

---

**Strategy and Policy Committee  
MINUTES**

---

Minutes of a meeting of the Strategy and Policy Committee held in Council Chambers, Waikato Regional Council, 401 Grey Street, Hamilton on 29 March 2017 at 10:01 am.

**Present:**

**Waikato Regional Council  
Members**

Cr RM Simcock (Chair), Cr T Mahuta (Deputy), Cr J Hayman, Cr J Hennebry, Cr K Hodge, Cr S Husband, Cr S Kneebone, Cr F Lichtwark, Cr D Minogue, Cr R Rimmington, Cr H Vercoe, Cr K White

**In Attendance:**

**Staff**

Director Science and Strategy (T May), Chief Financial Officer (M Garrett), CE (V Payne), Democracy Advisor (T Deane)

**Apologies**

Cr A Livingston, Cr T Mahuta (for late arrival), Cr Vercoe (for early departure)

Accepted

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

**Confirmation of Agenda**

(Agenda Item 2)

Cr R Rimmington moved/Cr F Lichtwark seconded.

SPC17/50

**THAT the agenda of the meeting of the Strategy and Policy Committee of 29 March 2017, as circulated, be confirmed as the business for the meeting.**

**The motion was put and carried (SPC17/50)**

**Verbal Update from Waikato Regional Council Communications**

(Agenda Item #4)

This update was presented by the Manager, Communications & Engagement (N Chrisp) and Team Leader, Communications (K Jonson) and gave a verbal update on current communications and upcoming focus point timelines.

**Specifics:**

- Healthy Rivers Wai Ora – communications have been around encouraging submissions to the proposed plan change.

10.06 am Cr K White joined the meeting

- Annual Plan – mid-June start
- Long Term Plans – preparing framework to bring to Council for feedback in April
- Excellence Awards Programmes – six entries to various awards
- Shop frontages branding – start mid-April
- Boundary Signs which connect to the Waikato Story in 10 locations

**Council Website update** - the new, on-line grant scheme, 'Smarty Grants', is now live. The system makes funding applications easier for applicants, and to administrate by staff. More applications for funding were received in the current round. Jet Ski registration is now live on-line.

**Customer Project** – council's seven customer service databases are being streamlined into one single customer relationship management system which will allow the organisation to deliver more consistent customer service. It will take most of 2017 to complete this process.

**Website Platform** - Migration of Council's website to the new platform is almost complete. The new software, used by many in local government, is easier to integrate with other government services, and has lower costs going forward for upgrades and maintenance. The cost to upgrade to the new platform was nil due to the skills of current staff.

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

- Request to Staff to consider "NZ Farmer" as a good connection to farming community
- Jet Ski registrations have been required for ten years. Boats are not required to be registered.
- Regarding Excellence Awards, a member stated a preference to present awards to our customers rather than receiving them. Staff advised that the awards offer Council an opportunity to tell our story, and to share ideas and projects with other councils which can lead to collaboration, and stronger working relationships.
- A member asked if Social Media was a good place for Council. Staff advised that it is, but not on its own. A multichannel approach works better which includes digital campaigns. Social Media is cost effective marketing. Staff advised Councillors that photos and stories of events they attend would be welcome. Talent release forms are available from Communications, where people approve the use of their photo.
- Annual Plan communications are largely targeted to those affected this round. Key points will be communicated mid-June.

Cr D Minogue moved/Cr F Lichtwark seconded.

SPC17/51 **RESOLVED**  
**THAT the report “Regional development update” (Doc # 10052519 dated 13 March 2017) be received for information.**

**The motion was put and carried (SPC17/51)**

**Disclosures of Interest**

(Agenda Item 3)

There were no disclosures of interest. Chair requested that disclosures be raised at the beginning of the related Agenda Item.

10.21 am Cr T Mahuta joined the meeting.

With the approval of the meeting, Agenda Items 11 and 12 will be moved forward.

