



PAPAIOEA
PALMERSTON
NORTH
CITY

PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA

COUNCIL **LATE ITEM**

9AM, WEDNESDAY 6 APRIL 2022
AUDIO-VISUAL MEETING

MEMBERS

Grant Smith (Mayor)	
Aleisha Rutherford (Deputy Mayor)	
Brent Barrett	Patrick Handcock ONZM
Susan Baty	Leonie Hapeta
Rachel Bowen	Lorna Johnson
Zulfiqar Butt	Billy Meehan
Vaughan Dennison	Orphée Mickalad
Renee Dingwall	Karen Naylor
Low Findlay QSM	Bruno Petrenas

AGENDA ITEMS, IF NOT ATTACHED, CAN BE VIEWED AT

pncc.govt.nz | Civic Administration Building, 32 The Square
City Library | Ashhurst Community Library | Linton Library

Chris Dyhrberg

Acting Chief Executive | PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL

Te Marae o Hine | 32 The Square
Private Bag 11034 | Palmerston North 4442 | New Zealand
pncc.govt.nz

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COUNCIL MEETING

6 April 2022

ORDER OF BUSINESS

LATE REPORT

26. Council Chamber and vaccine pass requirements Page 5

Memorandum, presented by Hannah White, Democracy and Governance Manager.

Reason for lateness- Central government announcement that Palmerston North remains in Red setting were confirmed following publishing of the Council's agenda

Reason for urgency- Delay of paper to the May Council meeting would mean that vaccine pass requirements would remain for committee meetings for the month of April without opportunity for discussion by Council

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council

MEETING DATE: 6 April 2022

TITLE: Council Chamber and vaccine pass requirements

PRESENTED BY: Hannah White, Democracy and Governance Manager

APPROVED BY: Sheryl Bryant, Assistant Chief Executive

RECOMMENDATION(S) TO COUNCIL

- 1. That the vaccine pass requirement for access to the Council Chamber be removed.**
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1. ISSUE

On 2 March 2022 Council resolved:

(5-22)

1. That where the New Zealand government has placed limits on Palmerston North that would require Democracy and Governance staff and/or Elected Members to work from home OR where the Chief Executive (or in their absence Deputy Chief Executive) in concurrence with the Chair (or in their absence Deputy Chair) has determined that staff and/or member capacity limits the holding of meetings in person, then that particular Council/Committee meeting will move online, meeting at their scheduled times via digital means according to LGA Sch.7, s.25B, under the Epidemic Preparedness COVID-19 Notice 2020. In the event that a standing committee or a meeting of Council cannot be serviced, the Chief Executive will advise the Chair of the committee (or in their absence the Deputy Chair or in their absence the Mayor) that the committee or Council meeting will need to be cancelled and any urgent business moved to the next appropriate meeting.
2. That where Palmerston North is under the COVID-19 Protection Framework "Traffic light Orange, or Green," Council and Committees will continue to meet in person following public health guidance, unless Recommendation 1 is in effect.
3. That where Palmerston North is under the COVID-19 Protection Framework "Traffic light Red," Council and Committees will continue to meet in person following public health guidance with those present required to present a New Zealand government regulated Vaccine Pass, unless Recommendation 1 is in effect.

4. That Council note that where the Epidemic Preparedness COVID-19 Notice 2020 remains in force, members, staff and the public may choose to attend meetings remotely or in person, with those present in person required to present a New Zealand government regulated Vaccine Pass. Digital access to the meeting will be provided for members who request to attend remotely.

Since that time, Palmerston North is seeing peak case numbers and the country remains in the red traffic light under the COVID-19 Protection Framework, however the central government has now revised its advice around the use of vaccine passes.

As a consequence of the revision of the public health advice, the vaccine pass requirements on Council facilities have been lifted as of 5 April 2022. Following this operational decision, the staff vaccination policy was also suspended as of 5 April 2022.

The Chamber is the only council facility which retains a vaccine pass requirement for the public. In order to lift the vaccination requirement on the Council Chamber, Council would need to resolve to change their previous decisions noted above.

2. BACKGROUND

Recent meetings of Council committees and Council itself have been held online on as-per-need basis in accordance with resolution 5-22.1. There is no recommendation to rescind 5-22.1 at this stage. In other words, meetings may continue be held online as required. The public will continue to be notified of the location of each meeting.

Furthermore, the Epidemic Notice remains in place until at least June 2022, upon which it may be renewed for subsequent 3-month period. Thus, 5-22.4 also remains in place. This means that should any elected member, member of the community or staff member feel unsafe or is otherwise unable to attend in person for any reason, they may choose to attend via digital means, and this will be provided for.

Risk assessment notes that length of meetings heightens the risk of transmission between those that attend, however it can no longer be argued that there is an overall increased risk of COVID-19 infection and transmission with visiting the facility compared to other community locations. This is because of other controls now in place, specifically the high rate of vaccination within Palmerston North and the availability of booster vaccinations for adults and vaccinations for children (ages 5-11 years). Other public health measures also remain in place, eg. mask-wearing and distancing.

Accordingly, officers recommend that the vaccine pass requirement included in resolution 5-22.3 and 5-22.4 be removed (underlined for highlight).

Reasons for doing so include:

- Risk assessment noted above
- Consistency of risk assessment application across all Council facilities
- Congruity of policy application for all Council staff
- Clarity of messaging to members of the public
- Democratic access for those who wish to participate in person
- Continuity of choice for those who wish to attend remotely

3. NEXT STEPS

The public will be informed of the decision.

4. COMPLIANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Does the Council have delegated authority to decide? If Yes quote relevant clause(s) from Delegations Manual	Yes
Are the decisions significant?	No
If they are significant do they affect land or a body of water?	
Can this decision only be made through a 10 Year Plan?	No
Does this decision require consultation through the Special Consultative procedure?	No
Is there funding in the current Annual Plan for these actions?	Yes
Are the recommendations inconsistent with any of Council's policies or plans?	No
The recommendations contribute to Goal 5: A Driven & Enabling Council	
The recommendations contribute to the achievement of action/actions in Governance and Active Citizenship	
The action is: Ongoing review of governance systems and structures to support Council's effectiveness and reputation.	
Contribution to strategic direction and to social, economic,	Democratic participation can continue during COVID pandemic, allowing for both organisational and individual assessment of risk.

environmental and cultural well-being	
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ATTACHMENTS

Nil