



Strategy and Policy Committee MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Strategy and Policy Committee held in Council Chambers on Tuesday 13 February, 2018 at 10.30am.

	Present:
Chairman	Cr B Simcock
Deputy Chairman	Cr T Mahuta
	Members
Waikato Regional Council	Cr J Hayman
	Cr J Hennebry
	Cr K Hodge
	Cr S Husband
	Cr F Lichtwark
	Cr A Livingston
	Cr D Minogue
	Cr R Rimmington
	Cr H Vercoe
	Cr K White
	Cr B Quayle
Staff	V Payne (Chief Executive)
	M Garrett (Chief Financial Officer)
	T May (Director, Strategy and Policy)
	G Dawson (Democracy Advisor)

Apologies

Cr S Kneebone (for absence)
Cr J Hayman (for lateness)
Cr A Livingston (for lateness)

Accepted

Confirmation of Agenda

(Agenda Item 2)

Cr Simcock moved/Cr Husband seconded.

SPC18/01 RESOLVED

THAT the agenda of the meeting of the Strategy and Policy Committee of 13 February 2018, as circulated, be confirmed as the business for the meeting.

The motion was put and carried SPC18/01

Disclosures of Interest

(Agenda Item 3)

There were no disclosures of interest.

SECTION A: UNDER DELEGATION AND FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL

Verbal Update from Communications

Item 5

Presented by the Manager, Communications. In her verbal update she noted that:

- There had been an increase across all areas of the organisation through social media and other online platforms such as Flood Room on the main Council website.
- The Waikato Unwrapped campaign was a success. The approach of telling Council success stories and presenting the work we do in an innovative way was an effective way to reach a broader audience.
- The resolving of issues and queries from the public had increased in the first instance due to the use of a more focused and targeted approach to dealing with these matters. The process would continue to be improved over time.
- Communications would also provide the Committee with a written report on key features and activities for each future meeting.

Cr Hennebry moved/Cr Mahuta seconded.

SPC18/02 RESOLVED

THAT the verbal update be received.

The motion was put and carried (SPC18/02)

Thames-Coromandel District Council and Hauraki District Council Mangrove Management Bill

Item 6, Doc # 11775432

The agenda item was introduced to the Council by the Director, Science and Strategy (T May) and presented by the Principal Advisor, Science and Strategy (B Bunting). It addressed the content, and subsequent lodgement, of the Council's submission to the Thames-Coromandel District Council (TCDC) and Hauraki District Council (HDC) Mangrove Management Bill (the Bill).

The matter had been raised and addressed previously by the Council and the submission was the next step in the process discussed prior. The Council asked for two amendments to the Bill, at 5(1) and the further reference at submission point 6(2) to ensure consistent messaging. The second amendment to the submission was to ensure that sufficient acknowledgement was provided in the narrative to the submission that many information conversations had occurred between Council and TCDC.

It was agreed that there was a need for the Council to remain neutral on Bill to mitigate any risks that could prejudice any future legal or regulatory processes or procedures. There was also agreement that where possible all territorial authorities should work together to get the best outcomes for the impacted areas, and to ensure an ongoing and productive relationship between the councils'.

Cr Mahuta moved/Cr Simcock seconded.

SPC18/03

RESOLVED

1. **THAT the report 'Waikato Regional Council submission to the Thames-Coromandel District Council and Hauraki District Council Mangrove Management Bill' (Doc # 11775432 dated 1 February 2018) be received.**

RECCOMENDED

2. **That Committee approve the "Waikato Regional Council submission to the Thames-Coromandel District Council and Hauraki District Council Mangrove Management Bill" (Doc # 11630356) for lodgment to the Secretariat of the Parliament Governance and Administration Select Committee with amendments.**
3. **That the submission to be lodged reflect the discussion at the Committee, where amendments to the submission include consistency of message between submission point 5.1 and 6.2, and that express reference is made in the submission to the informal discussions had between Council and TCDC in regard to the management of mangroves and the Local Bill.**

The motion was put and a division was called for

For: Cr J Hayman, Cr J Hennebry, Cr K Hodge, Cr S Husband,
Cr A Livingston, Cr H Vercoe, Cr K White, & Cr B Quayle
Opposed: Cr Rimmington & Cr Lichtwark
Abstained: Cr Minogue

The motion was carried (SPC18/03)

Update of National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management amendments, Swimmability targets

Item 7, Doc # 11793867

Presented by the Director, Science and Strategy (T May). The report provided an update on the swimmability targets being progressed by the Ministry for the Environment, Ministry of Primary Industries, and the regional sector.

