

Confirmed Public minutes of the Council meeting on Thursday 29 February 2024

Committee Room, Greater Wellington Regional Council | Te Pane Matua Taiao
34 Chapel Street, Masterton at 10.03am.

Members Present

Councillor Ponter (Chair)
Councillor Staples (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Bassett
Councillor Connelly (from 10.06am)
Councillor Duthie (via MS Teams)
Councillor Gaylor
Councillor Kirk-Burnnand
Councillor Laban
Councillor Lee (via MS Teams)
Councillor Nash (via MS Teams)
Councillor Saw
Councillor Woolf

Councillors Duthie, Lee and Nash attended the meeting remotely via Microsoft Teams, and counted for the purposes of quorum in accordance with clause 25B of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002.

Karakia timatanga

The Council Chair opened the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

Public Business

1 Apologies

There were no apologies.

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

3 Public participation

There was no public participation.

4 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Council meeting on 7 December 2023 - Report 23.658

Moved: Cr Kirk-Burnnand / Cr Laban

That Council confirms the Public minutes of the Council meeting on 7 December 2023 – Report 23.658.

The motion was **carried**.

Strategy, policy or major issues

5 Public Transport Fares: Annual Fares Review – Report 24.34

Tim Shackleton, Senior Manager Commercial, Strategy, and Investments, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Nash / Cr Kirk-Burnnand

That Council:

- 1 Notes that the policy in Te Mahere Waka Whenua Tūmatanui o te Rohe o Pōneke Wellington Regional Public Transport Plan 2021-31 provides that fare levels will be adjusted annually with inflation within 1% to 3%, subject to Council decision through annual fares review and the Annual Plan or Long Term Plan process.
- 2 Notes that the current Ko te Kaupapa Here Moni Whiwhi me Ahumoni Revenue and Financing Policy 2022 aims to maintain an average 30% of total operating revenue from fares and other user charges over the years of the Long Term Plan.
- 3 Notes that due to the changes to travel behaviour and lower patronage levels post-COVID-19 pandemic, inflationary costs and no fare increase in 2022/23, fare revenue (including Government funding of half-price fares initiative) was 23% of total operating revenue and lower than the 32% budgeted for in 2022/23.
- 4 Notes that while the last fare increase implemented on 1 April 2023 was 6% at the level of inflation, it was lower than the 10% cost increase budgeted for 2023/24.
- 5 Notes that fare revenue in 2024/25 (without a fare increase) is likely to remain below 25% of operating revenue and substantially lower than the 30% policy intent.

- 6 Notes that to reduce pressure on rates and debt funding, at least a 10% fare increase would be required to align fare increases with inflation and partially cover the expected cost increase budgeted for 2024/25.
- 7 Notes that a 10% fare increase brings in revenue that offsets a 3.3% rates increase.
- 8 Agrees to increases fares by 10% from 1 July 2024.

The motion was **carried**.

Councillor Connelly arrived at 10.06am during discussion on the above item.

6 End of the Government Funding for Age-based Concessions – Report 24.45

Tim Shackleton, Senior Manager Commercial Strategy and Investments, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Staples / Cr Bassett

That Council:

- 1 Notes that amending public transport fares is a decision that rests with public transport authorities (PTAs), in this case the Council.
- 2 Notes that Government fully funded universal half price public transport fares between 1 April 2022 and 1 July 2023.
- 3 Notes that in the Wellington Region, the universal half price fare initiative was in place from 1 April 2022 until 31 August 2023
- 4 Notes that on 18 May 2023, the Government announced termination of the universal half price fares and reallocated Crown funding to permanently subsidise a targeted Community Connect scheme for the following groups from 1 July 2023:
 - a Free travel for under 13 year olds
 - b Half price fares for 13-24 year olds
 - c Half price fares for Community Services Card (CSC) holders; and
 - d 75% discount on Total Mobility taxi services for Total Mobility Card holders
- 5 Notes that on 22 June 2023, the Council agreed to partially fund an extension of the universal half price fares in the region as an interim measure to allow time for implementation of the Government age-based Community Connect Scheme from 1 September 2023.
- 6 Notes that the Government's targeted Community Connect Concession has been in place since 1 September 2023 with the end of the universal half-price fares.
- 7 Notes that on 20 December 2023, the new Government announced termination of the funding under the Community Connect Scheme for half

price public transport fares for 13 to 24 year olds and free travel for 5 to 12 year olds.

