. That the attached submission (**Attachment 1** of the agenda report) be received by the Strategy and Policy Committee and the information noted.

CARRIED

10 INFORMATION FOR RECEIPT

Nil

The Meeting closed at 10.18am.

Confirmed as a true and correct record by Council on 29 June 2023.