

Taupō District Council

Notes of Council Workshop

Group	Council
Date	Tuesday 23 July 2024, 2.00pm – 3.01pm
Venue	Council Chamber
Topic	Preparation for Long-term Plan 2024-34 hearings and deliberations
Facilitated by	Policy Manager (N Carroll) and Senior Policy Advisor (K Goode)
Elected Members present	Mayor David Trewavas (in the Chair), Cr Duncan Campbell, Cr Sandra Greenslade (via MS Teams), Cr Kylie Leonard (via MS Teams), Cr Danny Loughlin, Cr Anna Park, Cr Christine Rankin (via MS Teams), Cr Rachel Shepherd, Cr Kirsty Trueman (via MS Teams until 2.56pm), Cr John Williamson
Officers present	Chief Executive (J Gardyne), General Manager Community Infrastructure and Services (T Hale), General Manager Organisation Performance (S Matthews), General Manager People and Community Partnerships (L O'Brien), General Manager Strategy and Environment (W Zander), Executive Manager Mayors Office (J Later), Finance Manager (J Paenga), Senior Financial Planner (J Caldwell), Policy Manager (N Carroll), Senior Policy Advisor (K Goode), Legal and Governance Coordinator (D Periam)
Public / media present	No public or media present
Documents either pre-circulated or tabled	No documents pre-circulated or tabled
Public or closed¹	Public

Notes²

The purpose of this workshop was to explain the process for Long-term Plan 2024-34 (LTP) hearings and deliberations being held from Monday 29 July to Friday 2 August 2024 to elected members. Officers explained that the process was a suggestion with flexibility to move between topics if elected members wished.

The first step on Monday 29 July would be to resolve that they receive the LTP submissions and late submissions. There were 108 people who requested to speak to their submission, Monday 29 July and Tuesday 30 July hearings were scheduled. Monday would be held in Taupō and Tuesday would be in Tūrangi. Deliberations were scheduled from Wednesday 31 July to Friday 2 August. Speakers had been asked to show up during a particular time slot on either Monday or Tuesday.

¹ Workshops are public (and are always advertised whether public or closed), unless there is a good reason(s) for information to be withheld and there is no overriding public interest in holding the workshop in public. Withholding grounds set out in the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) are a guide. If closed, cite relevant LGOIMA section.

² Workshops are not decision-making forums, therefore this document contains notes of key points discussed only, not decisions.

Taupō District Council

Hearings and deliberations would be recorded and uploaded to the website with minutes and notes also taken.

In answer to questions, the following was clarified:

- Buffer time had been scheduled of ten minutes for each speaker, this allowed time for them to speak and elected members to ask questions.
- A hearing schedule would be provided to elected members on Friday 26 July 2024 and this would link to submissions uploaded in Diligent.

At the beginning of deliberations on Wednesday 31 July 2024 the policy manager and senior policy advisor would speak about the structure, then it would be time to move into the issues. A brief overview of each issue consulted on was provided and the options for each explained.

Kerbside Waste Collection Service

The report had three different options, first go with bins, second stick with bags or third have bins but exclude holiday areas that had provided feedback they did not want bins. All information for each option had been provided in the report.

In answer to questions, the following was clarified:

- It would be possible for elected members to choose a fourth idea if they developed one.
- The exclusion of homes having bins in the third option would be individual settlements rather than all holiday homes in the district.
- Households would not be able to opt out of certain parts of the collection (for example only have rubbish picked up while opting out of recycling and food waste collection).

New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) Funding

Taupō District Council (TDC) applied for funding every three years through NZTA. Indicative funding had been received from NZTA and the three options that TDC consulted on were if they should fund the shortfall that NZTA does not provide or retain local share or reduce the transport budget and only match what NZTA has provided. Officers believed that option two, retain local share was the best option.

Tūrangi and Taupō Wastewater Solution

Two options were consulted on for both Tūrangi and Taupō wastewater solutions, the first was a short-medium term solution and the second was a long-term solution. Officers' suggestion for both was to focus on the short-medium term solution while continuing work with hapū on a long-term solution.

East Urban Lands (EUL) Development

The two options were should this land be sold to a developer partner to build new homes or sell the land on the open market. In answer to a question, it was explained that it had been made very clear in the report what stage of the EUL was being focused on.

Fees and Charges

The report focused on the fees and charges that feedback had been received on rather than all, this included swim school, fitness studio, aqua fitness, solid waste disposal, pool entrance, housing for the elderly rents and resource and building consent fees. The report talked about the feedback received and put it into the context of the Revenue and Finance Policy. The cost of business had gone up and this was reflected in the increase in fees and charges, if elected members decided on smaller increases, then the burden of this would go onto rates. It was explained that elected members had previously been presented with a variety of different policies, these policies underpin

Taupō District Council

the LTP and while these would not need to be presented again, if there were changes made then officers would go through the policies and update them.

Development Contributions Policy

The two options were to adopt the proposed Development Contributions Policy 2024 or do not adopt the policy. The report included submitters' feedback and officer responses where required. Two requests had been made to use development contributions to fund a kindergarten in Kinloch however it was clarified that development contributions were not used to help fund private organisations. It was confirmed that there were other kindergartens in the Taupō district that were on Council owned land and this was an option for the kindergarten in Kinloch.

Rating Differentials

The main change was the electricity generators differential factor from a 1.0 to a 1.8 by including them in the industrial/commercial differential rating category. The power companies had been provided an opportunity for early engagement and only two had spoken with council. This change would be for all utility providers.

Rates Remissions and Postponement Policies

This did not receive much feedback from the public.

Community Funding Policy and Eligibility Assessment Framework

This would be discussed if all other issues had been decided on. In answer to a question, the plan was to try go out with funding as soon as possible after the rates were struck.

Finally, they would relook at paper 5.1 which discussed all the other issues submitted by members of the public with officers' recommendations. Elected members would be asked if they were happy and agreed with officers' recommendations. Elected members would have the opportunity to discuss particular issues if required.

In answer to questions, the following points were noted:

- The carry forward had been reviewed and officers had tried to shrink it down as much as possible.
- There were three main drivers for capital expenditure (capex) which was the change to three waters to local water done well, increased cost to look after assets and growth forecast had changed.
- The capex program had must dos with very few vanity projects which was what elected members were deliberating on.
- All submitters would receive a letter with key decisions elected members had made but it would not be as personalised as letters sent after annual plan the previous year.

The general manager people and community partnerships thanked the policy manager, senior policy advisor and the policy team for all the work they had done on this LTP.

The workshop closed at 3.01pm.