

Minutes of 514th meeting of the Canterbury Regional Council held in the Council Chamber, 200 Tuam Street, Christchurch and by audio-visual link due to the COVID-19 situation on Thursday, 21 May 2020 at 11.07am

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Present

In the Council Chamber

Chair Jenny Hughey, Councillors Phil Clearwater, Grant Edge, Megan Hands, Ian Mackenzie, Nicole Marshall, Claire McKay, Craig Pauling, Vicky Southworth and John Sunckell.

By audio-visual link

Deputy Chair Peter Scott, Councillors Elizabeth McKenzie and Lan Pham

Management and officers present

Stefanie Rixecker (Acting Chief Executive), Tafflyn Bradford-James (Director Communications), Tim Davie (Acting Director Science), Nadeine Dommissie (Chief Operating Officer), Miles McConway (Director Finance and Corporate Services), Katherine Trought (Director Strategy and Planning), Catherine Schache (General Counsel), Katherine Harbrow (Chief Financial Officer), Cindy Butt (Team Leader Governance Services) and Louise McDonald (Senior Committee Advisor).

Report writers and other staff were also present.

1. **Welcome, Mihi Whakatau and Karakia**

Due to the COVID-19 situation and social distancing requirements this meeting was held with some members present in the Council Chamber and some members present using an audio-visual link.

Chair Hughey welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Cr Pauling to open the meeting with a karakia.

Cr Pauling thanked all those who had provided feedback on the draft Annual Plan. He thanked the staff who had managed the process in the difficult situation during the COVID-19 lockdown. He opened the meeting with a karakia.

Chair Hughey also expressed gratitude to members of the community who had provided written feedback and those who spoke at the hearings. She confirmed that Councillors had received the following documents circulated separately from the agenda:

- Item 5.1 report from the Performance, Audit & Risk Committee - attachment 2 the financial summary.
- Item 6.1 Deliberations on the draft Annual Plan - additional information on public transport.

2. **Apology**

Tane Apanui

3. **Conflicts of interest**

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

4. **Deputations and Petitions**

There were no deputations or petitions.

5. **Committee Reports**

5.1 **Standing Committees**

5.1.1 **Performance, Audit and Risk Committee**

Refer pages 7 to 14 of the agenda plus the summary of financial reports circulated separately

Cr Sunckell presented this item. It was noted that the summary of the financial reports presented were for the period to 30 April 2020.

Resolved

That the Council:

1. receives and confirms as a correct record the minutes of the Performance, Audit and Risk Committee meeting held 30 April 2020.
2. receives the summary of the financial reports for the period ending 30 April 2020.
3. notes the resolutions made by the Committee under delegated authority

Cr Sunckell/Cr Edge
CARRIED

6. Matters for Council Decision

6.1 Deliberations of the Draft Annual Plan 2020/21

Refer to pages 15 to 93 of the agenda plus the additional information on public transport circulated separately.

Chair Hughey invited the Portfolio Leads to provide comment on the community feedback received during the engagement on the draft Annual Plan.

Transport and Urban Development

Cr Clearwater reported that the feedback received was supportive of public transport, reducing emissions and using electric buses. There was some concern about using rates to support public services but the majority of the feedback requested improvements to public transport.

The provision of free public transport had been requested but Cr Clearwater commented that this would impact on all ratepayers and public transport in Christchurch was cheaper than in other regions.

Addressing the concerns raised by Waimakariri District Council he advised that the proposed public transport rate increase for Waimakariri was being reviewed.

Other issues raised included services to Selwyn District, and multi modal approaches including rail were noted. These will be considered in other processes including the Long Term Plan.

Climate Change, Risk and Resilience

Cr Southworth thanked everyone who had read the draft Annual Plan and provided feedback. She acknowledged the feedback provided by the Youth Rōpū and their fear about climate change.

Cr McKenzie also noted the strong support for action on climate change.