**Regional Development Update**

File: 20 00 02 (Agenda Item #5) Doc #10052519 Presentation Doc #10150167

This report, presented by the Manager of Strategy (K Mayes) and Policy Advisor (H Beaven), was taken as read. Attention was drawn to the Regional Development Fund and potential sources of funding. The value of being involved with UNISA was highlighted, particularly around the ability for upper North Island councils to present issues and requests to central government and other agencies in unity. UNISA also gives government a single group to approach on issues related to the upper North Island.

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

- The urgency of a port strategy was highlighted. Staff agreed and advised that while the technical need for a strategy is evident, the logistics of ownership are more complex.

Cr S Husband moved/Cr J Hayman seconded.

SPC17/52 **RESOLVED**  
**THAT the report “Regional development update” (Doc # 10052519 dated 13 March 2017) be received for information.**

**The motion was put and carried (SPC17/52)**

With the approval of the meeting Item 11 was brought forward.

**Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan (Sea Change) - Update**

File: 20 01 08 (Agenda Item #11) Doc #10106162 Presentation Doc #10150167

This report, presented by the Manager, Policy (T Quickfall), gave the members an update of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan.

The following changes to the report were noted: Agenda page 57, section "Incorporating HGMSP into our Work". Paragraph one, the addition of a third possibility c. Agencies might support the HGMSP. Paragraph three would read "The middle ground would be "Support in principle". ... It is staff's recommendation that "Support in principle" the HGMSP is the right mix of consistent messaging for support...". Paragraph "Legislative context" to read "... recommendation to "support in principle: is not...".

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

- Amendments were made to the resolutions.
- The public have already been consulted in a targeted manner, through a range of communications and engagement processes including listening posts, community meetings. This engagement was carried out in order to be able to develop a document.
- A member would like to ensure the 'signing off' on the plan by Hauraki Iwi. Staff advised that they are aware of the Hauraki Iwi settlement process, and that they have included Iwi throughout the process within the spatial plan.

Cr D Minogue moved/Cr T Mahuta seconded.

SPC17/53

**RESOLVED**

1. **THAT the report Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan (Sea Change) (Doc # 10106162 dated 29 March 2017) be received.**
2. **THAT Councils representative on the Hauraki Gulf Forum notes Council "support in-principle" for the integrated management approach to Sea Change.**
3. **THAT Council staff continue to work with affected territorial authorities of the region to gauge their comments on the HGMSP.**
4. **THAT the comment and input received from relevant territorial authorities is fed into Councils implementation responses to the HGMSP.**
5. **THAT a comprehensive report on HGMSP implementation be provided to the May meeting of the Committee and that this report discusses:**
  - a. **Funding implications of implementation**
  - b. **Actions and roles and responsibilities of Council**
  - c. **Timetable for delivery of implementation methods**
  - d. **Overview of partner agencies implementation approach**
  - e. **What is being implemented**
  - f. **Options in regard to community engagement and engagement processes**
6. **That the Waikato Regional Council HGMSP Implementation report be shared with the Hauraki Gulf Forum post the May Committee meeting.**

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/53)

10.48 am Cr H Vercoe and Cr S Husband left the meeting.

**Update on Growth Management and Related Activities**

File: 22 05 55 (Agenda Item #6) Doc #9875006 Presentation Doc #10150167

This report was presented by the Senior Advisor and the Manager of Integration and Infrastructure (G Morton and A Lane respectively), who highlighted key points with reference to the PowerPoint Presentation: Labour market constraints, supply of land, infrastructure, costs of land development and associated infrastructure including roads. Central Government is focused on these areas and significant funding is available.

