
Devonport-Takapuna Local Board

OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board held in the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board Office, 1 The Strand, Takapuna on Tuesday, 7 July 2020 at 2.00pm.

PRESENT

Chairperson	Aidan Bennett, QSM
Deputy Chairperson	George Wood, CNZM
Members	Trish Deans Ruth Jackson Jan O'Connor, QSM Toni van Tonder

ABSENT

ALSO PRESENT

IN ATTENDANCE

1 Welcome/Karakia

Member Toni van Tonder opened the meeting with a karakia.

2 Apologies

There were no apologies.

3 Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolution number DT/2020/85

MOVED by Chairperson A Bennett, seconded by Member T van Tonder:

That the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board:

- a) **confirm the ordinary minutes of its meeting, held on Tuesday, 23 June 2020, as true and correct.**

CARRIED

5 Leave of Absence

There were no leaves of absence.

6 Acknowledgements

6.1 Garth Gilmore, James Young and Rob Hutchinson

Member J O'Connor and Deputy Chairperson G Wood spoke to this item.

Resolution number DT/2020/86

MOVED by Chairperson A Bennett, seconded by Member T van Tonder:

That the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board:

- a) **acknowledges the passing of Garth Gilmore, James Young and Rob Hutchinson.**

CARRIED

7 Petitions

There were no petitions.

8 Deputations

There were no deputations.

9 Public Forum

There was no public forum.

10 Extraordinary Business

There was no extraordinary business.

Note: The meeting was adjourned at 2.38pm and reconvened at 3.10pm.
All members were present.

11 Local Board input into the Emergency Budget 2020/2021 (Covering report)

A document was tabled. A copy has been placed on the official minutes and is available on the Auckland Council website as a minutes attachment.

Resolution number DT/2020/87

MOVED by Chairperson A Bennett, seconded by Member T van Tonder:

That the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board:

- a) **notes that the Chairperson has, on behalf of the local board, participated in workshops and meetings hosted by the Finance and Performance Committee regarding the preparation of the 2020/21 Emergency Budget, and that in arriving at its feedback the local board has considered information provided by council staff alongside the 1,668 submissions received from respondents residing in the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board area.**
- b) **supports an annual general rates increase of 3.5% for the 2020/21 financial year, as:**
 - i) **it reflects the nature of the feedback the board has received from its community in response to the question asked as part of consultation on the Emergency Budget (noting approximately 45% of all respondents from the local board area indicated support for the proposal);**
 - ii) **any rates increase set at a lower level (2.5% or lower, including no rates increase) would make post COVID-19 pandemic recovery exponentially more difficult; and**
 - iii) **any rates increase set at a lower level (2.5% or lower, including no rates increase) would result in council having to re-adjust other funding mechanisms accordingly to aid recovery, such as drastically increasing the debt-to-revenue ratio and relying more heavily on asset recycling / divestment as means to fund council activities.**
- c) **supports the introduction of a COVID-19 Rates Postponement Scheme for the 2020/21 financial year, as it:**
 - i) **reflects the nature of the feedback the board has received from its community in response to the question asked as part of consultation on the Emergency Budget (approximately 67% of all respondents from the local board area indicated support for the proposal); and**
 - ii) **allows ratepayers who are struggling financially as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic to defer up to \$20,000 of their rates for the 2020/21 financial year, noting that at the end of the postponement period ratepayers accessing the scheme would have until 30 June**

2022 to pay off the balance.

- d) **does not support the inclusion of interest and administration fees as part of the COVID-19 Rates Postponement Scheme.**
- e) **supports the suspension of the Accommodation Provider Targeted Rate (APTR) for hotels, motels, hostels and accommodation businesses until 31 March 2021; as it:**
 - i) **reflects the nature of the feedback the board has received from its community in response to the question asked as part of consultation on the Emergency Budget (approximately 73% of all respondents from the local board area indicated support for the proposal); and**
 - ii) **will assist the accommodation sector who are struggling financially as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic due to its negative impact on the tourism and accommodation industry, whilst noting that the APTR will only be charged for the last three months of the 2020/21 financial year (1 April – 30 June 2021).**
- f) **does not support the suspension of the Accommodation Provider Targeted Rate (APTR) for AirBnB properties or similar entities, as these properties are generally investments rather than businesses, and are fundamentally different to 'traditional' hotels, motels, hostels, and accommodation businesses.**

CARRIED

Resolution number DT/2020/88

MOVED by Chairperson A Bennett, seconded by Member T van Tonder:

That the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board:

- g) **accepts that the local board will need to absorb a 10% reduction in its locally driven initiative (LDI) operational budget for the 2020/21 financial year as part of a 3.5% rates increase as a result of lost revenue associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, and that the local board will work with council staff to identify agreed savings as part of the board's 2020/21 work programmes.**

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstained</u>
Chairperson A Bennett	Member T Deans	
Member T van Tonder	Member R Jackson	
Deputy Chairperson G Wood	Member J O'Connor	

The motion was declared **EQUAL**.

