

Orākei Local Board OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of the Orākei Local Board held in the St Chads Church and Community Centre, 38 St Johns Road, Meadowbank on Thursday, 23 April 2015 at 5.00pm.

PRESENT

Chairperson	Desley Simpson, JP
Deputy Chairperson	Colin Davis, JP
Members	Ken Baguley Troy Churton Kit Parkinson Mark Thomas

ABSENT

Kate Cooke

ALSO PRESENT

Councillor	Cameron Brewer
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1 Welcome

2 Apologies

Resolution number OR/2015/25

MOVED by Chairperson DEC Simpson, seconded by Deputy Chairperson CRJ Davis:

That the Orākei Local Board:

- a) **accepts the apology from Board Member Cooke.**

CARRIED

3 Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Leave of Absence

There were no leaves of absence.

5 Acknowledgements

There were no acknowledgements.

6 Petitions

There were no petitions.

7 Deputations

There were no deputations.

8 Public Forum

There was no public forum.

9 Extraordinary Business

There was no extraordinary business.

10 Notices of Motion

There were no notices of motion.

11 Feedback for the Orakei Local Board on the draft Long-term Plan 2015 – 2025 consultation

Resolution number OR/2015/26

MOVED by Chairperson DEC Simpson, seconded by Member M Thomas:

That the Orākei Local Board:

- i) **receives the report and the attached feedback from Orākei submitters on the draft Long-term Plan 2015 – 2025.**

- ii) delegates the Chair and Deputy Chair to provide feedback on the draft Long-term Plan 2015-2025 on behalf of the Orakei Local Board during discussions with the Auckland Council Budget Committee.
- iii) requests that the governing body amend the draft LTP to bring forward the upgrade of the Meadowbank Community Centre from 2020/21 to 2015/16.
- iv) notes that while the views of Orakei residents are fairly clear and consistent with those expressed in other forums, it considers some of the LTP consultation included leading questions that are likely to have favoured certain responses.
- v) notes that a majority of submitters expressed support for the Orakei Local Board's proposals.
- vi) notes the Orakei Local Board area again received one of the highest number of submissions at 1,648.
- vii) notes that 80 per cent of Orakei submitters support an "average" rates increase of less than 3.5 per cent which is exactly the same as the regional result.
- viii) requests the Budget Committee of the Auckland Council to find at least the approximately \$15 million required to reduce the "average" rates increase from 3.5 per cent to 2.5 per cent.
- ix) notes the overwhelming direction from submitters to spend less in the Governance and Support areas of council and also the strong support for less spending in Economic and Cultural areas.
- x) notes that achieving a \$15 million saving would require only a 1.7 per cent reduction in the \$900 million annual staff and consultants expenses.
- xi) notes Orakei submitters are not convinced by the Auckland Plan transport network proposals, with 60 per cent supporting another option.
- xii) notes that 64 per cent of Orakei submitters oppose the Mayors investment plan for Auckland.
- xiii) notes that only 30 per cent of Orakei submitters support the Uniform Annual General Charge rate at the current level.
- xiv) believes that this lack of support for the Auckland Plan transport network proposals is likely to be because they do not include the Orakei Board's top transport priorities, which include progressing Tamaki Drive Master Plan projects and the Selwyn Train Station proposal.
- xv) confirms the following list of advocacy points, based on community feedback and board member discussions, for its workshop with the Budget Committee on 29 April 2015:

Regional Proposals - top four consultation topics

Investing in Auckland

The Orakei Local Board supports an overall rates increase of 2.5 per cent, not the proposed 3.5 per cent increase. The Orakei community is also strongly opposed to the 3.5 per cent increase. The Board and its constituents support making savings in the governance and support activity area and reviewing the operating expenditure on Ports of Auckland that is included in this line. We do not feel confident ratepayers are getting value for money from this expenditure; for example some of the planning work council and its subsidiaries undertake seems to serve little purpose. We also support making savings in the economic and cultural activity area.

Fixing Transport

Neither the basic transport network nor the Auckland Plan transport network provide positive transport solutions for the Orakei Local Board area. The board's top priority advocacy projects, which have been extensively consulted on with residents, are not included in either option: developing a new train station behind Selwyn College in the Pourewa valley and separating traffic along Tamaki Drive through THE-C boardwalk. The cases for tolls or petrol taxes have not been well made and more time is needed to better explain and consult with our residents on these options before a preferred option can be agreed.

Your Rates

The Orakei Local Board supports increasing the UAGC to \$500 as the burden on Orakei residential ratepayers is already too great. We also consider any reduction in the business differential should take into account the impact on residential ratepayers. There was more support for increasing the UAGC in Orakei than in the rest of the region and a large majority of Orakei LTP submitters opposed reducing the business differential. The board considers the business rates question was poorly framed and did not explain the council's policy on this issue. We support a 10 per cent cap on residential rates increases in 2015/16.

Housing and Development

Not enough information has been provided on this and from the Orakei Local Board's perspective it is not clear what the benefits are: it does not guarantee key Orakei placemaking projects, such as the Tamaki Drive Masterplan, will be advanced. A majority of Orakei LTP submitters opposed this initiative, in contrast to the rest of the region.

