
Strategy and Policy Committee
MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Strategy and Policy Committee held at Waikato Regional Council Chambers 27 June 2017 at 10:00am

Waikato Regional Council

Present:
Cr B Simcock (Chair)
Cr T Mahuta
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

Staff

In Attendance:
Vaughan Payne – Chief Executive
Mike Garrett – Chief Financial Officer
Urlwyn Trebilco – Principal Strategic Advisor
Kim Jonson – Team Leader Communications
Tony Quickfall – Manager Science and Strategy
Beat Huser – Principal Strategic Advisor
Hannah Beaven – Senior Policy Advisor
Rick Liefing – Team Leader Integrated Catchment Management
Alan Saunders – Team Leader, Natural Heritage
Matthew Vare – Senior Policy Advisor
Patrick Whaley – Manager Integrated Catchment Management
Tane Desmond – Team Leader Integrated Catchment Management
Jackson Efford – Catchment Management Lead
Andrea Julian – Senior Biodiversity Officer
Alex Williams – Democracy Advisor

Prior to the commencement of the meeting Cr Russ Rimmington acknowledged Cr Stuart Husbands intention to stand for the Waikato Seat for New Zealand First in the 2017 General Elections. The Committee congratulated Cr Husband and wished him good luck in this endeavour.

Apologies

Cr Stuart Kneebone, Cr Barry Quayle for absence. Cr Alan Livingston and Cr Kathy White for leaving early

Accepted

Confirmation of Agenda

(Agenda Item 2)

Cr B Simcock moved/Cr K White seconded.

SPC17/82

THAT the agenda of the meeting of the Strategy and Policy Committee of 27 June 2017, as circulated, be confirmed as the business for the meeting.

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/82)

Disclosures of Interest

(Agenda Item 3)

There were no disclosures of interest.

Verbal Update from Communications

Team Leader, Communications (Kim Jonson) provided the Committee with a verbal update on current work being undertaken by the Communications Team. This included Field days and the Stakeholder Forum. Kim also provided an update on the upcoming Communications work including work around July Biosecurity Month and the Hamilton Halo Competition.

There was no further discussion on this item.

SECTION B: (FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL)

Waikato Plan Adoption

File: 20 00 03 (Agenda Item #5) Doc #10616006, 10618798, 10617423, 10618404

Presented by Principal Strategic Advisor (Urlwyn Trebilco) the report sought adoption of the Waikato Plan, that had been approved by the Waikato Plan Joint Committee.

Members congratulated the Waikato Plan Committee and staff on the work that had been put into the plan resulting in the 'outcome driven' plan. The Committee acknowledged this had not been an easy task but a single agenda document had been produced and collaboration had been key to getting to this point.

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

- The consideration in the plan for a "Sustainable Agriculture System" was high level. Specifics of this had not yet been established, however the plan acknowledged the need to consider the environmental impact of agriculture and the need for support in this space.

- Maori economy related to Iwi and the assets that were available for them to develop in an economic sense. A member queried if ratepayers would be paying for the Maori economic issues that would be established. The Committee was advised that this was not the intention and the plan was not looking at ratepayer funding specifically for this action, rather there would be a commitment from the partner agencies to funding the implementation of the plan, funding would be from various sources including government agencies. At this stage, it was about getting the projects established and then funding bodies could make the decision to support or not.
- Concern was raised about the lack of financial detail and cost included in the plan meaning the public had not consulted on this part. The Committee was advised that detailed analysis of projects need to be completed before costings could be established. This would be a job for the newly appointed Waikato Plan Leadership Group. Councils had, through Annual Plan discussions, agreed to allocate funding to the Leadership Group in the first year in their 2017/2018 Long Term Plans. While there was budget for 3 years, the intention was to have private sector funding of 25% in the second year and up to 50% in the third year. Staff advised that once budgets were established, they would be referred to all partner council's for consideration.
- Members raised concerns about who the responsibility to fund/complete some of the actions in the document fell upon. Staff advised that the document contained the aspirations of the regional community and allowed local government and community bodies to work together in a cohesive way to achieve the aspirations. How actions were delivered and funded would be dependent on the project itself and the funding available to that project.
- Some aspects of the plan were projected based on the outcome of current work. For example the Action 3.1 partnering with Iwi/Maori took into account pending treaty settlements.
- A member raised concern that there was no landowner representation on the Leadership Group. Staff advised that many members on the Leadership Group would be landowners as well as their respective roles on the group.
- A member raised concern that action point 3.1.5 Iwi Water Rights opened the door for water ownership. The Committee was advised that this matter referred to allocation conversation that is occurring at the central government level. The action would respond to the direction set by central government. A member confirmed to the Committee that while water in some areas was already over-allocated, Iwi, through conversations with government were looking to understand opportunities where further allocation could be established. Members suggested this action should refer to general water rights, as opposed to Iwi.
- A member suggested that the second recommendation be recorded as "approve in principle" rather than "adopt".