The chair exercised their casting vote for, so the motion was **Carried**.

CARRIED

Resolution number DT/2020/89

MOVED by Chairperson A Bennett, seconded by Member T van Tonder:

That the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board:

- h) **accepts that the local board will need to absorb additional savings through its asset based services (ABS) capital and operational budgets under a 3.5 % rates increase, noting that:**

- i) such savings will result in delaying the renewal of some assets for at least 12 months;
- ii) such savings will not include any reduction in budgets provided to those community organisations supported through ABS budgets that provide important services to the community and businesses during the post COVID-19 recovery period; and
- iii) the local board will work with council staff to identify agreed savings as part of the board's 2020/21 work programmes.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstained</u>
Chairperson A Bennett	Member T Deans	
Member T van Tonder	Member R Jackson	
Deputy Chairperson G Wood	Member J O'Connor	

The motion was declared **EQUAL**.

The chair exercised their casting vote for, so the motion was **Carried**.

CARRIED

Resolution number DT/2020/90

MOVED by Chairperson A Bennett, seconded by Member T van Tonder:

That the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board:

- i) **supports the concept of asset recycling and the sale of council assets / holdings as a means of increasing revenue to fund council initiatives, but only if those assets proposed for recycling or divestment have been identified as not serving any current or future service requirement.**

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstained</u>
Chairperson A Bennett	Member T Deans	
Member T van Tonder	Member R Jackson	
Deputy Chairperson G Wood	Member J O'Connor	

The motion was declared **EQUAL**.

The chair exercised their casting vote for, so the motion was **Carried**.

CARRIED

MOVED by Chairperson A Bennett, seconded by Member T van Tonder:

That the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board:

- j) **does not support the divestment or sale of park or reserve land or other open space that currently fulfils a service requirement, or any other land that has been identified as needed to respond to future growth / demand.**

MOVED by Member R Jackson, seconded by Member T Deans:

Member R Jackson moved an amendment to the original recommendation j) as follows:

- j) does not support the divestment or sale of park or reserve land or any other open space.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstained</u>
Member T Deans	Chairperson A Bennett	
Member R Jackson	Member T van Tonder	
Member J O'Connor	Deputy Chairperson G Wood	

The motion was declared **EQUAL**.

The chair exercised their casting vote against, so the motion was **Lost**.

LOST.

MOVED by Chairperson A Bennett, seconded by Member T van Tonder:

That the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board:

- k) reiterates aspects of its feedback on the draft Emergency Budget, which was provided to the Finance and Performance Committee by way of resolution at the board's 5 May 2020 meeting, as follows:
- i) the local board does not support any reduction or savings in maintenance, particularly in the areas of parks, reserves, footpaths, roading, open space and town centers;
 - ii) the local board supports consideration of a reduction in the funding of service levels by reducing the hours of operation for facilities in the local board area for the 2020/21 financial year, in the acknowledgement that such reduction in funding will help contribute to finding the savings required as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic;
 - iii) the local board believes that the bulk of savings sought through the Emergency Budget 2020/21 should be found via deferral of non-committed capital projects for a period of 1-2 years, or by deferring non-essential renewal of assets for a similar period of time (including limiting non-urgent road maintenance works or transport capital programmes of work); and
 - iv) the local board does not support Auckland Transport's proposal to reduce public transport services or delaying the introduction of planned new services as a means of achieving savings targets.

MOVED by Member J O'Connor, seconded by Member R Jackson:

Member J O'Connor moved an amendment to the original recommendation as follows:

- k) reiterates aspects of its feedback on the draft Emergency Budget, which was provided to the Finance and Performance Committee by way of resolution at the board's 5 May 2020 meeting, as follows:
 - i) the local board does not support any reduction or savings in maintenance, particularly in the areas of parks, reserves, footpaths, roading, open space and town centers;
 - ii) does not support a reduction in the funding of service levels by reducing the hours of operation for facilities in the local board area for the 2020/21 financial year.
 - iii) the local board believes that some of the savings sought by Council's Emergency Budget 2020/2021 may be found via deferral of selected non-committed capital projects for a period of 1-2 years
 - iv) the local board does not support Auckland Transport's proposal to reduce public transport services or delaying the introduction of planned new services as a means of achieving savings targets.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstained</u>
Member T Deans	Chairperson A Bennett	
Member R Jackson	Member T van Tonder	
Member J O'Connor	Deputy Chairperson G Wood	

The motion was declared **EQUAL**.