Local Priorities

Advocacy request	Activity area	Why is it a priority	Funding implications or options
Upgrade Meadowbank Community Centre	Parks, Community and Lifestyle	The facility has not been fit for purpose for a number of years and renovations have been deferred as demand has increased. As it is centrally located and easily accessible, an upgrade would benefit a wide area. Consultation on the LTP and the LBP showed a majority of the Orakei community support upgrading the centre. The Community Facilities Action Plan did not rate the project an 'action priority'.	The projected cost is \$3.6m. In the current LTP the project was scheduled for 2016/17 but this has been pushed back to 2020/21 in the proposed LTP. The Orakei Local Board requests that this is brought forward to 2015/16.
Advocate to the governing body	Governance and	This is a general advocacy point in response to the	No direct funding implications overall,

<p>for a more equitable balance between larger-scale regional initiatives and investment at the local level</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Orakei Local Board area paying the highest residential rates in the region and getting a relatively low level of council investment. The projects that are being progressed in the LTP do not always reflect local priorities. The Board proposes that local boards' top priorities should replace the lowest regional priorities.</p>	<p>but would result in a decrease in regional projects and an increase in local projects.</p>
<p>Reduce the burden on ratepayers</p>	<p>Governance and Support</p>	<p>A clear message from the Orakei community is that the rates burden is a significant issue for residents. In addition to increasing the UAGC, the Orakei Local Board asks that the governing body explore other options for keeping rates down, including reviewing its ownership of non-core elements of council's holdings in the port and the airport and slowing the move to fully fund depreciation.</p>	<p>No direct funding implications.</p>

CCO Priorities

<p>Advocacy request</p>	<p>Activity area</p>	<p>Why is it a priority</p>	<p>Funding implications or options</p>
<p>Tamaki Harbour Edge Connector boardwalk</p>	<p>AT - Cycleways and walkways</p>	<p>This is a priority project from the Tamaki Drive Masterplan, which was developed through community consultation. The community has expressed strong support for the project through the LTP and the Local Board Plan and the Orakei Local Board considers that insufficient progress has been made on this project since it was signed and endorsed by the mayor.</p>	<p>Not costed</p>

Advocacy request	Activity area	Why is it a priority	Funding implications or options
Selwyn/Pourewa Train Station	AT - Public transport	The Orakei community expressed strong support for this project through consultation on the LTP and the LBP. It contributes to the Auckland Plan transformational shift of moving to outstanding public transport within one network. AT is undertaking a feasibility study and this project must be included in the final LTP.	Not costed

Regional Proposals – other proposals with local impact

Comment on proposed level of service changes
The Orakei Local Board supports in principle efforts to drive efficiencies in council services. However, very little information has been provided about the proposed level of service changes in the Long-term Plan Revised Local Budgets document and we cannot endorse them until we have a clearer indication of the impact on our constituents. We also support further investigation of other options, such as the sale of non-core elements of council’s shareholdings in the port and airport that would allow council to minimise rates increases and maintain levels of service. Below are some specific comments on proposals to change services.

Proposal	Feedback	Funding implications or options
Standardise community library opening hours, including reducing central city library opening hours to match those of our local community libraries	The Orakei Local Board opposes levels of service cuts in libraries as this is a core council activity and the case has not been made for changes to the status quo. We do not support a reduction in number of opening hours.	See board proposals for minimising rates increases.
Remove some street gardens which have high maintenance and safety costs compared to the benefit they offer and replant some street gardens with low maintenance perennials	This is an example of a proposal where we need more information before commenting, for example: more detail about what is proposed, the potential savings compared with savings from other proposals, and a better indication of how this might affect street gardens in Orakei.	See board proposals for minimising rates increases.
Replace some shrubberies in local parks with grass and maintain	The board opposes service level cuts in this area as it was not consulted on and we do	See board proposals for minimising rates increases.

through mowing	not believe adequate information has been provided to make a judgement about the impact of this proposal.	
Reduce maintenance frequency (e.g. weeding) for shrubbery in local parks	The board opposes service level cuts in this area as it was not consulted on and we do not believe adequate information has been provided to make a judgement about the impact of this proposal. For example, no seasonal variation in the frequency of maintenance appears to have been considered.	See board proposals for minimising rates increases.
Greater use of sprays in parks, instead of mechanical means, for maintaining grass edges	The board opposes service level cuts in this area as it was not consulted on and we do not believe adequate information has been provided to make a judgement about the impact of this proposal.	See board proposals for minimising rates increases.
Increase the time taken to deliver new library collection items onto the library shelves and introduce a new fee when users do not pick up a request book from a library	We support a \$2 penalty charge for items that are requested but yet not picked up as disincentive to this costly behaviour.	Proposal has potential savings.

Proposal	Feedback	Funding implications or options
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing levels of community participation across the region • Communities contributing towards the achievement of outcomes that meet their priorities • Local prioritisation and delivery • Diverse community needs being recognised and responded to effectively • Council achieving better outcomes, tailored to local community priorities 	We support a community-led approach to community development and safety in principle but it is not clear how ready community groups are to take on this role. We would require a thorough assessment of community capacity and capability in each local board area before commenting	N/A

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A reduction in the cost to deliver community development activity, over time.		
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CARRIED

12 City Rail Link Update

Resolution number OR/2015/27

MOVED by Chairperson DEC Simpson, seconded by Deputy Chairperson CRJ Davis:

That the Orākei Local Board:

- a) thanks Stephen Rainbow, Key Relationship Manager and John Williamson, Funding Planning Manager from Auckland Transport for their update to the board.

CARRIED

13 Consideration of Extraordinary Items

There was no consideration of extraordinary items.

6.12 pm

The Chairperson thanked Members for their attendance and attention to business and declared the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD
AT A MEETING OF THE ORĀKEI LOCAL BOARD
HELD ON

DATE:.....

CHAIRPERSON:.....