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

- Timing of the report as 'first 10 years' could be too slow given the current rate of growth.
- The northern region focus may be too narrow given the implications and opportunities are far wider than that area. A request was made to workshop the wider area. Staff agreed. It was noted that Futureproof covers Hamilton and Auckland.
- Integrated growth management and waste management needs to be discussed. Auckland's waste is currently coming to Waikato. Staff advised that this may be addressed through the Long Term Plan conversations.
- A request was made for staff to look at the impact of Auckland's bylaw on nuisance material as it would likely result in those materials coming to Waikato or the place with the least control.
- Could Waikato look into the opportunity of having those that can't afford to live in Auckland, bring their skills to Waikato? Staff advised that this focus is being considered by the development sectors and iwi to address what aspects are not covered by the market. A holistic approach is taken for economic development when looking at the viability of communities. It was noted that Waikato Means Business are considering these possibilities and the likelihood of manufacturing leaving Auckland which accentuates the need for Waikato to be attractive to business. Many groups are working to capture these aspects.
- National Infrastructure – how do the councils pay back the interest free loans? Staff advised that councils have gone back to central government to address this issue as some homes may not be built for five to ten years, therefore not appropriately apportioning the financial burden.
- Regional councils are naturally being looked to, to coordinate future planning and yet cannot apply to the National Infrastructure Fund; Regional councils would be able to spread the loan across a wider population than district and city councils. The conflict between central government's growth strategy and the Local Government Act, constraining local authorities around managing debt and provision of services, was highlighted.
- The point was raised that 40% of recent house sales in Taupō were to Aucklanders investing. Is this the trend in Waikato too?

Cr T Mahuta moved/Cr J Hennebry seconded.

SPC17/54

**RESOLVED**

**THAT the report "*Update on Growth Management and Related Activities*" (Doc # 9875006 dated 14 March 2017) be received for information.**

**The motion was put and carried (SPC17/54)**

**Waikato Aquaculture – Overview and Future Developments**

File: 22 03 76 (Agenda Item #7) Doc #9784450 Presentation Doc #10150167

This report, presented by Senior Policy Advisor, Coast (G Silver), provided an overview of Waikato Aquaculture and highlighted future developments in fish and shellfish farming. Central government is interested in this growing sector as a top ten export industry, and while New Zealand is currently a small producer, global demand is 70 million tonnes.

The process has commenced to release space by calling for tenders. Whoever is selected will still have to apply for resource consent which may or may not be granted as a discretionary activity. The criteria is mostly weighted to social and economic benefit. Tenders were called three years ago but there was no interest at that time.

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

- The West Coast has been investigated for fin fish farming but is considered by the industry to be too rough and the engineering too expensive.
- The environmental effects of fish farming will be provided in a further report to the Committee. In summary, the issues are around nutrient and interactions with wildlife. Ensuring these are managed is key.
- Iwi are being asked to advise of their customary areas, there are two known customary titles so far. Once lodged, these will impact on the consent process.
- Areas marked on the map are currently popular recreational fishing or boating areas which the local community may not be happy about. Can the areas be moved out to sea, which could also avoid some of the environmental effects on the coast line? Staff advised the current areas are indicative only, and need to specify how much is allowed in each area. This is under ten year review but a twenty year view needs to be considered for regional plans. Monitoring will be required at each stage. All is subject to Resource Management Act processes.
- Clarification was sought around the tender process. Staff advised that the area is public space. The Crown has inserted the area to be tendered into our plan. WRC receives 50% of the tender funds, which is allocated to sustainable coastal management, the Crown receives the other 50%.
- The question was raised as to whether space has been allowed for migration of farms to reduce their impacts.

Cr R Rimmington moved/Cr D Minogue seconded.

SPC17/55

**RESOLVED**

**THAT the report “*Waikato Aquaculture – overview and future developments*” (Doc # 9784450 dated 22 February 2017) be received for information.**

**The motion was put and carried (SPC17/55)**

**Waikato Regional Freshwater Strategy update**

File: 20 00 08 (Agenda Item #8) Doc #9850753 Presentation Doc #10150167

Principal Strategic Advisor, Strategy (B Dickie), presented this report With reference to the presentation (Doc #10150167) the report acknowledged that things need to change in relation to how we use our water.

“Let’s talk water” produced an ‘issues and opportunities’ document that identified three key areas of focus - better information, smarter methods, and focused advocacy. The path forward was identified as investing to work together with Iwi partners, stakeholders and the community to contribute to the long term plan, and to achieve more effective advocacy by coming from this Waikato wide perspective rather than only from a council perspective.

