
**Strategy and Policy Committee
MINUTES**

Minutes of a meeting of the Strategy and Policy Committee held in Waikato Regional Council Chambers on 8 August 2017 at 9:30am.

Waikato Regional Council

Present:
Cr B Simcock (Chair)
Cr J Hayman
Cr J Hennebry
Cr K Hodge
Cr F Lichtwark
Cr A Livingston
Cr T Mahuta
Cr D Minogue
Cr R Rimmington
Cr K White
Cr B Quayle

Staff

In Attendance:
Tracey May – Director Science and Strategy
Mike Garrett – Chief Financial Officer
Alex Williams – Democracy Advisor
Nicola Crisp – Manager, Communications and Engagement
Katie Mayes – Manager, Strategy
Andrea Julian – Senior Biodiversity Officer, Natural Heritage

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cr Vercoe, Cr Kneebone and Cr Husband.

Accepted

Confirmation of Agenda

(Agenda Item 2)

Cr Livingston moved/Cr Rimmington seconded.

SPC17/95

RESOLVED

THAT the agenda of the meeting of the Strategy and Policy Committee of 8 August 2017, as circulated, be confirmed as the business for the meeting.

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/95)

Disclosures of Interest

(Agenda Item 3)

There were no disclosures of interest.

Verbal Update from Communications

(Agenda Item #4)

Manager – Communications and Engagement (Nicola Chrisp) presented the Committee with overview of the project – i-Lab which was a way for staff to provide the Communications team with ideas. Further, an update on the Online Services Roadmap process was given. This was a project that would decide what needed to be available online with the intention of improving first contact resolution for customers.

During discussion, the following points were noted:

- The Communications Team was open to accepting ideas from others outside of the organisation. The Communications Team was looking to partner with other systems to improve overall quality of i-Connect (The third component of i-Lab).
- The Committee queried how impact and effectiveness of the project would be measured. Staff advised that measurability would be built into the system once they had collected sufficient data.
- A member advised that there had been a dramatic improvement in customer service already in comparison to other organisations. Staff advised that there was a strong focus within the Communications Team to improve first contact resolution.

Chair thanked Nicola for her presentation to the Committee and noted that the 'check in's' from the Communications Team were valuable for the information of the Committee.

Presenters for item 5 (Waikato Means Business Programme Update July 2017) had not yet arrived, with the approval of the Committee item 7 (Draft Community Facilities Funding Framework) was considered next.

SECTION A: (UNDER DELEGATION FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL)

Draft Community Facilities Funding Framework

File: 20 00 09 (Agenda Item #7) Doc # 10804191, 10374937

Presented by Manager Strategy (Katie Mayes) the report provided the Committee with background about the Community Facilities Funding Framework being developed for the Waikato Mayoral Forum and sought feedback from the Committee on a draft framework.

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

- A member suggested the draft should be more focused on being an 'enabler for conversations'.
- Staff advised that the intent of the document was for funders to consider capital expenditure, operating expenses and Governance relationships all at once which would require to consider the sustainable funding pathways when providing capital.
- Staff advised that those eligible for funding would need to already have a viable business case in place.

Discussion commenced about the rate impact of this document and the implications for Territorial Authorities outside of Hamilton. The following points were noted:

- Concern was raised that projects being considered could have no benefit for those outside of Hamilton and members were concerned with the potential for rating to impact those areas and the resentment that could result. Staff advised that the document did not go into detail about how proposals would be funded. This would be considered once the proposals were being considered. Staff advised that there was potential for a differential rate to be considered with areas that would receive the greatest benefit of a proposal being rated at a higher rate.
- Some members suggested that Regional Facilities would be good for the Region and all areas should be involved to gain the economic benefit that Regional Facilities would provide.
- Some members suggested that Waikato Regional Council shouldn't be active in this space as it was outside of the scope of the organisations work (being environmental considerations). There was concern that Waikato Regional Council was involved because of their large rating area.

A member noted that it was important at this early stage not to get into the details of each potential project/proposal as they would all be different in nature and cost. This was a request to simply consider the draft strawman and provide feedback and the result would be a template to apply when the projects arose.

- Staff advised that this framework would facilitate conversations between Territorial Authorities considering cross boundary costs/issues and would ensure that the approach was the same overall. Further, the intention was to take the framework to Auckland Council for consideration also.
- A member suggested that the list of 'how a community facility could be considered regional' (pg 39 of the Agenda) should require all 3 elements as opposed to and/or.
- A member detailed examples of regional opportunities that were missed because a framework such as this was not available to assist. The member highlighted the need for consideration at the front end of the project before the costs were considered.

