

Waiheke Local Board OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of the Waiheke Local Board held in the Local Board Office, 10 Belgium Street, Ostend, Waiheke on Wednesday, 5 May 2021 at 5.02pm.

PRESENT

Chairperson	Cath Handley
Deputy Chairperson	Kylee Matthews
Members	Robin Tucker
	Bob Upchurch

APOLOGIES

Member	Paul Walden
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1 Welcome

Members led the meeting with a karakia.

Kua uru mai a hau kaha, a hau maia, a hau ora, a hau nui,
Ki runga, ki raro, ki roto, ki waho
Rire, rire hau...pai marire

Translation (non-literal) - Rama Ormsby

Let the winds bring us inspiration from beyond,

Invigorate us with determination and courage to achieve our aspirations for abundance and sustainability

Bring the calm, bring all things good, bring peace... good peace.

2 Apologies

Resolution number WHK/2021/73

MOVED by Chairperson C Handley, seconded by Member B Upchurch:

That the Waiheke Local Board:

a) **accept apologies from member Paul Walden.**

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 as this is an extraordinary meeting as part of a Special Consultative Process.

8 Public Forum

There was no public forum as this is an extraordinary meeting as part of a Special Consultative Process.

9 Extraordinary Business

There was no extraordinary business.

10 Local board consultation feedback and input into the 10-year Budget 2021-2031

Resolution number WHK/2021/74

MOVED by Member R Tucker, seconded by Deputy Chairperson K Matthews:

That the Waiheke Local Board:

- a) receive consultation feedback on the proposed Waiheke Local Board priorities and activities for 2021/2022 and key advocacy initiatives for 2021-2031, and thank the 174 submitters from the Waiheke area for their feedback.
- b) receive consultation feedback on regional topics in the 10-year Budget 2021-2031 from people and organisations based in the Waiheke Local Board area.
- c) notes the Waiheke Local Board received Governing Body approval in 2016 to allocate LDI funding to enable up to \$1m debt funded towards development of a swimming pool.
- d) note advocacy initiatives for inclusion (as an appendix) to its 2021/2022 Local Board Agreement will be approved during Local Board Agreement adoption.
- e) provide input on regional topics in the proposed 10-year Budget 2021-2031 to the Governing Body as follows:

Proposed investment package

- f) generally support the proposal for a \$31 billion package of spending and investment over the next 10 years that will enable continued delivery of key services and strong investment and renewed assets, supported by:
 - \$90 million of ongoing savings,
 - \$70 million asset recycling target for the next 3 years,
 - Increased council borrowing in the short term – up to 290 per cent debt-to-revenue in first 3 years then 270 per cent thereafter,
 - A one-off 5 per cent increase in average general rates, 3.5 per cent thereafter.
- g) note community feedback for the proposed one-off rates increase of 5 per cent was mixed, however comments indicated in general that there was support for spending in the areas the rates increase would enable.
- h) note community feedback considers transport and stormwater infrastructure investment a high priority and necessary to ensure improved marine environment health and deliver on Auckland Council's Climate Action Plan - Te Taruke-a-Tawhiri outcomes. Investment in cycleways, walkways and public transport systems should also be progressed with urgency due to Auckland's rapid growth and aging assets.
- i) note the concern raised about the affordability of further rates increases, particularly following the financial effects of COVID-19, and there appear to be a number of proposed council projects that could be considered 'vanity' projects and not essential.

Responding to climate change

- j) support the proposal to provide additional investment to respond to climate change challenges, noting feedback from the community was largely supportive.
- k) support a focus on mitigating and responding to climate change through:

- i. increased investment and integrated design of active travel, in particular investment of standalone and integrated cycle infrastructure that increases the safety and sense of security of cyclists whilst supporting direct route connections.
- ii. increased investment in public transport and providing fair priced accessible integrated public transport across ferry, bus and train services.
- iii. increased investment in infrastructure and programmes that reduce negative environmental impacts and increase restoration and regeneration of the environment.
- iv. endorsing the focus on low carbon into the future in line with Council's Climate Action Plan Te Taruke-a-Tawhiri and the local board's own low carbon action plans.
- v. continued investigation and investment into non-fossil fuel alternate energy sourced ferry and bus fleets.
- l) fully support the focus on tree planting and nursery development however also requests increased tree protection rules to prevent further loss of our existing tree cover.
- m) request Coastal Compartment Management Plans be accelerated along with appropriate budget allocated to enhance our ability to respond to worsening natural hazards.
- n) note the urgency to commence action to respond to the effects of climate change such as sea level rise, coastal inundation, energy sources, increasing stormwater, food resiliency and water security.
- o) recommends the Governing Body support the strengthening of council's communication and public advocacy for the move to private electric vehicles.

Protecting and enhancing the environment - Water quality

- p) support the proposal, noting submitters were generally in favour of extending and / or increasing the Water Quality Targeted rate.
- q) request a greater focus on protection of wetlands and waterways particularly given Auckland's projected population growth. Sedimentation management is essential and testing and monitoring of our marine environment and waterways needs to be a priority. More resource should be provided to ensure environmental protection and enforcement.
- r) note improvement of stormwater infrastructure is particularly important on Waiheke Island and other marine bordering areas due to flooding and the impact on residents' wellbeing and the receiving environment (in particular the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park).