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

- Is there an opportunity for a council workshop on the matter, including where the Water Users Forum fits with this? Staff advised that this work is carried over from previous council. The intention is to reengage with those parties who were initially involved which includes the Water Users Forum and forty-five other groups and twenty-six pieces of information. A council workshop is anticipated for May where this can be discussed.
- Can the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato and Waipa Rivers sit higher than the RPS and can an analysis be provided of how the Vision and Strategy would sit next to the RPS.

Cr K White moved/Cr T Mahuta seconded.

SPC17/56

**RESOLVED**

**THAT the report “*Waikato Regional Freshwater Strategy update*” (Doc # 9850753 dated 14 March 2017) be received for information.**

**The motion was put and carried (SPC17/56)**

**Clean Water 2040 document**

File: 22 04 83 (Agenda Item #9) Doc #10104890 Presentation Doc #10150167

Presented by Principal Strategic Advisor, Strategy (B Dickie) this report referred to the presentation and outlined the government proposal in regard to determining “swim-ability”. Staff have prepared a draft submission which will go through the Submissions Subcommittee on 4 April 2017, and to full Council in April.

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

- The definition of swimmable appeared to lower the bar. Very simply put, it is based on a certain level of *E.coli* for a certain period of time. We can override this level if our standards are higher.
- One member suggested the 2040 time-frame is not too ambitious, and suggested a tighter time frame.

Staff are working with the sector to understand what the ministries are after, what we can deliver, what impact it has on our communities, how different it is from Plan Change 1, etc as all of this potentially changes the way we do business. The importance of council’s involvement in this issue was highlighted.

Cr R Rimmington moved/Cr F Lichtwark seconded.

SPC17/57

**RESOLVED**

**THAT the report *Clean Water document*” (Doc # 10104890 14 March 2017) be received for information.**

**The motion was put and carried (SPC17/57)**

**SECTION B: (FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL)**

**Consistency Assessment of the Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan against the National Policy Direction for Pest Management**

File: 95 07 01 (Agenda Item #10) Doc #10098087 Presentation Doc #10150167

This report, presented by Integrated Catchment Services Manager (P Whaley) and A McKenzie, outlines that the current Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan is not consistent with the Ministry of Primary Industries National Policy Direction for pest management. The report requested confirmation of these findings, and approval to ‘declare’ the inconsistency with the Ministry.

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

- There are no time frames in which to align the plan with the policy direction therefore we have control over this process. It is not a small project. Staff will produce a budget and timelines, and bring it to the Long Term Plan. All neighbouring councils are currently reviewing their pest management plans, therefore, alignment with their policies will be an important consideration for pest control across boundaries. Marine biosecurity will be included.
- The high cost of this process was highlighted
- A member reminded the meeting of the historical failure of rabbit control.

Cr K Hodge moved/Cr R Rimmington seconded.

SPC17/58

**RESOLVED**

1. **THAT the report ‘Consistency assessment of the Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan against the National Policy Direction for Pest Management’ (Doc# 10098087 dated 13 March 2017) be received for information.**

**RECOMMENDED**

2. **THAT the findings of the assessment, which confirms the current ‘Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan’ is inconsistent with the ‘National Policy Direction for Pest Management 2015’, be endorsed, and**
3. **THAT the declaration to Ministry for Primary Industries, to confirm that the ‘Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan’ is inconsistent with ‘National Policy Direction for Pest Management 2015’, be enacted.**

**The motion was put and carried (SPC17/58)**

11.56pm Cr S Kneebone left the meeting.

**Thames Coromandel District Council Local Bill**

File: 20 01 08 (Agenda Item #12) Doc #10092097 Presentation Doc #10150167

This report, presented by Manager, Policy (T Quickfall) and Senior Policy Advisor, Land and Coast (B Bunting), was taken as read. Attention was drawn to community pressure on the local council to advance faster, hence the suggestion and proposal of a local bill as it could be a more efficient way forward for mangrove management. It is proposed that Council endorse the approach but remain neutral on the content of the bill due to legislative constraints.

