

## **Strategy and Policy Committee**

### **OPEN MINUTES**

**Date:** Tuesday, 12 February, 2019, 10:00 am

**Location:** Council Chamber  
Waikato Regional Council  
401 Grey Street  
Hamilton East

**Members Present:** Cr B Simcock (Chair)  
Cr T Mahuta (Deputy Chair)  
Cr J Hayman  
Cr J Hennebry  
Cr S Husband  
Cr F Lichtwark  
Cr A Livingston  
Cr D Minogue  
Cr S Kneebone  
Cr B Quayle  
Cr R Rimmington  
Cr H Vercoe  
Cr K White

**In Attendance** V Payne (Chief Executive)  
T May (Director Science and Strategy)  
N Williams (Director Community and Services)  
C Crickett (Director Integrated Catchment Management)  
M Tamura (Manager – Infrastructure and Integration)  
J Cox (Team Leader – Democracy Services)

## SECTION A: UNDER DELEGATION AND FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL

### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cr Hodge.

SPC19/01

**Moved by:** Cr B Quayle

**Seconded by:** Cr J Hayman

**RESOLVED**

**THAT the apologies of Cr Hodge be accepted.**

**The motion was put and carried**

### 2. Confirmation of Agenda

The agenda was confirmed as circulated with no changes or additions proposed.

SPC19/02

**Moved by:** Cr B Quayle

**Seconded by:** Cr J Hennebry

**RESOLVED**

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

**The motion was put and carried**

### 3. Disclosures of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

### 4. Update from Communications and Engagement

Report to provide information to the Committee on the Council digital communications activity for the period 27 November 2018 to 4 February 2019. Website activity is measured from 1 November 2018 to 31 January 2019.

The report was presented by the Manager Communications and Engagement (N Crisp).

During questions, answers and related discussion the following points were noted:

- Feedback was provided with the double page spread relating to gold card holders that was run in the paper every quarter. The member advised they had received requests through Grey Power for the bus related information to be updated to provide maps and routes so gold card holders know where they can get to.
- A member noted a report that had been received by the Environmental Services and Performance Committee on the 2016 and 2017 incidents relating to Koura at Putaruru and that it may be a story to share through the social media networks. At the time of

the incidents the topic was one that was highly searched in Google. Sharing of the report may assist to close off that loop for the public.

- Members were advised that council used an engagement framework to determine the best communication methods to be used. The campaigns are largely digital and include print as well as direct mail. In addition upcoming campaigns include open days and print adverts.
- A member offered to provide a paper from a recent conference in Canberra to staff that highlighted forward thinking and the use of artificial intelligence for councils.
- Information that was fed back to staff through a consultation process was provided to the council's feedback and complaints process, which meant that statistics could be provided and ensured that issues could be appropriately addressed by the right people.

Cr S Husband left the meeting at 10:04 am.

**SPC19/03**

**Moved by:** Cr F Lichtwark

**Seconded by:** Cr A Livingston

**RESOLVED**

**THAT the report 'Digital Communications Report for November 2018 to February 2019' (Doc# 13767164) be received.**

**The motion was put and carried**

**5. Inter-Regional Marine Pest Pathway Plan Engagement Approach and Report**

Report to note the discussion document 'Better Rules for Marine Pest? Etahi tikanga pai atu mo te arai orota o te moana?' for information and dialogue and approval.

The report was presented by the Integrated Catchment Services Manager (P Whaley).

Cr S Husband joined the meeting at 10:13 am.

During questions, answers and related discussion the following points were noted:

- A member noted concern that the potential budget of \$700,000 to implement the programme was not highlighted in the consultation document. Further concern was expressed in regard to the tone of the report noting that compliance and investigation and enforcement as opposed to education would be the approach taken by council. In response it was noted that while the figure had been used indicatively within the report, there was no identified cost or budget associated, nor was there a predetermined outcome. The document was a collaborative document for the four regions to discuss with their communities to establish the feeling of the community.
- Some members noted an opinion that it was more appropriate for the initiative to be driven by Central Government and Ministry for Primary Industries, rather than the four Regional Councils. In response other members noted that it was a broader issue across the whole pest funding space. Members were advised that conversation was continuing with the Ministry, and also with the marine association, who were in support of the discussion document.