The Committee was advised that this document was a template to create opportunities for the region. The plan was produced with the interests and aspirations of the region being considered throughout. The Actions included within were project based. In order to get the long term buy-in from Council's and other agencies, there needed to be results and benefits seen in the first few years. This would happen once the projects were established, and further funding was sourced.

Cr A Livingston moved/Cr B Simcock seconded.

SPC17/83

1. **THAT** the report "Waikato Plan adoption" (Doc# 10616006 dated 13 June 2017) be received.
2. **THAT** the Waikato Plan and Summary document, including the Waikato Plan Leadership Group Agreement and Terms of Reference, be adopted.

**The motion was put and carried on a show of hands (SPC17/83)
Cr J Hennebry, Cr S Husband, Cr F Lichtwark, Cr H Vercoe, Cr K White opposed**

Discussion turned to membership on the Leadership Group. Cr Simcock nominated Cr Livingston to represent Waikato Regional Council on the Waikato Plan Leadership Group. Cr Rimmington seconded the nomination. No other nominations were received and Cr Livingston was nominated subject to the approval of Council.

Cr B Simcock moved/Cr R Rimmington seconded

SPC17/84 **THAT** Waikato Regional Council appoint Councillor Alan Livingston as Waikato Regional Council representative on the Waikato Plan Leadership Group.

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/84)

Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan (Sea Change) WRC Implementation Plan

File: 20 01 08 (Agenda Item #6) Doc # 10274772 and 10317453

Presented by Policy Manager (Tony Quickfall) and Senior Policy Analyst (Ben Bunting) the report provided the Committee with a plan for implementation of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan (HGMSA) for consideration.

The HGMSA was established in 2013 and it outlined the Hauraki Gulf as an area of cultural and spiritual significance. The Waikato Regional Council implementation plan is an attempt to quantify implementation expectations that fall to Waikato Regional Council. It is noted that further conversation in regard to prioritisation and funding of the tasks will occur as part of Council's upcoming long term plan discussions around priority setting.

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

- Auckland Council is currently going through the same process considering an implementation plan for the HGMSA.
- Waikato Regional Council has worked collaboratively with Auckland District Council, partnering in the research space.

Cr T Mahuta arrived at 11:21am

- The HGMSA will inform the Hauraki Coromandel plan change process, it will not dictate the process nor will the objectives of the plan be picked up and placed in the regional coastal plan without progressing through a consultative process.
- Concern was raised about the concept '1 gulf, 1 message' when effectively Territorial Authorities would be working in their own spaces in regard to this. Staff advised that, as per the direction of Council contact had been made with Territorial Authorities and they had been consulted in regard to the implementation plan, and were supportive of Councils priorities in regard to what is 'business as usual' and what was a Long Term Plan (LTP) consideration.

The Committee commenced discussion on the preliminary costings, during discussion the following points were noted:

- The Committee queried how the \$7.4m figure was established. Staff advised that this was established based on recommendations from a stakeholder working group. This encompassed 'high' estimates and further refinement would occur prior to the LTP process. The Committee suggested that more input into the figures was required before consultation with Territorial Authorities was undertaken.

- In regard to the 68% of 7.4m being for science - this was a high estimate, there still needed to be consideration for what science we already know, and what science we needed to find out.
- Concern was raised about what the benefits would be for the money that was being estimated to spend. St
- A member suggested that the recommendation be amended to note that the committee endorse the draft implementation plan “in principle” until the costs issues could be further clarified. Further clarification was given to the Committee that this was a draft implementation plan done in consultation with Territorial Authorities.