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

- Thames Coromandel District Council proactively asked to be advised and have been given the agenda. No feedback has been received at this time.

Cr D Minogue moved/Cr R Rimmington seconded.

SPC17/59

**RESOLVED**

1. **THAT the report Thames Coromandel District Council Local Bill (Doc # 10092097 dated 29 March 2017) be received for information.**

**RECOMMENDED**

2. **THAT Council support Thames Coromandel District Council in their approach of seeking a Local Bill for mangrove management.**
3. **THAT Council takes a neutral position in regard to the content of the Bill.**
4. **THAT Council and Thames Coromandel District Council continue to work cooperatively under the Statement of Intent and requests that Thames Coromandel District Council keep Waikato Regional Council informed of the progress of the proposed Local Bill on a regular basis.**

**The motion was put and carried (SPC17/59)**

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

**Update on Hamilton to Auckland Passenger Rail Assessment**

File: 21 02 11 (Agenda Item #13) Doc #10117653 Presentation Doc #10150167

This report, presented by Manager, Science and Strategy (A Lane) gave an update on the feasibility of passenger rail between Auckland and Waikato. A paper is being drafted comparing what happened in 2011. It will outline what has changed and offer options for consideration. The paper will go to partners and will feed back to Council through the Regional Transport Committee.

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

- Currently there is political desire to change. Rail would be a good driver to continue to advance the region, and opens the potential for manufacturing.
- There is a Rail working party which is a staff steering group of technical and senior managers from councils. They refresh the information and take it back to their respective councils who can then comment through the Regional Transport Committee.

- It was noted that the projections on page 70 were not good and the question was raised around who would carry the deficit of \$1.2 million per year. Would it be shared with Auckland, WRC and possibly NZTA? Staff will be looking into this aspect next.
- It was also noted that none of the proposals show a train into Britomart (Auckland Central). Staff advised that is the case at the moment; the report is comparing what was then and what is now. This type of point needs to be considered. This report is explaining the process being taken to move the project forward.
- The possibility of air travel from Hamilton to Auckland was raised due to long travel times to Auckland.
- The cost of not acting on this, was highlighted.

Cr T Mahuta moved/Cr R Rimmington seconded.

SPC17/60

**RESOLVED**

**THAT the report “Update on Hamilton to Auckland passenger rail assessment” (Doc # 10117653 dated 16 March 2017) be received.**

**The motion was put and carried (SPC17/60)**

**2018-2028 Long Term Plan (LTP) Development**

File: 01 12 18A (Agenda Item #14) Doc #10029003 Presentation Doc #10150167

This report was presented by Chief Financial Officer (M Garrett). It confirmed the Strategy and Policy Committee’s role for oversight of the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan (LTP), outlined the work programme for the next six months, and introduced the first pieces of work for the Committee to consider.

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

- A list of key stakeholders for the LTP was requested. Staff intend to workshop this with Council in April.

Cr T Mahuta moved/Cr K Hodge seconded.

SPC17/61

**RESOLVED**

- 1. THAT the report ‘2018-2028 Long Term Plan Development’ (Doc # 10029003 dated 6 March 2017) be received.**
- 2. THAT the Long Term Plan (LTP) development programme, as presented, be confirmed.**

**The motion was put and carried (SPC17/61)**

**SECTION B: (FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL)**

**2018-2028 Long Term Plan Groups of Activities Structure**

File: 01 12 18A (Agenda Item #15) Doc #10051200 Presentation Doc #10150167

This report, presented by Chief Financial Officer (M Garrett), sought to confirm the groups of activities structure for the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan, be recommended to Council for adoption. Attention was drawn to changes outlined on page 76.

There were no questions.

Cr T Mahuta moved/Cr R Rimmington seconded.