- A member noted their support for the collaborative document and going out to the community to encourage discussion and noted interest in the four collaborators to the document. Members were advised that there had been a drive through UNISA and that other regional councils were keeping a watching brief over the results of the discussion document.
- Members noted that the document did not highlight that there may be costs associated with any pest management action plan. In response it was noted that the document was designed to start discussion with the communities to see whether the plan was wanted, then with the feedback there would be further input from Council to determine what was to be done, at what level and what support would be coming from the Ministry.
- Members noted interest in expanding the document to highlight that there may be costs involved in implementation and seeking proposed options through the feedback for proposed funding options. Members were advised that while Council was part of the group developing the document, council was not an author of the document and as such proposed inclusions to the text would need to go back through the other councils which would take time. By way of meeting the interests of the members it was proposed that a document be drafted, specifically for the Waikato Region that highlighted the members concerns around costs. This document could then be shared with the other councils for their information and consideration.

Staff Recommendations 1 and 2 were moved and seconded.

The motions were carried.

Discussion ensued on the third recommendation.

Speaking for the motion members noted that the document was only proposed to go out for discussion and early consultation and there were no commitments to an action plan or commitment to funding options or guarantee of costs. Members noted awareness that this was a preliminary discussion and noted wariness at including too much detail around costs at this early stage.

Speaking against the motion a member raised concern that the plan would not be re-submitted back to the committee or council for confirmation.

It was confirmed for members that Staff would generate an additional document/page that would be presented alongside the discussion document, that highlighted for the Waikato Region the potential for costs with identified options, and that the options would include status quo.

Cr Husband noted his vote against the third motion.

**SPC19/04**

**Moved by:** Cr J Hayman

**Seconded by:** Cr S Kneebone

**RESOLVED**

**THAT the Strategy and Policy Committee:**

**1. Receives the report 'Public Engagement on the Inter-Regional Marine Pest Pathway Management Plan Discussion Document' (Doc 13685536 dated 29 January 2019).**

**The motion was put and carried**

SPC19/05

**Moved by:** Cr J Hayman

**Seconded by:** Cr S Kneebone

**RESOLVED**

**THAT the Strategy and Policy Committee:**

**2. Notes the draft discussion document presentation to the Strategy and Policy Committee for their information and discussion and approved by the Director Integrated Catchment Management, prior to its release for consultation.**

**The motion was put and carried**

SPC19/06

**Moved by:** Cr B Simcock

**Seconded by:** Cr J Hayman

**RESOLVED**

**THAT the Strategy and Policy Committee:**

**3. delegates authority to staff to make minor changes to the discussion document and / or engagement plan prior to the start of the consultation, including addition to the text to highlight potential costs regarding the identified options, and including an option for the status quo to remain.**

**The motion was put and carried**

**Cr Husband voted against the motion.**

**6. Predator Free 2050 Discussion Guide**

Report to seek approval from the committee on the content, and subsequent lodgement, of the Waikato Regional Council's submission to the Department of Conservation on its Predator Free 2050 discussion guide.

The report was presented by Integrated Catchment Services Manager (P Whaley).

During questions, answers and related discussion the following points were noted:

- In response to a question of funding members were advised that Predator Free 2050 Limited were seeking further funding.

- A member asked whether reference could be made to research in to Flurocitate within the submission. In response members noted that the submission and the document was a broad high level document and focus on a specific chemical may distract from the tenure of the submission. By way of agreement members were advised that a sentence could be included under point D Q7 that would highlight the potential gap in analysis science.