- 8 Notes that the Government funding for the two age-based concessions will cease after a 90-day notice period that will conclude on 30 April 2024.
- 9 Notes that Government will continue fully subsidising the existing half-price public transport fares under the Community Connect scheme for CSC holders and the 75% discount on Total Mobility taxi fares for Total Mobility card holders.
- 10 Notes that the Government has indicated that it will provide regions with the funding assistance required to cover the costs of disestablishing the two age-based concessions.
- 11 Notes that retaining the free travel for under 13 year olds and 50% discount for under 25 year olds would cost approximately \$10 to \$12m per annum.
- 12 Agrees to
 - a Terminate provision of free travel for under 13 year olds and half-price fares for under 25 year olds from 1 May 2024; and
 - b Continue with provision of the Community Connect scheme for the remaining groups (half-price fares for CSC holders and 75% Total Mobility taxi fare discounts) along with the regional targeted concessions under current policies.
- 13 Authorises officers to undertake actions to implement Council's decision.

The motion was **carried**.

7 Dis-establishment of Let's Get Wellington Moving programme – Report 24.56 [For Information]

Luke Troy, Group Manager Strategy, spoke to the report.

8 2024 draft Revenue and Finance Policy – Report 24.58

Kyn Drake, Principal Finance Policy Advisor, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Ponter / Cr Bassett

That Council:

- 1 Confirms that the Revenue and Financing Policy is to be amended as per the changes stated in this report, with Option 1 progressed for the Wellington City Council general rate.
- 2 Notes that the proposed amendments to the policy are not an amendment to the 2024-34 Long Term Plan.
- 3 Approves the draft Ko Te Kaupapa Here Moni Whiwhi Me Ahumoni – Revenue and Financing Policy for the purpose of public consultation (Attachment 1).
- 4 Authorises the Council Chair to make editorial changes to the proposed Revenue and Financing Policy and accompanying documents, if required.

- 5 Requests that the Chief Executive writes a letter to the Wellington City Council Chief Executive informing them of the policy for consultation.

The motion was **carried**.

The meeting adjourned at 11.22am and resumed at 11.28am.

Governance

9 Appointment of and Remuneration for the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee Chairperson – Report 24.22

Francis Ryan, Head of Governance and Democracy, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Connelly / Cr Gaylor

That Council:

- 1 Notes that, as the Administering Authority, Council is responsible for appointing the Chairperson of the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee and setting the Chairperson's remuneration.
- 2 Notes that, at its meeting on 5 December 2023, the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee elected Darrin Apanui (Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust) as its nominee for Council to appoint as Chairperson of the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee.
- 3 Appoints Darrin Apanui as Chairperson of the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee.
- 4 Resolves that the appointment of and remuneration for the Chairperson ceases 14 days after the final Wellington Regional Leadership Committee meeting of the 2022-25 triennium.
- 5 Approves the remuneration for the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee Chairperson as:
 - a An annual taxable honorarium of \$13,500
 - b A taxable daily fee for Committee meetings and workshops of \$470
 - c Greater Wellington's standard mileage or reimbursement of public transport costs.
- 6 Requests that the Chief Executive notifies the Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust of the appointment and associated remuneration to be paid to the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee Chairperson.

The motion was **carried**.

10 Infrastructure New Zealand's United Kingdom Delegation – Report 24.93

Francis Ryan, Head of Governance and Democracy, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Connelly / Cr Gaylor

That Council:

- 1 Notes that Infrastructure New Zealand has invited Greater Wellington to be considered as a member of the 2024 delegation to the United Kingdom delegation – ‘Place based solutions: Learnings from the UK’.
- 2 Determines that Greater Wellington wishes to be represented on this delegation.
- 3 Notes that any Council nominee is subject to a selection process applied by Infrastructure NZ to determine the composition of the delegation.
- 4 Approves Councillor Ponter being considered for the delegation.
- 5 Approves the flight class for air travel to the United Kingdom as Premium Economy class.
- 6 Approves the expenditure directly associated with participation (if selected) on the delegation.

