

COVID-19 Response Committee

7 May 2020



COVID-19 Response Committee

Minutes of the COVID-19 Response Committee meeting held on Thursday 7 May 2020, commencing at 9.30am, via Zoom.

Present

His Worship the Mayor, Neil Brown; Councillors Rodger Letham, Lynette Lovett, Angus McKay, Liz McMillan, Diane Rawlinson and Stuart Wilson.

In attendance

Hamish Riach (Chief Executive), Jane Donaldson (GM Strategy & Compliance), Sarah Mosley (Manager People & Capability), Paul Brake (GM Business Support), Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure Services), Bevan Rickerby (Economic Development Manager), Ruben Garcia (Communications Manager).

Governance support: Aisling O'Reilly (Zoom co-ordination) and Phillipa Clark (Minutes).

1 Apologies

Cr Diane Rawlinson (lateness)

Sustained

2 Extraordinary Business

That pursuant to Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 the following item be introduced as extraordinary business:

- Youth Council

Cameron/Falloon

Carried

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil.

4 Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the COVID-19 Response Committee meeting held on 30 April 2020, be taken as read and confirmed.

Letham/Cameron

Carried

5 Terms of Reference – Covid-19 Economic Recovery Advisory Group

Bevan Rickerby reported there has been good response from the local business community with representation confirmed for all but one area. It is anticipated that a rep from the agriculture business sector will be soon known.

The advisory group's first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 13 May.

Cr Rawlinson joined the meeting at 9.34am.

That the Terms of Reference for the Covid-19 Economic Recovery Advisory Group be adopted.

McKay/Braam

Carried

6 Draft Government Policy Statement and Draft NZ Rail Plan

That this matter be uplifted for discussion from the 23/04/20 Committee meeting.

Cameron/Braam

Carried

The Mayor referred to the submissions prepared by the Transport Officers Group, on behalf of the Regional Transport Committee. Additional comment from Ashburton District Council will be captured when the Mayor presents to the Regional Transport Committee for sign-off on 11 May –

Ashburton District Council is comfortable supporting the Regional Transport Committee's submission to the draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport and the New Zealand Rail Plan, but is seeking that the following context is included. Outside of Christchurch, Canterbury is undoubtedly a 'food bowl' economy for New Zealand and internationally. The contribution to the regional economy by the agriculture and food production sector is significant.

As such, the submission to government needs to express the rural concern that the shift of focus to urban rail projects must not come at the expense of maintaining the current local road networks. Given the importance of transport to move rurally produced good to markets, consideration should be given to investing in rail to transport freight and goods around New Zealand, rather than just focusing on urban rail for urban residents.

That Council endorses the proposed regional submissions to the draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport and the NZ Rail Plan with additional comment to be presented by the Mayor at the Regional Transport Committee meeting on 11 May 2020.

Rawlinson/Braam

Carried

7 ADC Treasury (Bancorp) Report

That the March 2020 Bancorp report be received.

Falloon/Cameron

Carried

Extraordinary Business

Youth Council

Cr Lovett reported that the Youth Council met yesterday and agreed to a programme of social media posts that will take place during Youth Week (9-17 May). The posts will include a focus on mental and physical well-being and adapting to change.

Youth Councillors are continuing to plan for Bite Nite and the Mountain Festival at ATEC. They are also planning to promote the Ashburton domain development plan and speed limit review consultation documents to College students to encourage their feedback.

That the Youth Council update be received.

Lovett/Cameron

Carried

Social recovery

The Mayor asked whether Council has an ongoing role in the community's social recovery post-Covid and if any thought has been given to establishing a social well-being advisory group.

The Chief Executive confirmed this is a focus for a number of agencies and local government; there has been some debate around whether it should be through civil defence (short-term), controlled from Wellington, or managed at a regional or district level. There is no clarity yet on what the overlaying structure would be.

Cr McMillan suggested the possibility of Safe Communities filling the role of co-ordinating a local response which would avoid the need to create another group.

It was agreed that a report will be provided to the Committee on 14 May, to consider whether Council has an ongoing role in community welfare and how this could be managed.

Business transacted with the public excluded – 10am

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely – the general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, 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	General subject of each matter to be considered:	In accordance with Section 48(1) of the Act, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:	
8	Confirmation of minutes 30/04/20	Sections 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

Mayor/Cameron

Carried

There being no resolutions passed the Committee resumed in open meeting and concluded at 10.04am.