

COVID-19 Response Committee

28 May 2020



COVID-19 Response Committee

Minutes of the COVID-19 Response Committee meeting held on Thursday 28 May 2020, commencing at 9.34am, in the Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton.

Present

His Worship the Mayor, Neil Brown; Councillors Leen Braam, Carolyn Cameron, John Falloon, Rodger Letham, Lynette Lovett, Angus McKay, Liz McMillan, Diane Rawlinson and Stuart Wilson.

In attendance

Hamish Riach (Chief Executive), Sarah Mosley (Manager People & Capability), Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure Services), Ruben Garcia (Communications Manager) and Phillipa Clark (Governance Team Leader).

Staff present for the duration of their reports: Toni Durham (Strategy & Policy Manager), Richard Mabon (Senior Policy Advisor) and Bevan Rickerby (Economic Development Manager).

1 Apologies

Nil.

2 Extraordinary business

Nil.

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil.

4 Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the COVID-19 Response Committee meeting held on 18 May 2020, be taken as read and confirmed.

Letham/Cameron

Carried

5 Development and Financial Contributions (DFC) Policy Review 2021 – Phase One

The Audit, Risk & Finance Committee, on 19 March 2020, resolved that this report be left on the table for discussion at the next Audit, Risk & Finance Committee meeting. With the interim Covid-19 Response Committee arrangement, the report will instead be considered today.

That Standing Order 24.6 be temporarily suspended to enable the Development & Financial Contributions Policy report to be uplifted by the Covid-19 Response Committee.

Braam/McMillan

Carried

Officers presented a range of development contribution options and costs with provision for future growth.

The Senior Policy Advisor explained that if development contributions are abandoned altogether, the revenue lost would equate to 3% of the rates (based on 2019-20). He cautioned that building activity is expected to soften, further reducing development contribution revenue.

The option to introduce a development contribution for roading (transportation) was not fully supported and it was agreed not to progress this.

There was concern that the two year credit period for development contributions applied to earthquake prone buildings is too restrictive and could penalise building owners who are unable to complete demolition or rebuilding in this time. It was suggested that the timeframe be extended to five years and after that, consider on a case by case basis.

A draft policy will be prepared and Council will have the opportunity to reconsider the options before public consultation is undertaken.

That the motion be taken in parts.

Wilson/McKay

Carried

That Council approves that the range of options for detailed assessment of overall development contributions in Phase Two include Option B (maintain overall quantum at 2018 levels), Option C (increase overall quantum by up to \$2,500) and Option D (increase overall quantum by \$5,000 but excluding the transportation development contribution).

Lovett/Cameron

Carried

Amendment

That Council approves that the range of options for detailed assessment of overall development contributions in Phase Two shall include Option C (increase overall quantum by up to \$2,500).

Wilson/Rawlinson

Amendment lost and the original motion was carried.

That Council approves further work being undertaken in Phase Two to close the development contribution loophole on network extensions by using service connection as a trigger for network extensions only.

Mayor/Braam

Carried

That Council approves further work being undertaken on the wider aspects of network extensions as a separate issue outside the review of the development funding contribution policy.

Cameron/Falloon

Carried

That no further work shall be undertaken in Phase Two on the issues of indexation and catchments and Council will maintain the status quo on those issues.

Braam/Cameron

Carried

That Council approves further work being undertaken in Phase Two on the issue of longer timeframes for development contribution credits for earthquake-prone buildings.

Rawlinson/Braam

Carried

6 Review of Library Collection Policy

The Senior Policy Advisor reported that no major changes are proposed for the collection policy and public engagement is not considered necessary.

The policy will be amended to clarify the requirements for satellite library borrowing and further questions/amendments may be asked of the Library Manager before the policy is adopted by Council on 25 June.

Recommendation to Council

That Council approves the Library Collection Policy 2020 attached as Appendix One.

Lovett/McMillan

Carried

Business transacted with the public excluded – 10.34am.

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 18/05/20	Sections 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
9	Library & Civic Centre PCG 18/05/20	Sections 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
10	Covid-19 Economic Advisory Group 20/05/20	Section 7(2)(h) Section 7(2)(a)	Commercial activities Protection of privacy of natural persons

Mayor/Cameron

Carried

Council adjourned from 10.34am to 10.52am.

The meeting concluded at 12.10am.