Cr F Lichtwark left the meeting at 11:31 am.

SPC19/07

**Moved by:** Cr A Livingston

**Seconded by:** Cr B Quayle

**RESOLVED**

1. **THAT the report ‘Waikato Regional Council submission to the Department of Conservation Predator Free 2050 discussion guide’ (DOC# 13734978) be received; and**
2. **THAT the Strategy and Policy Committee approve the ‘Submission from Waikato Regional Council on Department of Conservation’s PF2050 discussion guide’ (13735512) for lodgement to the Department of Conservation.**

**The motion was put and carried**

**Cr Husband voted against the motion.**

Cr F Lichtwark joined the meeting at 11:32 am.

**7. Submission on the Productivity Commission’s Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Financing**

Report to seek approval from the Committee of the Waikato Regional Council’s submission to the Productivity Commission’s inquiry into Local Government Funding and Financing.

The report was presented by Team Leader Implementation (L Balsom) and Senior Policy Advisor (H Beavan).

During questions, answers and related discussion the following points were noted:

- Members noted the Chair, Committee Chair and the Chief Executive had attended a briefing with the Productivity Commission and from that briefing came away with the feeling that the Commission had an increasing understanding of the challenges faced by Local Government.
- Members noted references to the cost of treaty settlements and the protection from the risk of flood and indicated that the submission could be more direct in regard to these submission points. There was growing concern around the impact of these costs on ratepayers.

- Members noted a large number of points which were recorded by staff and assurances given that changes in accordance with these matters would be made to the submission. Key matters raised by members related to:
  - An increase in business as usual costs – highlighting the impact of health and safety issues and environmental compliance issues. For clarity it was proposed that the point be expanded to address the cost of asset renewals and the cost of the rules around compliance, rather than addressing the cost of environmental issues.
  - Changes to current funding framework – a note to reference the fact that Council can't charge for non-consented activities but would like to.
  - Development contributions, where a territorial authority can claim them but a regional council couldn't. These contributions would go some way to being able to support remediation of issues from developments.
  - Increase reference to the targeted ratings, and pointing out future flood infrastructure that will be required to be maintained and the benefits and costs of ongoing maintenance of these assets for beneficiaries.
  - Inclusion of depreciation issue. They proposed the use of the Long Term Plan graphs that included the gap showing what council could fund over the years.
  - Insert reference to the three waters challenges in the submission and that there were a number of areas in the business where it was highlighted growth in the district was having an impact on the city's three waters.
  - Include reference to the growing need for science inputs, to support Council's decision making and governance. This was due to the impression that Council was doing more than others in the science area and that this had evolved from the changing role of Central Government.
  - A member noted that GST collected within the region was not returned to support the region, and their concern that Council collected GST on rates, effectively taxing them twice.

Cr S Husband left the meeting at 11:41 am.

- Provision of the earlier staff reports around flood control and around treaty settlements would add to the submission for council as further supporting evidence.
- The impact of the cost of depreciation on assets came from the fact that the need to account for depreciation was not present for many years so there had been a period of catch-up to apply the cost in the later years.
- Targeted rates were an important aspect for council and there was a need to be careful not to indicate they should go.
- Reference to external borrowing was not clear, and while it was noted that the borrowing was for assets, there was benefits to the council for being able to borrow larger amounts of funding externally and through local government fund.
- Clarify how a four year election cycle would address this point, there was no correlation found in the statement.
- Further information could be added to points 16 and 17 on the effectiveness of Long Term Plans as they felt more could be done with consultation processes.

In summary the CE highlighted the issues that had been raised with the commission:

- The changing goalposts by central government. The fact that Council has embarked on projects like Healthy Rivers to address a need for the region to be met with and National Policy Statement on Freshwater in 2011, updated in 2014, 2017 and the knowledge of further amendments to come.
- The first schedule process for the Resource Management Act. The Act was an almost 30 year old document and at the time it was written there weren't the same constraints on resources or the complexity that there was now. Some of the complexity was a social issue rather than a technical issue. A review would represent an opportunity to address this.