Cr D Minogue moved/Cr T Mahuta seconded.

RECOMMENDATION

1. **THAT** the Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan (Sea Change Tai Timu Tai Pari) - Draft Implementation Plan to Inform WRC 2018 Long Term Plan processes (Doc # 10317453) be endorsed in principle by the Committee.

On further discussion, the Committee agreed that noting ‘in principle’ was not strong enough and the recommendation needed to outline the Committees specific concerns.

The Committee discussed further the need to engage with Territorial Authorities in regard to the draft implementation plan, and that the Committee was not comfortable with the costings outlined, and it needed to be noted that these figures would be revised before LTP discussions are to be undertaken.

Cr Livingston suggested that consultation with Territorial Authorities be led by management and governance to ensure that information regarding cost concerns be relayed accurately.

Cr Hennebry suggested that the recommendation be added to outlining that the committee request staff advise the Territorial Authorities of the concerns of councillors regarding the cost implementations in the draft implementation plan, specifically the figure attributed to science. The Committee agreed and the recommendation was amended.

Cr J Hennebry moved/Cr R Rimmington seconded.

SPC17/85

RECOMMENDATION

1. **THAT** the report “Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan (Sea Change) WRC Implementation Plan” (Doc 10274772 dated 16 May 2017) be received for information.
2. **THAT** the Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan (Sea Change Tai Timu Tai Pari) - Draft Implementation Plan to Inform WRC 2018 Long Term Plan processes (Doc # 10317453) be endorsed by the Committee.
3. **THAT** the Committee request that staff advise the Territorial Authorities of the concerns of Councillors about the costs of implementation, and in particular the significant costs related to the gathering of more science.

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/85)

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

Waikato Progress Indicators – Tupuranga Waikato: 2017 update

File: 41 10 19, 22 10 22 (Agenda Item #7) Doc #10609292

Presented by Principal Strategic Advisor (Beat Huser) the report informed the Committee about the recently completed annual update of the “Waikato Progress Indicators – Tupuranga Waikato” (WPI), including the WPI scorecard and indicator report cards.

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

- The Committee raised concerns about the increase of productive rural land being subdivided each year and the implications this would have on the Waikato.
- Acknowledgement of the Waikato River Authority scorecards. Staff advised they were considering other research and organisational input in this space.
- As the scorecards provided the information for the region, concern was raised that the detail was being overlooked. Some smaller rural towns might not be meeting targets but the aggregated overview meant that the region was meeting targets and therefore there was no concern.
- The Committee noted with concern the low percentage of community engagement.
- Staff advised that looking back over 10 years helped to establish trends and peaks in the Region. The intention was to understand what had happened, in order to build a future.

Cr A Livingston moved/Cr T Mahuta seconded.

SPC17/86

THAT the report “Waikato Progress Indicators – Tupuranga Waikato (WPI): 2017 update” (Doc#10609292 dated 12 June 2017) be received for information.

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/86)

12:30pm: The Committee broke for lunch and returned at 1:00pm.

Overview of Council work regarding coastal hazards and sea-level rise

File: 22 10 45 (Agenda Item #8) Doc #10635949

Presented by Senior Policy Advisor (Hannah Beaven), and Team Leader Integrated Catchment Management (Rick Liefing) the report provided the Committee with an overview of work in progress in regard to addressing coastal hazards and projected sea-level rise.

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

- A member raised concern that the Thames Coromandel community believed that there were communication issues between Waikato Regional Council and Thames Coromandel District Council. Staff assured the Committee that there was a collaborative relationship between the two Councils, over and above, what is required by statutory and regulatory functions. A member noted that there was an apparent lack of consultation with Thames Coromandel District Council in regards to the coastal environment discussion. It was noted that conversations on the ‘coastal environment’ were had throughout the development of the RPS, both in informal discussions leading up to the development of the RPS, and through the statutory submission process. The Committee was advised that presently the staff of the two agencies are having appeal mediation discussions.
- The Committee commenced discussion on the information that had been provided to the public in terms of sea level rise and property development. There were concerns that what had been provided and what was now understood were different. Sea level rise was an issue that was likely to affect many facets of Council, but how much of an affect was still being considered. The Regional Policy Statement sets out Council position on sea level rise and notes that climate change is a key regional issue.

