

CONFIRMED MINUTES

**OF THE ADDITIONAL MEETING OF THE WAITAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THIRD FLOOR,
OFFICE OF THE WAITAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL, 20 THAMES STREET, OAMARU
ON TUESDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 10.15AM**

PRESENT: Mayor Gary Kircher (Chair), Deputy Mayor Melanie Tavendale (Associate Chair), Cr Hana Halalele, Cr Jeremy Holding, Cr Jim Hopkins, Cr Bill Kingan, Cr Guy Percival, Cr Ross McRobie, Cr Jim Thomson, Cr Kelli Williams, and Cr Colin Wollstein

IN ATTENDANCE: Alex Parmley (Chief Executive)
Paul Hope (Finance and Corporate Development Group Manager / Acting Assets Group Manager)
Ainslee Hooper (Governance and Policy Advisor)

The Chair declared the meeting open at 10.15am and welcomed everyone present.

1 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mayor Gary Kircher declared an interest in Public Excluded Agenda Item 6.2 (Waitaki District Health Services Limited Review PE) as a Trustee of the Observatory Village Charitable Trust.

3 PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers for the Public Forum.

4 DECISION REPORTS

4.1 CARRY FORWARD REPORT 2021/22

The report, as circulated, sought Council's approval to carrying forward funding for incomplete projects from 2020/21 (or earlier) budgets.

Group Manager Paul Hope acknowledged the need to refresh the Carry Forward Report and process so that it answered more questions about workload, deliverability, timing of projects and how each project fits into the overall work programme. He noted that a redesigned report would be developed and presented to Council in June 2022 so that it could be integrated into the planning for the 2022/2023 financial year.

ACTION: Group Manager Paul Hope and Finance team

The Chair thanked Mr Hope for taking on the feedback provided by elected members at previous meetings and for agreeing to revise the report and process to better meet Council's requirements.

In response to questions, Mr Hope clarified that:

- (a) everything in this Carry Forward report had previously been through an Annual Plan or Long Term Plan process and therefore it was approved funding being carried forward.
- (b) the stated Waka Kotahi funding was what had already been received and more would be forthcoming as Council incurred additional roading-related expenditure.

RESOLVED WDC 2021/174

Moved: Deputy Mayor Melanie Tavendale

Seconded: Cr Jim Hopkins

That Council approves the projects listed in Attachment 1 for carry forward and action in 2021/22.

CARRIED

4.2 WAITAKI DISTRICT HEALTH SERVICES LIMITED 2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT (UNAUDITED)

The report, as circulated, provided Council with the unaudited Waitaki District Health Services Limited 2020/2021 Annual Report and an update on the operations of the company.

Waitaki District Health Services Limited (WDHSL) representatives present at the meeting included Chairman Mark Rogers, Deputy Chair Helen Algar QSM, and Acting Chief Executive Kelvin Kite.

WDHSL Board Chairman Mark Rogers took the report as read and summarised the year in review for the meeting, noting that the focus had been on steadying the ship and rebuilding the foundations of WDHSL, and moving forward with the new vision “to be the best rural health care provider in New Zealand”. A strategy, with a three-step process, had been put in place, and the report listed the Board’s strategic priorities and the progress made for each. Mr Rogers also acknowledged the contributions of his fellow Board members, especially Mrs Algar as Deputy Chair, and to the management team, especially given the challenges of COVID and the structural changes. He also thanked the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillors, and Council staff for their support over the 12 month period.

Mr Hope circulated the introductory sections of the Annual Report via email, advising that they were part of the Annual Report that had been missed from being included in the agenda.

Discussion topics included:

- the employment remuneration chart and its reflection of more employment contracts being put in place to replace locum arrangements;
- where targets had been missed and the reasons for that;
- salary increases which reflected increased employee costs and reduced differential costs for locum versus employee;
- using the insurance excess to cover the claim from the HDC complaint and the review report’s statement that the hospital had remedied any issues and was not involved.