The motion was **carried**.

11 Greater Wellington’s Quarter Two summary 2023/24 – Report 24.60

Nigel Corry, Chief Executive, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Staples / Cr Saw

That Council accepts Greater Wellington’s performance report for the six months to 31 December 2023 (Greater Wellington’s Quarter Two Summary Report as at 31 December 2023 – Attachment 1).

The motion was **carried**.

Councillor Lee departed at 12.04pm during the above item and did not return.

12 Finance Update – January 2024 – Report 24.81 [For Information]

Ali Trustrum-Rainey, Group Manager Finance and Risk, spoke to the report.

Resolution to exclude the public

13 Resolution to exclude the public – Report 24.90

Moved: Cr Gaylor / Cr Kirk-Burnnand

That Council excludes the public from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

Confirmation of the Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting on Thursday 7 December 2023 – Report PE23.659

Appointment of Trustees to the Wellington Regional Stadium Trust – Report PE24.74

Public Transport Lease Opportunity – Report PE24.59

Confirmation of the Restricted Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting on Thursday 7 December 2023 – Report RPE23.660

Interim Review of the Chief Executive’s Performance for 2023/24 – Report RPE24.27

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reasons 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 (the Act) for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

Confirmation of the Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting on Thursday 7 December 2023 – Report PE23.659	
<i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i>	<i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i>
<p>The information included in these minutes relates to a proposed transfer of Greater Wellington Regional Council owned land to Porirua City Council on terms that have not finally been agreed.</p> <p>Excluding the public from the proceedings of the meeting is necessary as considering this information in public would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the ability of Greater Wellington to carry on negotiations for the land transfer.</p> <p>Greater Wellington has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the need to withhold the information.</p>	<p>The public conduct for this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(i) of the Act in order to enable Greater Wellington to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).</p>
Appointment of Trustees to the Wellington Regional Stadium Trust – Report PE24.74	
<i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i>	<i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i>
<p>The information contained in this report includes personal and identifying information about the proposed candidates for appointment. Withholding this information prior to Council's decision is necessary to protect the privacy of those natural persons (section 7(2)(a) of the Act) as releasing this information would disclose their consideration as Trustees of the Wellington Regional Stadium Trust.</p>	<p>The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons.</p>

<p>Greater Wellington has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the need to withhold the information.</p>	
<p>Public Transport Lease Opportunity – Report PE24.59</p>	
<p><i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i></p>	<p><i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i></p>
<p>Information contained in this report relates to a lease opportunity in northern Wellington. Release of this information would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the ability of Greater Wellington to carry on negotiations.</p> <p>Greater Wellington has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the need to withhold the information.</p>	<p>The public conduct for this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(i) of the Act in order to enable Greater Wellington to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).</p>
<p>Confirmation of the Restricted Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting on Thursday 7 December 2023 – Report RPE23.660</p>	
<p><i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i></p>	<p><i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i></p>
<p>Certain information contained in these minutes related to the future rail service procurement and contracting in the Wellington Region and to future bus procurement and contracting in the Wellington Region. Excluding the public from the proceedings of the meeting is necessary as considering this information in public would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the ability of Greater Wellington to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage commercial activities, and would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the ability of Greater Wellington to carry on negotiations with a potential operator/s for the Metlink public transport network.</p>	<p>The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(h) of the Act in order to enable Greater Wellington to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities and 7(2)(i) of the Act in order to enable Greater Wellington to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).</p>

Greater Wellington has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the need to withhold the information.	
Interim Review of the Chief Executive's Performance for 2023/24 – Report RPE24.27	
<i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i>	<i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i>
<p>The information contained in this report relates to the Chief Executive's performance for 2023/24. Release of this information would prejudice the Chief Executive's privacy by disclosing details of their performance agreement with the Council.</p> <p>Greater Wellington has not been able to identify a public interest favouring the disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting would override the Chief Executive's privacy.</p>	The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

The motion was **carried**.

The public part of the meeting closed at 12.23pm.

Councillor Lee departed the meeting at the end of the public part of the meeting.



Councillor A Staples

Presiding Member

Date: 11. April 2024