Cr Simcock moved/Cr Livingston seconded.

SPC17/96

RESOLVED:

- 1. THAT the report “Draft Community Facilities Funding Framework”** (Doc #10804191 dated 20 July 2017) **be received for information.**
- 2. THAT feedback is provided on the draft strawman attached to this report** (Doc #10374937 dated 19 July 2017)

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/96)

Waikato Means Business Programme Update July 2017

File: 20 00 01M (Agenda Item #5) Doc #10774871

Presented by guests Waikato Means Business Chairperson (Dallas Fisher), Waikato Means Business Programme Manager (Harvey Brookes) and Market Economics, Economic Development Lead (Stephen Knuckey) the report provided the Committee with an update of activity of Waikato Means Business.

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

- The Committee was advised the funding had not yet been confirmed, but would be considered over the coming months. The intention was not to seek additional funding from local government, but to get funding from business and government. When considering funding the group would look to larger businesses in the Waikato that were looking to give back to the Community.
- A member queried whether this would amalgamate the rural/city divide that appeared in other plans. Presenters advised that the intention was for a regional focus that understood the Region would succeed if all areas of it were economically strong. The central support would be in Hamilton with drive from outer areas.
- Presenters advised that while they can't stop the business competition within similar industries, they can provide the structure, connection and information for businesses to consider if the Waikato is for their enterprise.

Chair (Cr Simcock) thanked the guests for their time.

Cr Livingston moved/Cr Mahuta seconded.

SPC17/97

RESOLVED:

THAT the report “Waikato Means Business Programme Update July 2017” (Doc # 10774871 dated 12 July 2017) **be received for information**

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/97)

Partnership opportunities with Trust Waikato

File: 20 00 02 (Agenda Item #6) Doc # 10815325, 10813930, 10815227

Presented by guests Trust Waikato Chair (Niwa Nuri) and Trust Waikato Chief Executive (Dennis Turton) this report identified partnership opportunities between Waikato Regional Council and Trust Waikato.

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

- The purpose of the presentation today was to break the political barriers and collaborate between the Council and Trust Waikato to see what can be achieved together
- Trust Waikato had committed in excess of 1 million dollars per year in the last 3 years to community projects.

- The presenters advised that the intention was to not only provide funding, but empower community groups. As a funder Trust Waikato could draw on other funders. There were opportunities to partner in the environment space. Conversations were being had in this space but nothing was established yet.

Cr Simcock moved/Cr Livingston seconded.

SPC17/18

RESOLVED:

THAT the report “Partnership opportunities with Trust Waikato” (Doc# 10815325 dated 22 July 2017) **be received for information.**

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/18)

SECTION B: (FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL)

The Willis Report – Biodiversity and the Role of Regional Councils

File: 22 04 47 (Agenda Item #8) Doc #10831627, 9678818, 10804458

Presented by Senior Biodiversity Officer – Natural Heritage (Dr Andrea Julian) the report provided the Committee with an overview of the Willis Report on biodiversity and the role and implications for Regional Council. Further, the report sought guidance regarding the implementation of the Willis Report.

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

- Concern was raised that competing interests in respect of pest control could potentially make matters worse. What was being proposed here was research building on what was already established. There would be a monitoring model that would consider benefits as soon as they occurred within the first year.
- Concern was raised that the shift to Regional Council control in this area could potentially see Community Groups not being involved in conversations about methods used for desired biodiversity outcomes. Staff advised that good outcomes were already being seen and this was derived from managing threats to biodiversity.
- Members questioned how long it would take to see progress on the 5 shifts. Staff advised that some Regional Councils were in a good position regarding the 5 shifts already. It would be dependant also on resources that were available and, for Council, this would be established at the Long Term Plan conversation.
- The Committee acknowledged that change in this space was needed to be successful moving forward.

Cr Livingston moved/Cr Simcock seconded.

SPC17/19

RECOMMENDED

- 1. THAT the report “The Willis Report – Biodiversity and the Role of Regional Councils”** (Doc #10831627 dated 8 August 2017) **be received; and**
- 2. THAT the Committee endorse the suggested implementation of the report making immediate shifts where possible (within current budgets) and considering financial implications for further steps, within in the Long Term Plan process.**

The motion was put and carried on a show of hands (SPC17/19)

SECTION A: (UNDER DELEGATION FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL)

Appointment of Te Waiora River Chair

File: 20 00 02 (Agenda Item #9) Doc #10737171

Presented by Director Science and Strategy (Tracey May) the report informed the Committee that Professor James Brassington had been appointed as the new Waikato Regional Council sponsored Chair of River Science at Te Waiora, Joint Institute for Freshwater Management at the University of Waikato.