A request was made for background information behind the consolidated group report, so that details about each entity making up the group could be more transparent and visible to Council, as the shareholder. Of particular interest were more details about the locum cost being down, but the leadership team costs are high; and what is underpinning the large increase in non-medical costs. It was acknowledged that the information may only be available as management reports, but full statements for each organisation were required. In response, Mr Rogers undertook to provide that information, as well as analysis of the issues raised, including on which entity was employing which number of staff and where.

ACTION: WDHSL Chairman and Board, and Acting CE, with Group Manager Paul Hope

There was further brief discussion on the review of the Radiology department, the utilisation of locums and services from Dunedin (when COVID alert levels prevented the use of locums from the North Island), and the drop in elective processes again as a result of COVID restrictions.

When asked if the need to keep beds available for potential COVID patients had affected the normal care of patients and income generation from that provision of care, Mr Kite advised that to date it had not had an impact but there was likely to be such an impact when COVID is present in the community.

Asked for views on the single rural contract with the DHB, and any challenges it may pose, Mr Rogers advised that the Board was currently working through that with other rural hospitals and the Southern District Health Board (SDHB). There appeared to be few advantages at the moment to having one contract, but there is also a lack of clarity on that given the lack of detail. He felt that there could be some advantages in scale, but there would also be trade-offs in autonomy. The matter was a priority on the Board's agenda. As things stood, the Board believed that its current model was the better one.

Regarding the healthcare reform, Mr Rogers advised that the SDHB had been relatively silent in its engagement with WDHSL, but its Chair was proactively seeking engagement. WDHSL was unique in New Zealand because it was Council-owned and also had Trusts within its structure. The Board had been engaging with the Ministry and its transition unit and had been seeking advice from Council officers about how to engage with them as that transition moved forward.

In response to a question, Mr Kite clarified that GST payments were not up to date, but an arrangement was in place with regard to the arrears.

RESOLVED WDC 2021/175

Moved: Cr Colin Wollstein

Seconded: Cr Jim Hopkins

That Council:

1. Receives the attached draft Waitaki District Health Services Limited 2020-2021 Annual Report; and
2. Notes that it is unaudited at this time.

CARRIED

The Chair thanked all the WDHSL representatives for the work they were doing, and especially on financial matters. He acknowledged that running a hospital in COVID times was a challenge in itself, and that the workload Board members and staff had been carrying and were still carrying was appreciated. He also highlighted Council's view of the importance of retaining a hospital in Waitaki for its population.

5 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED WDC 2021/176

Moved: Cr Jim Hopkins

Seconded: Cr Jim Thomson

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject matter 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 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48 for the passing of this resolution
<p>6.1 - Sports and Events Centre Naming Rights Options PE</p>	<p>s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons</p> <p>s7(2)(c)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied</p> <p>s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)</p>	<p>s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7</p>
<p>6.2 - Waitaki District Health Services Review PE</p>	<p>s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons</p> <p>s7(2)(c)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied</p> <p>s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations</p>	<p>s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7</p>

	(including commercial and industrial negotiations) s7(2)(j) - the withholding of the information is necessary to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	
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CARRIED

6 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SECTION

The Public Excluded Minutes apply to this section of the meeting.

7 RESOLUTION TO RETURN TO THE PUBLIC MEETING

RESOLVED WDC 2021/181

Moved: Cr Kelli Williams
Seconded: Cr Jeremy Holding

That Council resumes in open meeting and decisions made in the public excluded session are confirmed and made public as and when required and considered.

CARRIED

8 RELEASE OF PUBLIC EXCLUDED INFORMATION

In accordance with Waitaki District Council Standing Orders, and pursuant to resolutions in the public excluded session of the meeting, Council decided not to release any previously public excluded information under this agenda item in the Public Minutes of this meeting.

9 MEETING CLOSE

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed, at 12.12pm.

CONFIRMED at the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 8 December 2021.

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CHAIRPERSON