Freshwater Management

Cr McKay acknowledged that freshwater management and the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) were core functions of the Council. She noted the importance of the feedback provided but cautioned that 160 responses did not provide a strong mandate.

There was general support for the CWMS and the direction of work on freshwater management moving from planning to implementation.

Some of the feedback that was provided on freshwater management pointed out the difficult economic times due to the COVID-19 situation.

Concerns were raised from the feedback included water quality and quantity, compliance and monitoring, and resourcing for meeting the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater. There were requests for focusing on urban waterways, braided rivers and high-country lakes.

Cr Marshall thanked those who had provided feedback and noted that water is front and centre of the Council's work

Biodiversity and Biosecurity

Cr Pham reported that the feedback recognised the importance of biodiversity and work on regeneration. There was support for increasing, or at least maintaining, funding for wetlands, pest management and compliance. There was feedback on the need to control the spread of wilding pines and weeds. An interesting presentation was received about connecting people to nature.

Air Quality

Cr Scott noted the support for work on improving air quality and the need to address pollution from home heating and industry. Greenhouse gas emissions were raised and he advised that issue currently sat with the hazard's portfolio. There were no financial implications from the feedback for the Annual Plan as any changes would be addressed through the Long Term Plan.

Regional Leadership

Cr Scott advised that most of the feedback relating to the Regional Leadership portfolio was supportive. Areas that identified for improvement included compliance monitoring and effort on climate change.

Resolved

That the Council:

- 1. receives the summary of the public engagement on the draft Annual Plan 2020/21 and staff advice (attachment 1 to the agenda) and agrees that the summary is an accurate reflection on the community feedback received.**

Cr McKay/Cr Edge
CARRIED

Resolved

That the Council:

- 1. receives the supplementary information on public transport.**

Cr Clearwater/Cr Marshall
CARRIED

The Chair referred the meeting to the recommendation in the officers' report to consider the rates options on pages 20 to 22 of the agenda and moved option 4 for discussion.

MOTION

Moved Chair Hughey/seconded Cr Pham

That the Council:

1. directs staff to bring forward a 4% total rates increase which includes the 2.3% baseline and adds 0.9% general reserve allocation and an amount for public transport service improvements.

AMENDMENT

An amendment was moved by Cr Pham/seconded Cr Pauling

That the Council:

1. allocates the 0.9% of the proposed 4% rate rise to:
 - a) 0.5% Coastal Environment Plan \$500,000
 - b) 0.15% Climate Engagement Programme \$150,000
 - c) 0.24 planting and regeneration (Me Uru Rakau) \$250,000

Members debated the amendment. Speakers in support of the amendment noted that feedback from the community had highlighted the coastal plan, climate and planting as key issues. Speakers against the amendment did not support ring fencing the 0.9%. There was concern that the proposed 4% rate rise was too high in the new COVID-19 environment.

Cr Sunckell foreshadowed another amendment.

The amendment was put and CARRIED as follows:

Resolved

That the Council:

1. allocates the 0.9% of the proposed 4% rate rise to:
 - a) 0.5% Coastal Environment Plan \$500,000
 - b) 0.15% Climate Engagement Programme \$150,000
 - c) 0.24% planting and regeneration (Me Uru Rakau) \$250,000.

Cr Pham/Cr Pauling
CARRIED

AMENDMENT

An amendment was moved by Cr Sunckell/seconded Cr McKay

That the Council:

1. Reduce the proposed rates rise to 3.1% by removing 0.9% allocated to the three projects: Coastal Environment Plan, Climate Engagement Programme and Me Uru Rakau.

POINT OF ORDER

A point of order was raised that this amendment was a direct negative and would negate the original motion [Standing Order 3.9.12].

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned between 12.56 and 1.20pm to seek advice on the point of order.

RECONVENE

The meeting reconvened at 1.20pm.

The General Counsel advised the Chair on the point of order. On the basis of that advice the Chair concluded that Cr Sunckell's amendment was not a direct negative as it proposed a 3.1% rate rise as opposed to a 4% rate rise.