The direction of work that Council will undertake in complying with the NPSFM will develop and change over time as the newly elected government clarified and refined their policy priorities around freshwater management. Once clarity had been provided by Central Government, the Council can develop a response to any changes.

The Director of Science and Science undertook to provide Councillors with more detailed information on issues related to non-compliance of consent conditions in relation to municipal point source discharges into catchments and harbours. It was noted that a report on this matter will be reported back at the next Committee meeting.

Cr Minogue moved/Cr Rimmington seconded.

SPC18/04

RESOLVED

1. That the report '*Update of National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management amendments, Swimmability targets*' (Doc # 11793867 dated 05 February 2018) be received for information.
2. That the Committee note that the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management requires Council to publish final swimmability targets by 31 December 2018, and that the engagement process to determine the swimmability targets will be presented to the Committee at a future meeting for comment.
3. That Council staff keep Councillors informed on developments in this area.

The motion was put and carried (SPC18/04)

Transport Update

Item 8, Doc # 11701489

Report presented by the Acting Manager Integration (B McMaster) that highlighted current regional land transport planning issues in the Waikato region.

It was noted the revised Government Policy Statement (GPS) from the Ministry of Transport would be released at some stage in the first half of 2018. It was unclear what would be contained in the final version of the of the policy statement, however staff are confident that the existing Regional Land Transport Plan that is under development would align with the priorities in the (GPS).

Cr Lichtwark moved/Cr Vercoe seconded.

SPC18/05 RESOLVED

1. **That the report “Regional Transport Planning Update” (Doc # 11701489 dated 25 January 2018) be received.**

The motion was put and carried (SPC18/05)

SECTION B: FOR RECCOMENDATION TO COUNCIL

Regional Public Transport Plan Fares Policy Amendment

Item 9, Doc # 11699552

Presented by the Chief Financial Officer (M Garrett). The report proposed an amendment to the fare policy amendment in the operative Regional Public Transport Plan 2015-25.

It was emphasised that the fare policy amendment was reflective of the change in the way that travel zones were organised and fares calculated as a result. For a large majority of transport users, there would be little to no change. Where an increase did occur, it would be managed.

Cr Husband moved/Cr Hennebry seconded.

SPC18/06 RESOLVED

1. **That the report titled ‘Proposed amendment to the RPTP fare policy’ (Doc # 11699552 dated 25 January 2018) be received.**

RECOMMENDED

2. **That the Strategy and Policy Committee endorse the proposed fare policy wording as outlined within attachment 1 (Doc # 11699552) of this report.**
3. **That the Waikato Regional Council adopts the policies and amends the current Regional Public Transport Plan 2015-2018 to incorporate the fare policy changes in advance of implementing the new ticketing system in 2018.**

The motion was put and carried (SPC18/06)

Water Users Liaison Forum – review of information gathering charges to inform Council’s Long Term Plan considerations

Item 10, Doc # 11685153

The report was presented by the Principal Advisor, Science and Strategy (B Bunting). It provided information on the information gathering charges undertaken by a sub-group of the Water Users Liaison Forum (the Forum), and sought Committee approval of the annual charges for science and information gathering levied by Council be included in the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan as a consultation topic.

It was noted that the Forum Sub-group came to the decision to move to a general one tier charge after being presented with a range of options that included both one and two tier options. Concerns were also raised by some Councillors on perceived equity issues with the way that the costs are calculated, but acknowledged that as a consultation topic for the LTP these matter were likely to be well canvassed.

Cr Livingston congratulated Cr Mahuta on the work done to date with the Forum.

Cr Minogue moved/Cr Mahuta seconded.

Against:

SPC18/07

RESOLVED

1. That the report titled 'Water Users Liaison Forum– review of information gathering charges to inform Council's LTP considerations' (Doc # 11685153 dated 18 January 2018) be received.

RECOMMEND

2. That Committee approve the annual charges for science and information gathering levied by WRC on water take consent holders in the region as a topic for consultation in the 2018-2018 LTP consultation document.
3. That the options for consultation include:
 - a) Status quo – No change to the current arrangement for water user charges
 - b) No change to quantum of funding received from water user charges but change to distribution of charges as identified by the Water Users Liaison Forum sub-group – preferred option as set out in paragraph 30.