The chair exercised their casting vote against, so the motion was **Lost**.

LOST

Resolution number DT/2020/91

MOVED by Chairperson A Bennett, seconded by Member T van Tonder:

That the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board:

- l) does not support any proposed reduction in funding support for pest eradication, including any reduction in the quantum of funding that has historically been made available through regional schemes, such as the Natural Environment Heritage Grant.**
- m) does not support any reduction in spend on Auckland Transport safety initiatives or footpath improvements, as this may result in more deaths and / or serious injuries to cyclists, pedestrians, and other road / footpath users.**
- n) does not support the proposed reduction in the local board allocation of the Auckland Transport Local Board Capital Fund (ATLBTCF) as indicated as part of the proposed 3.5% rates increase, which would amount to a 75% overall reduction in the amount available to local boards (\$20 million budget reduced to \$5 million).**
- o) strongly advocates to both the Governing Body and Auckland Transport that the funding that the local board allocated to the Francis / Esmonde Road connection through its Auckland Transport Local Board Capital Fund**

(ATLBTCF) is not cut or deferred, and that this project proceed in accordance with the original project timelines.

- p) strongly advocates for the retention of the full budget for the Lake Road Improvement Project (total of \$47 million), noting the strong level of public support received for the project as part of consultation on the 2020/21 Emergency Budget.
- q) strongly advocates for the retention of the budget and subsequent recommencement of the stormwater upgrade at Kitchener, Shakespeare and Omana roads in Milford as a priority.
- r) Does not support any cut or reductions to budgets associated with the contractually committed Hurstmere road project, as its timely completion is crucial to support local businesses in Takapuna.

CARRIED

Resolution number DT/2020/92

MOVED by Chairperson A Bennett, seconded by Member T van Tonder:

The Chairperson put the substantive motion.

That the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board:

- a) notes that the Chairperson has, on behalf of the local board, participated in workshops and meetings hosted by the Finance and Performance Committee regarding the preparation of the 2020/1 Emergency Budget, and that in arriving at its feedback the local board has considered information provided by council staff alongside the 1,668 submissions received from respondents residing in the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board area.
- b) supports an annual general rates increase of 3.5% for the 2020/21 financial year, as:
 - iv) it reflects the nature of the feedback the board has received from its community in response to the question asked as part of consultation on the Emergency Budget (noting approximately 45% of all respondents from the local board area indicated support for the proposal);
 - v) any rates increase set at a lower level (2.5% or lower, including no rates increase) would make post COVID-19 pandemic recovery exponentially more difficult; and
 - vi) any rates increase set at a lower level (2.5% or lower, including no rates increase) would result in council having to re-adjust other funding mechanisms accordingly to aid recovery, such as drastically increasing the debt-to-revenue ratio and relying more heavily on asset recycling / divestment as means to fund council activities.
- c) supports the introduction of a COVID-19 Rates Postponement Scheme for the 2020/21 financial year, as it:
 - iii) reflects the nature of the feedback the board has received from its community in response to the question asked as part of consultation on the Emergency Budget (approximately 67% of all respondents from the local board area indicated support for the proposal); and

