

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NELSON CITY COUNCIL TO APPROVE THE DRAFT NELSON COMMUNITY PLAN 2009/2019 FOR AUDIT CONSIDERATION HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HOUSE, TRAFALGAR STREET, NELSON ON WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH 2009 COMMENCING AT 9.00AM

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor, K Marshall (Chairperson), Councillors I Barker, A Boswijk, G Collingwood, M Cotton, M Holmes, A McAlpine, A Miccio, P Rainey, R Reese (Deputy Mayor), D Shaw and G Thomas

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive (K Marshall), Chief Financial Officer (C Fitchett), Manager Strategy and Planning (M Tregurtha) and Administration Adviser (A Rose)

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor D Henigan

1.0 PROCESS OVERVIEW

The Chief Executive described the steps Council had taken to reach this stage, and he reminded Council that the meeting today was to adopt the draft Community Plan 2009-2019 for audit scrutiny.

2.0 DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Michael Schruer, the Senior Executive Infrastructure, presented a Powerpoint overview of the proposed changes to Development Contributions that have been updated to align with the Community Plan and how these have been calculated.

In answer to a question, Mr Schruer said that the proposed changes had been sent to surveyors in the region and a meeting set up with them to discuss the proposed changes in detail.

3.0 SOLAR CITY TARGETED RATES SCHEME

Document No 732117, dated 23 February 2009, agenda pages 1-3 refer.

The Manager, Environmental Policy, Martin Workman, and the Senior Planning Adviser, David Jackson, joined the meeting and presented the report and the feasibility study, being the attachment to the report, which accompanied the agenda as a separate document.

Mr Workman said that the report outlined the proposed funding for the Solar City Targeted Rates Scheme to enable Council to consider approving and including it in the draft Nelson Community Plan.

The Scheme found general support from the Council.

Resolved

THAT Council agrees to establish a Solar City targeted rate scheme that assists ratepayers to install a solar hot water system on their property;

AND THAT Council agrees to include in the Draft Nelson Community Plan the funding for the Solar City targeted rate scheme as set out in Table 1 of report 732117;

AND THAT Council approaches central government to seek a change to the building code to require solar hot water systems on new homes, and for operational funding assistance for the Solar City loan scheme;

AND THAT Council investigates reducing consent fees for work related to installing a solar hot water system (e.g. extend to the replacement of the water cylinder if this is required) and streamline the consent process for solar hot water installation.

Reese/Boswijk

Carried

4.0 DRAFT COMMUNITY PLAN OVERVIEW

The Chief Executive made a Powerpoint presentation which he said would form the basis of presentations that would be made to community groups about the draft Plan.

5.0 APPROVAL OF DRAFT NELSON COMMUNITY PLAN FOR AUDIT NEW ZEALAND REVIEW

Document No 732459, dated 24 February 2009, agenda pages 4-7 refer.

The Chief Financial Officer, Chris Fitchett, presented the report and the folder containing the draft estimates and covering memo which accompanied the agenda as a separate document. He said the report was to confirm Council's strategic decision for a number of key policy decisions and to approve the attached draft of the Nelson Community Plan and estimates for Audit New Zealand's review.

5.1 Community Housing

There was some discussion regarding the level of detail in the Plan for Community Housing, and it was agreed that Council's role in low cost housing, what level of housing Council should be providing and how to fund it adequately needed to be considered, and in any proposed rent rises Council had to be a responsible landlord.

Attendance: The meeting adjourned for morning tea from 11.01am-11.20am.

The Chief Financial Officer went through draft estimates. He explained the proposal to reduce the annual amount paid in loan repayments over the next five years was that there would be no loan repayments in 2009/2010 and 2010/2011, and that 25% of the usual loan repayments would be made in 2011/2012, rising by 25% per annum, so that by the year 2014 Council would be back paying the full amount. He explained that would increase the total loans to a maximum of \$169 million in the year 2013/2014, but that would reduce to \$116 million by 2018/2019 and Council's fiscal position would still be very strong, with assets worth over \$1 billion. He said debt servicing at this level is considered manageable and would be in line with similar sized councils.

6.0 APPROVAL OF DRAFT NELSON COMMUNITY PLAN 2009/2019 FOR AUDIT NEW ZEALAND APPROVAL

Document No 732459, dated 24 February 2009.

This document was in two parts, Volume 1 and Volume 2, accompanying the agenda as separate documents.

6.1 Community Assistance Funding

The Council debated the level of Community Assistance Funding, and there was a strong consensus that it should remain the same as last year and that the proposed additional funding for Festivals be reduced from \$200,000 to \$100,000.

Resolved

***THAT** Community's Community Grants package should be left at the same level as last year and that the events budget be increased by \$100,000 instead of the \$200,000 increase previously provided.*

Holmes/Cotton

Carried

7.0 TRAFALGAR CENTRE

The meeting also discussed what was to be done with the north end of the Trafalgar Centre.

Proposed Councillor Collingwood, seconded His Worship the Mayor pro forma

***THAT** there be \$500,000 put in this year's estimate for the design of the Trafalgar Centre north end.*

The motion was put and **lost**.

It was agreed that the community be asked for feedback on this issue during the consultation process. The question would include the effect the work would have on rates if it was carried out.

7.1 Biodiversity

Councillor Shaw said the issue of biodiversity seems to have fallen between the cracks.

7.2 Recycling

Councillor Mike Cotton declared an interest and left the meeting at 1.45pm.

The Chief Executive went over the history of where Council was at the present time with its recycling. The implication of the global market turndown had necessitated changes in the way Council dealt with its recyclable materials and the additional cost to recycling that this would make. It was agreed that Council would put the proposal to cease all recycling with the exception of glass in the draft Community Plan. The rest of the waste stream to go to the landfill, with the option to begin recycling collection if markets improved. It was noted that the full set of options with costs, including ceasing recycling altogether or continuing with full recycling, would be set out in the Community Plan.

Resolved

***THAT** the draft Nelson Community Plan and estimates incorporating changes and amendments made at this meeting be approved to go to Audit New Zealand for comment and then brought back to Council for approval for public consultation;*

AND THAT the Chief Executive be given authority to make minor editorial changes as necessary.

His Worship the Mayor/McAlpine

Carried

There being no further business the meeting ended at 2.08pm.

CONFIRMED AS A CORRECT RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

_____ CHAIRPERSON _____ DATE