Cr S Husband joined the meeting at 11:47 am.

SPC19/08

**Moved by:** Cr B Simcock

**Seconded by:** Cr J Hayman

**RESOLVED**

1. **THAT the report 'Submission on the Productivity Commissions Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Financing' (Doc #13647045 dated 25 January 2019) be received.**
2. **THAT the committee approves the 'Waikato Regional Council submission to the Productivity Commission inquiry into Local Government Funding and Financing' (Doc # 13341745) for lodgement with the Productivity Commission, where those matters raised by members are reflected in the final submission lodged with the Commission.**

**The motion was put and carried**

**8. Submission to Upper North Island Supply Chain Study**

Report to seek approval from the Committee on the content, and subsequent lodgement, of the Waikato Regional Council's submission on questions relating to the development of the Upper North Island Supply Chain Strategy.

The report was presented by Special Projects Advisor (B McMaster) and the Manager Integration and Infrastructure (M Tamura).

During questions, answers and related discussion the following points were noted:

- Members noted the impression that the questions from the panel were potentially predetermined.
- Members noted concern at the extra cost to freight for the region if the main import/export port was in Northland.
- A member noted that from a recent field trip with the Bay of Plenty Regional Transport Committee to the Port of Tauranga, there were concerns from the port that highlighted that market forces were a more appropriate indicator of port use than regional or economic development opportunities.
- There had been considerable investment into regional and inter-regional infrastructure and any changes to this would put a strain on the assets both public and private.

- Members noted that the concern for the region would be rail rather than congestion in Auckland and suggested that investment in rail, either dual track at Whangamarino or a new route would be of benefit for the region, and that this point should be highlighted more in the submission.

SPC19/09

**Moved by:** Cr H Vercoe

**Seconded by:** Cr S Kneebone

**RESOLVED**

1. THAT the report '*Waikato Regional Council submission on the development of the Upper north Island Supply Chain Strategy*' (Doc # 13726262 dated 25 January 2019) be received
2. THAT the committee approve the '*Waikato Regional Council submission to the Upper North Island Supply Chain Strategy*' (Doc # 13702743) for lodgement to Ministry of Transport, where those matters raised by members are reflected in the final submission lodged with the Commission.

The motion was put and carried

9. **Sea Change Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan – Update on Central Government Activity**

Report to update the Committee on recent Central Government activity in relation to the Sea Change Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan.

The report was presented by Senior Policy Advisor (B Bunting).

Members took the report as read and noted the reference to a further update being reported to Council at the end of the month.

Cr S Husband left the meeting at 12:35 pm.

Cr H Vercoe left the meeting at 12:36 pm.

SPC19/10

**Moved by:** Cr R Rimmington

**Seconded by:** Cr B Quayle

**RESOLVED**

1. THAT the report "*Sea Change Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan – update on Central Government activity*" (Doc # 13686749 dated 23 January 2019) be received.
2. THAT the Committee note that preliminary feedback from WRC staff has been provided to government officials on the Sea Change Ministerial Advisory Committee.

The motion was put and carried

**10. Resolution to Exclude the Public**

SPC19/11

**Moved by:** Cr F Lichtwark

**Seconded by:** Cr T Mahuta

Resolution to Exclude the Public

**RESOLVED**

**THAT the public be excluded from the following part/s of the meeting:**

**The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:**

Item Name: Resource Consent Application regarding Ngatea Southern Estate

**Good reason to withhold exists under Section 7.**

**That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists. Section 48(1)(a)**

**This resolution is made in reliance on sections 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 7 of that Act, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:**

- Protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information (Section 7(2)(b)(ii))

**The motion was put and carried**

The meeting returned to open meeting at 1.10pm.

The meeting closed at 1.10pm.