Minutes of a meeting of the Strategic Planning and Policy Committee held on Thursday 6 July 2017, commencing at 8.31am in the Manawatu District Council Chambers, 135 Manchester Street, Feilding.

PRESENT:          Cr Phil Marsh          (Chairperson)
                  Cr Steve Bielski
                  Cr Barbara Cameron
                  Cr Stuart Campbell
                  Cr Shane Casey
                  Cr Hilary Humphrey
                  Cr Andrew Quarrie
                  Cr Alison Short
                  Cr Howard Voss

LEAVE OF ABSENCE: Mayor Helen Worboys

APOLOGY:          Cr Michael Ford

IN ATTENDANCE:    Richard Templer          (Chief Executive)
                  Karel Boakes          (Acting General Manager – Corporate and Regulatory)
                  Frances Smorti       (General Manager – People and Culture)
                  Brent Limmer         (General Manager - Community and Strategy)
                  Tracey Hunt          (Strategy Manager)
                  Stacey Bell          (Economic Development Adviser)
                  Colleen Morris       (Chief Financial Officer)
                  Doug Tate            (Community Facilities Manager)
                  Lisa Thomas          (Policy Adviser)
                  Cynthia Ward        (Senior Policy Planner)
                  Paul Stein           (Communications Manager)
                  Allie Dunn           (Governance Team Leader)

SPP 17/052  MEETING OPENING

Councillor Marsh declared the meeting open.

SPP 17/053  APOLOGIES

RESOLVED

That the apology from Councillor Michael Ford be accepted.

Moved by:    Councillor Shane Casey
Seconded by: Councillor Howard Voss

CARRIED

SPP 17/054  DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.
SPP 17/055 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Strategic Planning and Policy Committee meeting held 4 May 2017 be adopted as a true and correct record.

Moved by: Councillor Alison Short
Seconded by: Councillor Andrew Quarrie

CARRIED

SPP 17/056 NOTIFICATION OF LATE ITEMS:

There were no late items notified for consideration.

SPP 17/057 PRESENTATION – VISITOR STATISTICS UPDATE 2017

Central Economic Development Agency Representatives Linda Stewart and Janet Reynolds gave a summary of visitor spending and visitor data to March 2017. Their presentation covered:

- visitor spend for the Manawatu region;
- visitor spend by origin;
- visitor nights;
- visitor nights by origin;
- day trips vs overnight;
- day trips vs overnight by origin;
- visitor nights 10 year trend;
- perception of Palmerston North; and
- perception of Manawatu.

SPP 17/058 PRESENTATION – LONG TERM PLAN – PROJECT PLAN AND SCOPING DISCUSSION

Tracey Hunt, Strategy Manager, gave a project update on the Long Term Plan 2018-28. The presentation covered the background to the Long Term Plan, the current stage the project was at and talked about what to expect from the LTP Project Team. The committee discussed the scope of the project, and gave feedback on their expectations for the Long Term Plan.

The following key issues were raised by members for consideration:

- Concerns around youth health, mental health, emergency housing, aging population demographic and whether it was within Council’s sphere of influence to assist in partnership with others;
- Government departments such as Ministry for the Environment, Ministry of Social Development and their future plans for the Manawatu District;
- Government spending – for example Police numbers, cuts in funding to Non-Governmental Organisations;
- Possible impact of development on classification of roading from state highway to local road, and responsibility for funding;
- Potential risk of claims relating to failed cladding on buildings;
- Future structure and design of what Feilding could look like in the future;
- Potential for village stormwater schemes; and
• Public transport – Council’s role in what we want to see for the community and those conversations with Horizons Regional Council.

Communications about the project: it was asked that information be provided in advance to the meeting to allow members time for consideration.

Community Engagement Planning: suggestions provided for democratic engagement:
  • Speaking at High School and Intermediate School assemblies, engaging with young people, visiting other sectors of community to have workshop style presentation and feedback sessions;
  • Discussion of important issues to generate response.

It was noted that the timelines for the project would be similar to those followed for the Annual Plan.

SPP 17/059 PRESENTATION – LONG TERM PLAN – FORECAST ASSUMPTIONS

Tracey Hunt, Strategy Manager, and Lisa Thomas, Policy Adviser, tabled a copy of the forecast assumptions for the Long Term Plan. They took the committee through the mitigation factors that can be put in place around Council’s assumptions and risk. They asked that committee members respond with feedback on the forecast assumptions to Lisa Thomas, Policy Adviser, by Thursday 13 July 2017. The next step would be to seek approval from the Strategic Planning and Policy Committee to include the forecast assumptions in the draft Long Term Plan.

SPP 17/060 PRESENTATION – LONG TERM PLAN – VISION AND OUTCOMES

Tracey Hunt, Strategy Manager and Lisa Thomas, Policy Adviser, presented on the Vision and Outcomes that are required for the Long Term Plan. Their presentation discussed the background and rationale for the Vision and Outcomes, and general principles about what the Vision and Outcomes should look like. The committee discussed the current Vision of “Connected, Vibrant and Thriving Manawatu – the best rural lifestyle in New Zealand” with feedback being that the current vision was still relevant and there was no appetite for change at this stage.

The meeting adjourned at 10.00am and reconvened at 10.19am

Feilding Vision – the committee discussed the current Feilding Vision, with the following wording being agreed for inclusion in the draft Long Term Plan: “An attractive, inclusive and progressive country town that offers lifestyle choices, business opportunities and services the regional rural sector”.

The committee felt the current Village Vision and Rural Vision were still relevant and there was no appetite to change those at this stage.

Council Outcomes: the committee discussed the current Council Outcomes and agreed that they be reworded as follows for inclusion in the draft Long Term Plan:

1. Manawatu District protects the natural environment through stewardship of the district’s natural and physical resources.
2. Manawatu District attracts and retains residents.
3. Manawatu District develops a broad, innovative and sustainable economic base from its solid foundation in the primary sector.

Councillor Howard Voss left the meeting at 11.04am and returned at 11.07am.
4. Manawatu is connected via quality infrastructure, services and technology.

5. Manawatu’s built environment is safe, resilient and attractive.

6. Manawatu District Council is a customer-focused and efficient organisation.

SPP 17/061 MANAWATU DISTRICT QUARTERLY ECONOMIC UPDATE

Report of the General Manager – Community and Strategy dated 22 June 2017 providing an overview of the current state and structure of the Manawatu District economy. Stacey Bell, Economic Development Adviser gave a presentation on the Domestic Economic Outlook that included the growth of the local economy, the drivers of that growth, the population growth over the past ten years, the forecast significant public investment in the district and the status of business confidence.

_Councillor Shane Casey left the meeting at 11.35am and returned at 11.37am_

RESOLVED

That the Strategic Planning and Policy Committee receives the Manawatu District Quarterly Economic Monitor dated 6 July 2017.

Moved by: Councillor Howard Voss

Seconded by: Councillor Shane Casey

CARRIED

SPP 17/062 CONSIDERATION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items for consideration.

SPP 17/063 MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 11.44am.

Approved and adopted as a true and correct record:

__________________________  ____________________
CHAIRPERSON  DATE