Members debated the amendment. Speakers in support of Cr Sunckell's amendment suggested that the three projects identified for the 0.9% represented additional expenditure. There needs to be a conversation about how these will be funded. In the current economic environment borrowing could be considered as interest rates are low. Many people in the community are facing unemployment and financial hardship and rates need to be kept as low as possible.

Those not in support of the amendment acknowledged the economic environment following the outbreak of COVID-19 but felt that the three projects identified were important and needed to be progressed. There was strong feedback from the community in support of the Council progressing this work.

The amendment was then put and was LOST

That the Council:

1. Reduce the proposed rates rise to 3.1% by removing 0.9% allocated to the three projects: Coastal Environment Plan, Climate Engagement Programme and Me Uru Rakau.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned between 2.17 and 2.13pm

RECONVENE

The meeting reconvened at 2.13pm.

The successful motion became part of the substantive motion and was then put and CARRIED as follows:

Resolved

That the Council:

1. **Directs staff to bring forward a 4% total rates increase which includes the 2.3% sustainable baseline Consumer Price Index (CPI) type increase, plus staff recommendations in the Public Transport Supplementary Paper of 0.76% with the balance being allocated to:**

- a) (0.5%) \$500k for Coastal Environment Plan
- b) (0.15%) \$150k for Climate Engagement Programme
- c) (0.25%) \$250k for Me Uru Rakau

Chair Hughey/Cr Pham
CARRIED

Crs Hands, Mackenzie, McKay, Scott and Sunckell requested that their vote against this resolution be recorded.

The meeting then considered the remaining recommendations on page 15 of the agenda.

Resolved

That the Council:

1. **refers the Liability Management and Investment Policy to the Performance, Audit and Risk Committee for that Committee to review the Policy to ensure appropriate flexibility exists to borrow for projects or operating expenditure needs that may emerge.**

Cr Sunckell/Cr Hands
CARRIED

Resolved

That the Council:

1. **directs the Acting Chief Executive to complete the finalised document and the associated rating resolutions for the Annual Plan 2020/21 ready for Council adoption 18 June 2020.**

Cr Pauling/Cr Clearwater
CARRIED

The Chair thanked Councillors for the debate and staff for all the hard work that had gone into the Annual Plan process.

7.0 Exclusion of the Public

Refer page 94 of the agenda.

Resolved

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

1. **Performance, Audit and Risk Committee minutes**

The general subject of the matters to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution 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:

Item No.	Report	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
1.	Performance, Audit and Risk Committee minutes	Good reason to withhold exists under section 7	Section 48(1)(a)

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 section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceeding of the meeting in public are as follows:

Item No.	
1.	<p>Enable the Council holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations). (Section 7(2)(i))</p> <p>Protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information – Section 7(2)(b)(ii)</p>

2. That appropriate officers remain to provide advice to the Committee.

Cr Marshall/Cr McKay
CARRIED

The meeting went into public excluded session from 2.22 to 2.25pm.

Confirmation of decision in open meeting

During the public excluded part of the 14 May meeting, the Council received and adopted the minutes of the public excluded part of the meeting held on 21 April to appoint the Acting Chief Executive. This decision can now be publicly released.

Resolved

That the Council:

- Confirms in open meeting the decision made on 21 April 2020 to appoint Stefanie Rixecker as Acting Chief Executive from 2 May 2020 until the date on which a permanently appointed Chief Executive commences employment.**

Cr Pauling/Cr McKenzie
CARRIED

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Notices of motion

There were no notices of motion.

10. Questions

There were no questions.

11. **Next meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 18 June 2020.

12. **Mihi/Karakia whakamutunga – closing acknowledgements and blessing**

The Chair thanked everyone for their participation and invited Cr Pauling to lead the karakia.

Cr Pauling stood acknowledged and thanked the community, staff and councillors for their involvement in the draft Annual Plan.

The meeting closed at 2.30pm.

CONFIRMED

Date 18 June 2020


_____ Chair