- iv) allows ratepayers who are struggling financially as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic to defer up to \$20,000 of their rates for the 2020/21 financial year, noting that at the end of the postponement period ratepayers accessing the scheme would have until 30 June 2022 to pay off the balance.
- d) does not support the inclusion of interest and administration fees as part of the COVID-19 Rates Postponement Scheme.
- e) supports the suspension of the Accommodation Provider Targeted Rate (APTR) for hotels, motels, hostels and accommodation businesses until 31 March 2021; as it:
 - iii) reflects the nature of the feedback the board has received from its community in response to the question asked as part of consultation on the Emergency Budget (approximately 73% of all respondents from the local board area indicated support for the proposal); and
 - iv) will assist the accommodation sector who are struggling financially as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic due to its negative impact on the tourism and accommodation industry, whilst noting that the APTR will only be charged for the last three months of the 2020/21 financial year (1 April – 30 June 2021).
- f) does not support the suspension of the Accommodation Provider Targeted Rate (APTR) for AirBnB properties or similar entities, as these properties are generally investments rather than businesses, and are fundamentally different to 'traditional' hotels, motels, hostels, and accommodation businesses.
- g) accepts that the local board will need to absorb a 10% reduction in its locally driven initiative (LDI) operational budget for the 2020/21 financial year as part of a 3.5% rates increase as a result of lost revenue associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, and that the local board will work with council staff to identify agreed savings as part of the board's 2020/21 work programmes.
- h) accepts that the local board will need to absorb additional savings through its asset based services (ABS) capital and operational budgets under a 3.5 % rates increase, noting that:
 - i) such savings will result in delaying the renewal of some assets for at least 12 months;
 - ii) such savings will not include any reduction in budgets provided to those community organisations supported through ABS budgets that provide important services to the community and businesses during the post COVID-19 recovery period; and
 - iii) the local board will work with council staff to identify agreed savings as part of the board's 2020/21 work programmes.
- i) supports the concept of asset recycling and the sale of council assets / holdings as a means of increasing revenue to fund council initiatives, but only if those assets proposed for recycling or divestment have been identified as not serving any current or future service requirement

- j) does not support the divestment or sale of park or reserve land or other open space that currently fulfils a service requirement, or any other land that has been identified as needed to respond to future growth / demand.
- k) reiterates aspects of its feedback on the draft Emergency Budget, which was provided to the Finance and Performance Committee by way of resolution at the board's 5 May 2020 meeting, as follows:

 - i) the local board does not support any reduction or savings in maintenance, particularly in the areas of parks, reserves, footpaths, roading, open space and town centers;
 - ii) the local board supports consideration of a reduction in the funding of service levels by reducing the hours of operation for facilities in the local board area for the 2020/21 financial year, in the acknowledgement that such reduction in funding will help contribute to finding the savings required as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic;
 - iii) the local board believes that the bulk of savings sought through the Emergency Budget 2020/21 should be found via deferral of non-committed capital projects for a period of 1-2 years, or by deferring non-essential renewal of assets for a similar period of time (including limiting non-urgent road maintenance works or transport capital programmes of work); and
 - iv) the local board does not support Auckland Transport's proposal to reduce public transport services or delaying the introduction of planned new services as a means of achieving savings targets.
- l) does not support any proposed reduction in funding support for pest eradication, including any reduction in the quantum of funding that has historically been made available through regional schemes, such as the Natural Environment Heritage Grant.
- m) does not support any reduction in spend on Auckland Transport safety initiatives or footpath improvements, as this may result in more deaths and / or serious injuries to cyclists, pedestrians, and other road / footpath users.
- n) does not support the proposed reduction in the local board allocation of the Auckland Transport Local Board Capital Fund (ATLBTCF) as indicated as part of the proposed 3.5% rates increase, which would amount to a 75% overall reduction in the amount available to local boards (\$20 million budget reduced to \$5 million).
- o) strongly advocates to both the Governing Body and Auckland Transport that the funding that the local board allocated to the Francis / Esmonde Road connection through its Auckland Transport Local Board Capital Fund (ATLBTCF) is not cut or deferred, and that this project proceed in accordance with the original project timelines.
- p) strongly advocates for the retention of the full budget for the Lake Road Improvement Project (total of \$47 million), noting the strong level of public support received for the project as part of consultation on the 2020/21 Emergency Budget.

- q) **strongly advocates for the retention of the budget and subsequent recommencement of the stormwater upgrade at Kitchener, Shakespeare and Omana roads in Milford as a priority.**
- r) **does not support any cut or reductions to budgets associated with the contractually committed Hurstmere road project, as its timely completion is crucial to support local businesses in Takapuna.**

The substantive motion was declared.

CARRIED

Note: The chair exercised his casting vote against resolutions g), h), i), j), k) ii) and k) iii) so they were carried.

Note: Members J O'Connor, R Jackson and T Deans requested their dissenting votes against resolutions g), h), i), j), k) ii) and k) iii) be recorded.

Attachments

- A Report: Local Board input into the 2020/2021 Emergency Budget
- B Devonport-Takapuna Local Board Analysis of 2020/2021 Emergency Budget public consultation feedback

12 Consideration of Extraordinary Items

There was no consideration of extraordinary items.

4.08 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 DEVONPORT-TAKAPUNA
LOCAL BOARD HELD ON

DATE:.....

CHAIRPERSON:.....