- In terms of the impact of climate change on coastal areas, staff advised that they relied on information generated at a national level.

Cr B Simcock moved/Cr J Hayman seconded.

SPC17/87 **THAT** the report “overview of Council work regarding coastal hazards and sea-level rise” (Doc# 10635949 dated 19 June 2017) be received for information.

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/87)

New Zealand’s Threatened Species Strategy – Draft for Consultation

File: 22 10 47 (Agenda Item #9) Doc #10624066

Presented by Team Leader for Natural Heritage (Alan Saunders) and Senior Policy Advisor (Matthew Vare) the report updated the Committee on the draft New Zealand Threatened Species Strategy developed by the Department of Conservation (DOC) and to provide an initial summary of suggested high level responses on the draft strategy.

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

- Members raised concerns that alignment with the Department of Conservation in this space would mean Waikato Regional Council was bound by their approach and would be limited in their ability to consult with the community. Staff advised that it was a partnership in terms of the outcome being a predator free Waikato Region. The Waikato Regional Council was not agreeing to abide by their policies and process. Both the Department of Conservation and Waikato Regional Council had different responsibilities and priorities but also complimentary skills.
- Staff advised that catchments would have the opportunity to feed into the Regional Pest Management Plan at its upcoming review. Catchments could outline preferred methods of pest control but the Regional Pest Management Plan itself was silent on the methods. Methods were established once the tendering process was undertaken.

Cr T Mahuta moved/Cr D Minogue seconded.

SPC17/88 **THAT** the report “New Zealand’s Threatened Species Strategy – Draft for consultation” (Doc# 10624066 dated 16 June 2017) be received

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/88)

The Committee agreed to move item 14: Access Hamilton Programme Business Case and Item 15: Minutes of the Regional Public Transport Plan Development Subcommittee to next in the agenda to accommodate members who had to leave.

Access Hamilton Programme Business Case 2017

File: 20 00 02 (Agenda Item #14) Doc # 10616937

Presented by Chief Financial Officer (Mike Garrett) the report provided the Committee with information on the preparation of the Access Hamilton Programme Business Case 2017 being undertaken by Hamilton City Council, in collaboration with Waikato Regional Council and the New Zealand Transport Agency.

The document considered bus lanes, pressure points for traffic, cycle ways and regional transport into, and out of the city. It was before the Committee for them to consider in terms of Regional Transport levels of service.

There was no further discussion on this item.

Cr R Rimmington moved/Cr H Vercoe seconded.

SPC17/89 **THAT** the report “Access Hamilton Programme Business Case 2017” (Doc@ 10616937 dated 12 June 2017) be received for information.

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/89)

Minutes of the Regional Public Transport Plan Development Subcommittee Meeting

File: 03 04 31 (Agenda Item #15) Doc # 9808084

This item provided the Committee with the minutes of the Regional Public Transport Plan Development Subcommittee Meeting of 12 June 2017.

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

- The Regional Public Transport Plan was reviewed on a 3 yearly cycle.
- It was noted that the development of the plan had included input from WINTEC, University of Waikato and District Health Board to date, the Ministry of Education (MOE) had yet to accept the invitation to be involved in the plan development. The Regional Public Transport Plan Development Subcommittee (the subcommittee) felt that MOE input was important to the success of the plan with their transport services operating alongside Waikato Regional Councils. The subcommittee had requested that the Chair of Waikato Regional Council write to MOE to express this. The Committee was advised that a MOE representative was planning to attend the Regional Transport Committee meeting on 3 July.

Cr R Rimmington moved/Cr D Minogue seconded.

SPC17/90 **THAT** the Minutes of the Regional Public Transport Plan Development Subcommittee meeting of 12 June 2017 be received for information.

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/90)

Submission to the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki

File: 95 07 43 (Agenda Item #10) Doc #10615226 and 10612786

Presented by Manager, Integrated Catchment Management (Patrick Whaley) the report sought approval from the Committee of the submission prepared on the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki.