Protecting and enhancing the environment - Natural Environment

- s) support the extension of the Natural Environment Targeted rate, noting the continued investment to address the spread of kauri dieback is essential and predator and weed control are also priorities and align with the board's objective for Waiheke to be an island sanctuary in the Hauraki Gulf.

Community investment

- t) support the proposal for council to adopt a new approach for community services, noting the importance of the library for our community was a recurring theme, with reference to the critical role played by the Waiheke Library as a community centre.

- u) note that communities have varying needs so engagement with the local board and the community on any consolidation of community facilities and services is essential.
- v) note concern about the selling of assets, particularly as the population increases there is more need for places to connect with each other.

Rating policy

- w) note feedback on the rating policy proposals was generally supportive with the exception of the Accommodation Providers Targeted Rate (APTR).
- x) strongly request that the APTR be revoked or at the least Waiheke is moved from Zone B to Zone C. This is an area the board and the community has advocated for since the rate was introduced. Feedback notes the rate is unfair as it is not universally applied to similar areas in Auckland, e.g. Franklin and Rodney. The Waiheke Local Board Plan commits council to incentivize long term stays over day trippers, however the APTR disincentivizes accommodation provision.
- y) notes the Hauraki Gulf Islands District Plan enables visitor units on Waiheke to encourage this activity, and visitors are predominantly from the Auckland region.
- z) support the following community feedback in opposition to the APTR rate:
 - ATEED (Auckland Unlimited) does not make good use of the funding and there is little investment in Waiheke,
 - The accommodation sector bears 100% of the APTR rather than other tourism operators,
 - The calculation is flawed,
 - The holiday home network is essential as there are no hotels on Waiheke,
 - The rate encourages day visitors rather than preferred longer stays,
 - The rate results in reduced holiday home availability in shoulder seasons,
 - Waiheke is already expensive to travel to,
 - Waiheke's visitor accommodation is facing significant challenges due to COVID-19.

Other priorities

- aa) support the Māori outcomes and social investment proposals.
Proposals related to strategic assets
- bb) note that the city vehicular ferry terminal is temporarily sited at 56 Hamer Street and is a vital terminal for both Aotea Gt Barrier and Waiheke Island.
- cc) seek assurance that the council's waterfront redevelopment plans for the Wynyard Quarter ensures sufficient land is retained in council ownership for the purposes of current services and for futureproofing wharves and terminus of sufficient scale to cope with increasing demands of ferry services.

CARRIED

11 Decision-making responsibilities policy

Resolution number WHK/2021/75

MOVED by Chairperson C Handley, seconded by Member R Tucker:

That the Waiheke Local Board:

- a) receive the draft Decision-making Responsibilities of Auckland Council's Governing Body and local boards policy.
- b) note that the Governing Body delegated approval of the Waiheke Area Plan to the Waiheke Local Board (subject to an appointee by IMSB to the area plan decision-making panel) and recommends that other local boards have that same opportunity whether individually or collectively where local boards share area plan boundaries.
- c) reiterate previous feedback on the allocations and delegations in the decision-making policy, as follows:
 - i. in accordance with the Local Government (Auckland Council) Act 2009 and the 2016 Governance Framework Review, confirm the principle of subsidiarity of decision-making within the Auckland Council governance model where decisions are made at the most local level possible and that any decisions that can be allocated or delegated to local boards occur.
 - ii. procurement is a big component of our local economy and the services we deliver, and suggest local boards have more oversight and decision-making for procurement for the major service delivery contracts in their local areas. This can also cross over to influence over fees and charges set for public around services managed through contractors.
 - iii. a significant proportion of our local and regional budget goes towards environmental initiatives and suggest that the regional environmental programmes and environment grants funding are tailored to local needs for transparency and alignment purposes.
 - iv. submit that area plans are local in their purpose and function and the decision making should sit with local boards.
 - v. local boards should have the opportunity and be resourced to develop localised policies within overarching regional policy.
 - vi. street environment and town centre strategy, and classification of town centres, should be considered local, and local boards should have the opportunity to create unique local signage.
 - vii. delegation be given to local boards from Auckland Transport of street trading and landowner approval on roads and beaches.
- d) endorse the delegation to local board of responding to liquor licencing applications under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.
- e) seek confirmation on how and when further Joint Governance Working Party recommendations will be considered by local boards and considered by and incorporated into Governing Body resolutions.
- f) support the Joint Governance Working Party recommendations to consider trialling Auckland Transport delegations under the next phase of the Waiheke pilot including landowner approval for street trading and events on roads and beaches.

CARRIED

12 Consideration of Extraordinary Items

There was no consideration of extraordinary items.

Members closed the meeting with a karakia.

***Waiho i te toipoto kua i te toiroa
Let us keep close together, not far apart***

5.30 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 WAIHEKE LOCAL BOARD
HELD ON

DATE:.....

CHAIRPERSON:.....