The motion was put and division called for

For: Cr J Hayman, Cr K Hodge, Cr Minogue, Cr A Livingston, Cr K White, & Cr B Quayle
Opposed: Cr Hennebry, Cr Lichtwark, Cr Vercoe, and Cr Husband.
Abstained: nil

The motion was carried (SPC18/07)

Meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.33pm

Meeting reconvened at 1.00pm

SECTION A: UNDER DELEGATION AND FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL

2018-2028 Long Term Plan – February update

Item 11, Doc # 11743745

The Manager, Corporate Planning presented the paper as read. The report provided an update of the LTP development programme and set out the work plan for the next few months, outlined the consultation topics for inclusion in the consultation document as agreed by the council at the meeting on 30 January 2018, and outlined the proposed process for submitting to other councils' Long Term Plans.

Cr Mahuta moved/Cr Hodge seconded.

SPC18/08 **RESOLVED**

1. **That the report '2018-2028 Long Term Plan (LTP) Development – February Update' (Doc # 11743745) dated 13 February 2018 be received, and**
2. **That the consultation topics as outlined in the table in paragraph 10 be noted.**
3. **That the process for approving submissions to other councils' Long Term Plans, as presented in appendix 1, be approved.**

The motion was put and carried (SPC18/08)

SECTION B: FOR RECCOMENDATION TO COUNCIL

Non-Financial forecasting assumptions for the 2018 – 2028 long term plan

Item 12, Doc # 11744951

The Manager, Corporate Planning presented the report. It provided an updated version of the non-financial forecasting assumptions for the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan (LTP). It was noted that the assumptions build on ones that had already been agreed on from June 2017. Updates formed part of the legal obligation to do so and set the assumptions for the future growth of the Waikato region such as land use, economic growth, and transport.

Cr Simcock moved/Cr Minogue seconded.

SPC18/09 **RESOLVED**

1. **That the report 'Non-financial forecasting assumptions for 2018-2028 Long Term Plan' (Doc # 11744951 dated 24 January 2018) be received.**

RECOMMENDED

2. **That the non-financial forecasting assumptions, as presented, be approved.**

The motion was put and carried (SPC18/09)

2018-2028 long term plan (the LTP) performance measures

Item 13, Doc # 11790105

The Manager, Corporate Planning presented this report. A set of 51 performance measures had been drafted for the 2018-2028 LTP. A total of 28 were rolled over from the previous LTP and 23 new measures were developed. Councillors were given the opportunity to provide feedback after the 13 December LTP workshop where the draft measures were distributed for review.

Audit NZ has reviewed the proposed measures and their feedback has been incorporated. The performance measures need to be adopted by council and will be included as supporting material on the council website during LTP consultation. The performance measures provide a framework that progress can be measured against.

Cr Hennebry moved/Cr Lichtwark seconded.

SPC18/10 **RESOLVED**

1. **That the report ‘2018-2028 Long Term Plan performance measures’ (Doc # 11704072 dated 13 February 2018) be received.**

RECOMMENDED

2. **That council adopts the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan performance measures to be included as supporting material for consultation.**

The motion was put and carried (SPC18/10)

SECTION A: UNDER DELEGATION AND FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL

2018-2028 long term plan (the LTP) rates remission and rates postponement policies

Item 14, Doc # 11793818

The Manager, Finance presented the report. It presented the proposed rates remission and postponement policies for inclusion in the 2018 – 2028 LTP. It highlighted the key changes to the policies, together with the rationale for the changes.

As part of the development of the 2018 – 2028 Draft Long Term Plan (LTP) staff had undertaken a review of the rates remission and postponement policies. While generally those policies were effective, staff proposed to amalgamate the current policies with respect to remissions on land protected for biodiversity, and to introduce a new policy for the remission of uncollectible rates on Maori freehold land.

The proposed policy was new, and based on similar policies administered by other councils. The application of this policy would allow for staff to recognise those outstanding balances that it was not likely that payment would be received on an annual basis. By remitting rates, we would be able to avoid the accrual of penalties which require writing off as a bad debt at the time that the rates become statute barred.

Cr Simcock moved/Cr Hennebry seconded.

Against: Cr White (recorded at her request).

SPC18/11 **RESOLVED**

1. **That the report “2018 – 2028 Long Term Plan – Rates remission and postponement policies” (Doc # 11788746 dated 07 February 2018) be received.**

2. **That the committee approve the revised rates remission and postponement policies as presented for consultation as part of the 2018 – 2028 Draft Long Term Plan.**

The motion was put and carried (SPC18/11)

Meeting closed at 1.25pm

Doc # 9809080