

ADDENDUM

COUNCIL

DATE: Wednesday 10 June 2009

TIME: 9.15 am

VENUE: Council Chambers
Matamata-Piako District Council
35 Kenrick Street
TE AROHA

MEMBERSHIP – Quorum (6)

Members:

Mayor G W H Vercoe QSM, ED, JP
Cr J E Barnes
Cr S D Gillard JP
Cr C L Greenville JP
Cr M L Gribble
Cr J W Harris
Cr P M Jager
Cr T J M Johnston JP
Cr R J McGrail
Cr G R Stanley
Cr M P Steffert
Cr L M Tisch

Information and recommendations are included in the reports to assist Council in the decision making process and may not constitute Council's decision until considered by Council.

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1 OFFICER REPORTS

1.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1.1.1 WASTE MINIMISATION STRATEGY

File No: SWM520400
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Infrastructure Manager
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Waste & Water Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following report describes how Council can best position itself to respond to new statutory requirements affecting waste management and the introduction of new financial charges relating to landfill disposal that will have effect from 1 July 2009.

BACKGROUND

The *Local Government Act 2002* signalled the introduction of a new approach and responsibilities in relation to waste management. The focus has switched from processes designed to “manage” waste streams towards processes that now “minimise” such waste. This approach was subsequently reflected in the *National Waste Strategy: Towards zero waste and a sustainable New Zealand* and more recently in the *2008 Waste Minimisation Act*. Legislation now requires Council to prepare and adopt a waste minimisation strategy and to demonstrate action towards its implementation. With such a strategy in place, Council is eligible to apply for funding towards waste minimisation initiatives. Without a strategy, Council and the community face the additional cost of a new landfill levy that will apply to every tonne of waste going to landfill.

A draft Strategy has been prepared that will set Council on the path towards compliance with the new legislation. This requires approval and adoption by Council and the subsequent development of an Action Plan that will demonstrate practical waste minimisation measures that could be eligible for funding support.

ISSUES

Council responded positively to the *2002 National Waste Strategy* and developed a Strategy and Action Plan in 2005. The statutory environment has moved on since that time and Council now finds itself short of meeting the requirements of the *2008 Waste Minimisation Act*. This could have significant cost implications for Council and the community. From 1 July 2009 a new levy is to be introduced that will charge Council \$10 for every tonne of waste going to landfill. The charge is to be collected by government to provide a fund for waste minimisation initiatives. After administrative costs are deducted, 50% of the recovered amount will be available to local authorities on the basis of their population if they have a compliant waste minimisation strategy and action plan. It is estimated that at this stage Matamata-Piako District Council could receive about \$105,000 from the fund providing it is

spent on implementation of a complying action plan. The remaining 50% is to be made available to local authorities and other organisations on a competitive basis.

Based upon current volumes of waste going to landfill, the new levy could cost Council and the community an additional \$95,000 per annum. This cost can be expected to increase over time as further initiatives come into play in respect of the management of greenhouse gases from landfill as part of the Emissions Trading Scheme.

Review of Council's *2005 Waste Management Plan* against the requirements of the 2008 Act indicates that the Plan would fall short of fulfilling the expectations of the Act. Moreover, review of performance of the 2005 Plan indicates that it has had only a very modest effect on diverting waste streams from landfill.

In this regard a draft *Waste Minimisation Strategy* has been prepared by Consultants, (One World) that provides a clear context for the development of a more effective Action Plan. The draft Strategy is written to respond directly to the challenges posed by the new Act and, if translated into meaningful actions, should position Council well in terms of its eligibility for funding for ongoing waste minimisation initiatives.

The draft Strategy is recommended for Council approval as a basis for developing actions that will meet community needs and expectations.

The most significant challenge for Council is the development of an *Action Plan* that will demonstrate meaningful progress towards waste minimisation. The audit processes introduced by the 2008 Act will require clear evidence that Action Plans are being effective in diverting waste away from landfill. Underperforming plans will weaken Council's ability to attract funding and result in increased costs for the community.

The 2008 Act describes a 5 point, sequential approach to waste minimisation:-

- Reduce
- Reuse
- Recycle
- Recover
- Residual to disposal

These are described as the "5 R's" and are now standard terminology for those involved in waste management. The focus of any waste minimisation strategy is on the first three points and the target is the waste producer whether it is a household, an office, school or factory. There is therefore a need, and an expectation, that any waste minimisation Action Plan will focus on these areas as this is where there is the greatest potential for diverting waste away from landfill. Education and awareness raising will be a significant issue to address but, as well as being an action in its own right, community feedback to such initiatives will also help to identify the community's demand or level of support for other practical waste minimisation measures.

It is therefore proposed that a Working Party is established comprising representatives of major sections of the community such as householders, farming,

industry and education to assist the development of an Action Plan through a public consultation process for adoption by 1 July 2010.

To ensure that the eventual Action Plan will be effective in minimising waste and securing financial support from the landfill levy it will be important that it recognises the high expectations placed upon it by the 2008 Act and the Audit processes and does not simply reflect the lowest common denominator. In that regard it will be important for the Working Party to include an element of leadership and support from Council to ensure that it will deliver positive and measurable waste reduction measures. Council is not alone in needing to address the matter; all local authorities face exactly the same challenge and there is now a considerable body of expertise that Council can draw on to develop the Plan. In that regard staff support to the Working party will be expected to bring an element of practical experience and expertise to the process as well as administrative assistance.

POLICY AND BYLAW ISSUES

Adoption of the *Waste Minimisation Strategy* signals the commencement of a new approach to waste management. As a consequence, it is possible that the development of an *Action Plan* might identify the need for change to Council policies and bylaws. This will become clear by 1 July 2010 although there are no immediate impacts on existing policies or bylaws.

LONG TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Community Development

Community Development has a focus on economic, social, environmental and cultural well being and includes activities such as Democracy, District Plan, the Long Term Council Community Plan and generally increasing community input into Council decision making. Improving representation in Council's decision making and finding other ways to improve the process of democracy in our district is important.

- *District Plan*
 - *Natural Environment and Heritage*

FOUR WELL-BEINGS

The proposal will enhance the environmental and economic wellbeing of the district.

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

- Healthy Air, Water, Land: Healthy People
- Economic Development: Prosperity

SIGNIFICANCE POLICY

This issue is not considered significant in terms of Council's Significance Policy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Resource requirements are in accordance with existing budgetary allocation. Council should be aware that landfill disposal will attract an additional levy of \$10 per tonne from 1 July 2009. Based upon current disposal rates this would amount to around \$95,000 per annum. The preparation of an effective, compliant *Action Plan* will reduce this charge by diverting waste but will also enable Council to apply for funding of further waste minimisation initiatives, thus potentially reducing costs further.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That:

- 1. the report entitled Waste Minimisation Strategy be received.**
- 2. Council adopt the Draft Waste Minimisation Strategy and an action plan as the basis for developing a plan of action.**
- 3. a working party be established comprising Councillors John Harris, Garry Stanley and Tim Johnson, community representatives from residential, business, education and other significant sectors to develop an Action Plan capable of meeting the requirements of the Draft Waste Minimisation Strategy.**
- 4. the Action Plan be developed through public consultation and be recommended to Council for adoption by 1 July 2010.**