SPC17/62

**RESOLVED**

1. **THAT the report 2018-2028 Long Term Plan groups of activities structure (Doc # 10051200 dated 6 March 2017) be received, and**

**RECOMMENDED**

2. **THAT the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan (LTP) groups of activities structure, as presented, be recommended to council for adoption.**

**The motion was put and carried (SPC17/62)**

**2018-2028 LTP Levels of Service Review**

File: 01 12 18A (Agenda Item #16) Doc #10052522 Presentation Doc #10150167

This report, presented by Chief Financial Officer (M Garrett), sought to confirm the approach to reviewing Levels of Service (LOS) for the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan (LTP), be recommended to council for adoption. Attention was drawn to page 84 as the areas where Councillors can have input. The timetable is indicative and will be reviewed in April to ensure it works. Staff would like high level strategic direction and priorities and encouraged this feedback from the committee to assist the 'level of service' process at the appropriate time.

Cr T Mahuta moved/Cr J Hennebry seconded.

SPC17/63

**RESOLVED**

1. **THAT the report 2018-2028 LTP Levels of Service Review (Doc #10052522 dated 6 March 2017) be received, and**

**RECOMMENDED**

2. **THAT the approach to reviewing levels of service for the 2018-2028 LTP, as presented, be approved for recommendation to Council.**

**The motion was put and carried (SPC17/63)**

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

**Review of Revenue and Financing Policy**

File: 01 12 18F (Agenda Item #17) Doc #10068000, 3900786 Presentation Doc #10150167

This report, presented by Chief Financial Officer (M Garrett) and Manager, Finance (J Becker), outlined the process to review the Revenue and Finance Policy as part of the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan. It sought feedback from the committee on additional areas of review that need to be incorporated into the programme. Attention was drawn to page 90 which outlined areas staff have identified for review. Councillors were asked to highlight any areas they would like staff to review and bring those back to the committee.

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

- There was general discussion around different types of 'charges'. Staff explained their role is to put all information on the table for Councillors to debate.

Cr T Mahuta moved/Cr R Rimmington seconded.

SPC17/64

**RESOLVED**

**THAT the report "Review of Revenue and Financing Policy" (Doc #10068000 dated 6 March 2017) be received for information.**

**The motion was put and carried (SPC17/64)**

**Statement of Investment Policy and Objectives (SIPO) Review Approach and Timelines**

File: 08 11 55M (Agenda Item #18) Doc #10092656 Presentation Doc #10150167

This report, presented by Chief Financial Officer (M Garrett) and Manager, Finance (J Becker), was about the review of how the investment fund is to be utilised. Attention was drawn to page 135 as the suggested approach. It was highlighted that, while consultants give the information, it is Council who ultimately decides. A variety of views are expected from the committee, which the consultant will then take away and come back with the technical aspects of the SIPO.

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

- Members would like the opportunity to write more than Yes or No on the form. Staff advised that the form, in Survey Monkey, can be modified to add comments.
- There was concern that the feedback and views of Councillors was being sought ahead of debate. The preference would be to debate, discuss and express on the issues first and then do the survey, otherwise the consultants are working with individual 'positions' in the first instance. There was agreement on this point and a suggestion that staff circulate a discussion paper prior to the workshop. Councillors were therefore encouraged to attend the workshop to ensure their views were included in the debate.
- It was pointed out that views and opinions could be directed by current global situations. How the fund is used in light of this, the range of Councillor views, and the appetite for risk, are all to be considered.

**Staff will alter the process to:**

- Mercers prepare briefing and discussion paper of key issues to discuss at the workshop.
- The document would be circulated ahead of the workshop.
- Councillors can ask questions if more information is required, before the workshop.
- Councillors then attend the meeting with an order of items for debate to discuss with an open mind.

Cr R Rimmington moved/Cr J Hayman seconded.

SPC17/65

**RESOLVED**

**1. THAT the report Statement of Investment Policy and Objectives (SIPO) Review Approach and Timelines (Doc #10092656 dated 10 March 2017) be received for information, and**

- 2. THAT the Strategy and Policy Committee endorse the recommended approach to the review of the Statement of Investment Policy and Objectives.**

**The motion was put and carried (SPC17/65)**

The meeting closed at 12.29pm

Doc # 10135875