There was no further discussion on this item.

Cr Livingston moved/Cr Minogue seconded.

SPC17/20

RESOLVED

THAT the report “Appointment of Te Waiora Rivers Chair” (Doc# 10737171 dated 04 July 2017) be received for information.

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/20)

2018-2028 Long Term Plan Development – August Update

File: 01 12 18A (Agenda Item #10) Doc # 10795754

Presented by the report updated the Committee on the Long Term Plan development programme and set out the work plan for the following months. Further the report introduced the next pieces of work for the Committee to consider being:

- i. Phase 1 (pre-engagement) report on methodology
- ii. 2018-2028 Long Term Plan proposed consultation timeline

There was no further discussion on this item.

Cr Livingston moved/Cr Hodge seconded.

SPC17/21

RESOLVED:

1. THAT the report “2018-2028 Long Term Plan Development – August Update” (Doc #10795754 dated 24 July 2017) be received for information, and THAT the Long Term Plan development programme for August until December, as presented, be received for information.

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/21)

Methodology and metrics report: Long Term Plan 2018-2028 phase one engagement, communication and media

File: 01 12 18P (Agenda Item #11) Doc #10820151

Presented by Chief Financial Officer (Mike Garrett) the report was the first of two key reports relevant to phase one of the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan engagement process, which ran between April-July 2017.

There was no further discussion on this item.

Cr Simcock moved/Cr Livingston seconded.

SPC17/22

RESOLVED:

THAT the report “Methodology and metrics report: Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Phase one engagement, communication and media (Doc# 10820151 dated 24 July 2017) be received for information.

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/22)

SECTION B: (FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL)

2018-2028 Long Term Plan Proposed Consultation Timeline

File: 01 12 18A (Agenda Item #12) Doc #10796446

Presented by Chief Financial Officer (Mike Garrett) the report proposes a January to June 2018 timeline for the production of the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan documents associated with the formal consultation phase of the Long Term Plan.

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

- There had not been a determination on where hearings would be held for the Long Term Plan. The Committee was advised that in previous years hearings were held depending on the location of submitters, this consultation period would likely be the same.

Cr Simcock moved/Cr Minogue seconded.

SPC17/23

RECOMMENDED

- 1. THAT the report “2018-2028 Long Term Plan Proposed Consultation Timeline” (Doc #10796446 dated 24 July 2017) be received, and**
- 2. THAT the proposed timeline for the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan consultation process, with any amendments as agreed, be recommended to Council for adoption.**

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/23)

Procurement Policy review

File: 08 00 30 (Agenda Item #13) Doc #10815447

Presented by Chief Financial Officer (Mike Garrett) the report provide the Committee with details of the procurement policy that was up for review. The report outlined the process and recommended update.

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

- A member suggested that in terms of emergency procurement, the policy needed more immediacy and consideration for the use of technology.
- The Committee agreed that within the policy, use of the words must, should and will be replaced by the word “shall”.

The Committee commenced discussion on the non-price attributes for plant procurement and the following points were noted:

- Concern was raised that there was an over-emphasis on the cost, cheap was not always best. A members suggested that under the additional clause “local supply” the words “however Council will not pay a premium for local suppliers over non local suppliers” be removed. .
- In respect of purchasing locally, if all other attributes were the same then the local supplier was preferred. Concern was raised that this was against the concept of

encouraging and engaging local businesses and supporting the Waikato economy. Staff advised there was a formula that was followed that considered many different aspects. Staff agreed to provide further information at the next Strategy and Policy Committee meeting of how the procurement policy could support the Waikato economy and how opportunities could be increased in this space.

Cr Quayle moved/Cr Simcock seconded.

SPC17/24

RECOMMENDED

1. **THAT the report "Procurement Policy review" (Doc #10815447 dated 24 July 2017) be received for information; and**
2. **THAT changes to the Procurement Policy as outlined in this report are endorsed subject to changes as requested.**

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/24)

SECTION A: (UNDER DELEGATION FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL)

Submission Subcommittee Minutes – 18 July 2017

File: 03 02 43 (Agenda Item #14) Doc #10776318

The Committee was provided with the minutes of the Submission Subcommittee meeting of 18 July 2017.

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

- A member noted that while the minutes noted that Morrinsville was not considered for its growth impact, the discussion around Morrinsville becoming part of the Future Proof area specifically needed to be included in the minutes

Cr Livingston moved/Cr Simcock seconded.

SPC17/25

RESOLVED

THAT the minutes of the Submission Subcommittee meeting of 18 July 2018 be received for information.

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/25)

Doc # 10871972