



Confirmed public minutes of the Emergency Council meeting on 24 March 2020

Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
Level 2, 15 Walter Street, Te Aro, Wellington at 3.01pm.

Members Present

Councillor Ponter (Chair)
Councillor Gaylor
Councillor Hughes
Councillor Laban
Councillor Lee
Councillor Nash
Councillor van Lier

By remote participation

Councillor Blakeley
Councillor Brash
Councillor Connelly
Councillor Kirk-Burnnand
Councillor Lamason
Councillor Staples

Public Business

1 Apologies

There were no apologies.

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

3 Public participation

There was no public participation.

Strategy, policy or major issues

4 Delegation to the Chief Executive during COVID-19 pandemic – Report 20.107

Francis Ryan, Manager, Democratic Services, spoke to the report.

Updated recommendations and an updated Attachment 1 (proposed delegation) were tabled; the updated recommendations and Attachment 1 provided for a delegation to be exercised by three specified Councillors provided certain conditions are met, and on the recommendation of the Chief Executive.

Moved: Cr Blakeley / Cr Laban

That the Council:

- 1 Notes that Greater Wellington considers it is prudent for Council to authorise three specified Councillors to make urgent decisions, by agreement, in specified situations during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2 Issues a delegation, which includes appropriate conditions, to three specified Councillors to make urgent decisions, by agreement, during the COVID-19 pandemic (Attachment 1).

The motion was **carried**.

5 Reduction in quorum for specific committees – Report 20.105

Francis Ryan, Manager, Democratic Services, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Laban / Cr Brash

That the Council:

- 1 Notes the Government is currently at Alert level 3 for the COVID-19 pandemic, and will move to Alert level 4 on Wednesday 25 March 2020; with Council unable to meet during the latter as it cannot form a quorum of members physically present.
- 2 Notes that, whilst Committee meetings are currently cancelled, approving a reduced quorum for specific Committees would enable recommencement of these meetings as soon as practicable (once the Government's Alert level allows for this).
- 3 Agrees that if the anticipated Order in Council for local government in the COVID-19 situation does not address, or address adequately, the matter of the meeting quorum for Council and Committees, it may be necessary to hold meetings where all members participate remotely, with remote participants counting for the purpose of the quorum, acknowledging that such meetings may technically be in breach of the meeting requirements of the Local Government Official Information Meetings Act 1987.

- 4 Notes that, due to statutory requirements it is not possible for Council to reduce the quorum of Council; also it is not possible to reduce the quorum of Wellington Regional Strategy Committee without the agreement of the Wellington Region's territorial authorities.
- 5 Notes that, as the quorum is already minimal, it is not proposed to amend the quorum for the Wairarapa Committee or the Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee.
- 6 Agrees to amend the quorum requirements for other Committees as follows:
 - a Two Committee members for the:
 - i Environment Committee
 - ii Transport Committee
 - iii Climate Committee
 - iv Finance, Risk and Assurance Committee
 - b The Chair or Deputy Chair, and one other Committee member, for the Regional Transport Committee
 - c Two Councillors for the Chief Executive Employment Review Committee
 - d Two Councillor and two non-Councillor members of the Committee for Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resources Plan Committee.
- 7 Notes that the key purpose of the reduction in quorum is to enable most members of committees to participate in meetings remotely at the earliest opportunity feasible for committees to recommence.

The motion was **carried**.

The meeting closed at 4.07pm.



Councillor D Ponter
Chair

Date: 25/06/2020