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

- The submission needed to be completed by 30 June 2017.
- Taranaki Regional Council was leading the way nationally for the reviews of the Regional Pest Management Plans.

Cr F Lichtwark moved/Cr D Minogue seconded.

SPC17/91 **THAT** the report “Submission to Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki” (Doc# 10615226 dated 13 June 2017) be received, and
THAT the Committee approve the “Submission to Proposed Pest Management Plan for Taranaki” (Doc# 10612786 dated 27 June 2017) for lodgement to the Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment.

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/91)

SECTION B: (FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL)

Native Plant Procurement

File: 08 00 30 (Agenda Item #11) Doc # 10576169

Presented by Team Leader for Integrated Catchment Management (Tane Desmond), Catchment Management Lead (Jackson Efford) and Senior Biodiversity Officer (Andrea Julian) the report provided the Committee with an overview of the models used for the procurement of native plants and Council's approach to ecosourcing.

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

- Members suggested that sourcing plants from local nurseries or local groups be considered.
- Concern was raised that sourcing plants from outside of the Region could potentially become a biosecurity risk. Cr White moved a motion: "THAT Waikato Regional Council source plants from within the Waikato Region only". Staff advised this could be problematic if biosecurity issues were within the Waikato Region.
- Staff advised that the procurement policy contained thresholds that were not all based on cost. Tendering was required but a weighted attribute assessment was used where non-price benefits were considered. This would mean that any biosecurity risk would be measured (along with other non-price considerations) at the tendering process. The Committee requested that the recommendation be amended to note this non-priced attribute consideration.

Cr T Mahuta moved/Cr F Lichtwark seconded.

SPC17/92

1. **THAT** this report "Native Plant Procurement" (Doc# 10576169 dated 2 June 2017) be received for information.
2. **THAT** the current approach to procurement and ecosourcing of native plants outlined in this report be endorsed and that the non-priced attributes criteria includes an assessment of biosecurity risk.

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/92)

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

2018-2028 Long Term Plan (LTP) Development – June Update

File: 01 12 18A (Agenda Item #12) Doc # 10586967

Presented by Chief Financial Officer (Mike Garrett) the report updated the Committee on the LTP development programme and set out the work plan for the next few months. Further, the report introduced the next key piece of work for the Committee to consider being an update on key forecasting assumptions (non-financial).

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

- A brief discussion on the Committee's concerns of Iwi water ownership was had, noting page 225 of the agenda, and in regard to the previous agenda item on the Waikato Plan. Advice provided to the Committee reiterated previous comments that the conversation about Iwi rights and interests in water is one that is occurring between Iwi and the central government, and that Council needs to be aware of any

developments, so that we can understand what opportunities and/or consequences there may be for the region.

Cr H Vercoe moved/Cr K White seconded.

- SPC17/93** **THAT** the report “2018-2028 Long Term Plan Development” (Doc# 10586967 dated 12 June 2017) be received, and
THAT the Long Term Plan development programme for June until September, as presented, be received for information.

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/93)

SECTION B: (FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL)

2018-2028 Long Term Plan non-financial forecasting assumptions – update.

File: 01 12 18A (Agenda Item #13) Doc # 10542787

Presented by Chief Financial Officer (Mike Garrett) the report presented the Committee with an update on the non-financial forecasting assumptions for the 2018-2028 Long Term plan.

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

- The Committee raised concerns about the forecasting assumption considering Land Use Change – specifically that plan change 1 would influence land use change. A member raised concerns that in his opinion the public had been advised that plan change 1 would not require land use change. Staff advised that the assumption statement simply outlined the likelihood of the plan change influencing land use change, as opposed to requiring it. This item was tabled for consideration at a later date when Policy staff were available to advise on it.

Cr J Hayman moved/Cr T Mahuta seconded.

- SPC17/94** **THAT** the report “2018-2028 Long Term Plan non-financial forecasting assumptions – update” (doc# 10542787 dated 29 May 2017) be received, and
THAT the non-financial forecasting assumptions except that relating to land use change, as presented, be approved for recommendation to Council.

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/94)