
Strategy and Policy Committee
MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Strategy and Policy Committee held in Waikato Regional Council Chambers on 16 May 2017 at 10:00am

Waikato Regional Council

Present:
Cr B Simcock (Chair)
Cr J Hayman
Cr J Hennebry
Cr K Hodge
Cr S Husband
Cr S Kneebone
Cr F Lichtwark
Cr A Livingston
Cr D Minogue
Cr H Vercoe
Cr K White
Cr B Quayle

Staff

In Attendance:
Vaughan Payne – Chief Executive
Neville Williams – Director Community Services
Tracey May – Director Science and Strategy
Mike Garrett – Chief Financial Officer

Apologies

Cr Tipa Mahuta
Cr Russ Rimmington

Accepted

Confirmation of Agenda

(Agenda Item 2)

Cr B Simcock moved/Cr S Kneebone seconded.

SPC17/66

THAT the agenda of the meeting of the Strategy and Policy Committee of 16 May 2017, as circulated, be confirmed as the business for the meeting.

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/66)

Disclosures of Interest

(Agenda Item 3)

There were no disclosures of interest.

Communications – Verbal Update

Team Leader – Community and Services (Kim Jonson) provided the Committee with a verbal update on the current work streams of the Communications Team. These included:

- The event kit
- Waikato Regional Council Video
- Pest ID Cards
- Regional Road Safety Review
- Waikato Show

Upcoming work for the Communication Team involved tasks around the Annual Plan, Long Term Plan and the Field Days.

There was no further discussion on this item.

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

2018-2028 Long Term Plan Development – May Update

File: 01 12 18A (Agenda Item 4) Doc #10318825, 10370490, 10188339, 10300041

Presented by Chief Financial Officer (Mike Garrett), the report provided the Committee with an update on the Long Term Plan (LTP) development programme and set out the work plan for the next few months. The next pieces of work for consideration were noted as:

- Long Term Plan engagement co-ordination plan
- Significance and Engagement Policy review, and
- Key forecasting assumptions (non financial).

There was no further discussion on this item.

Cr D Minogue moved/Cr S Kneebone seconded.

SPC17/67

1. **THAT** the report '2018-2028 Long Term Plan Development – May Update' (Doc #10318825) dated 1 May 2017 be received, and
2. **THAT** the Long Term Plan development programme for May until September, as

presented, be received for information

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/67)

2018-2028 Long Term Plan – Integrated Engagement, Communication and Media (ECM) Plan

File: 01 12 18A (Agenda Item #5) Doc #10370490

Presented by Chief Financial Officer (Mike Garrett) the report updated the Committee and formalised the proposed 2018-2028 Long Term Plan engagement co-ordination plan, which had previously been outlined to Councillors.

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

- Concern had been raised within some of the Catchment Committees that the opportunity to workshop the LTP in August would be after the business case had gone out for consultation. The Committee was reassured that the timelines allowed for workshops and then detailed business cases to be established and the draft LTP would not go out for consultation until March 2018.
- Pre-engagement was being undertaken with stakeholders and Iwi, the Committee raised concern that – to date – there had been no appropriate way established to pre-engage with the general public. The Committee was advised that the Communications team was working in this space and a paper would go to Council in June covering the broader engagement to the Community. There was a need to be aware of ‘Consultation Overload’. Consultation needed to be affordable, effective and at the appropriate level to get the best outcome for the consultation.
- While some Councils had undertaken to replace formal hearing processes with ‘have your say events’ (pg 10 of Agenda Package), the Committee was reassured that this was only information of what other Councils were considering and the LTP hearing process would be a matter decided by Council.
- One Councillor requested statutory definitions of ‘engagement’ and ‘consultation’.
- In regards to the LTP Stakeholder Forum that was being held on 22 May 2017, the Committee was advised that letters of invitation had been sent to 22 groups identified as stakeholders/Iwi partners. 8 of those groups had statutory arrangements or arrangements pending with Waikato Regional Council. The invitations had been followed up by phone with a low response at this stage. The 8 groups with statutory arrangements would engage in one on one meetings also.
- The Committee was aware that tensions exist in the space of engagement with the public and the need to ensure that what is undertaken is practical. Suggestions to staff from the Committee in regards to this were welcomed.

Cr D Minogue moved/Cr A Livingston seconded.

SPC17/68

1. **THAT** the report ‘2018-2028 Long Term Plan Integrated Engagement, Communication and Media plan’ (Doc #10370490) dated 2 May be received, and
2. **THAT** the Long Term Plan Integrated Engagement, Communication and Media Plan, as presented, be confirmed.

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/68)

SECTION B: (FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL)

Review of Council's Significance and Engagement Policy

File: 01 12 18P (Agenda Item #6) Doc #10188339

Presented by Chief Financial Officer (Mike Garrett) the report sought endorsement of Council's Significance and Engagement Policy for adoption by Council. The Significance and Engagement Policy identified steps to allow Council to decide if a matter was considered "significant".

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

- At page 28, the 4th bullet, the Committee requested it be amended to:
"Whether the likely consequence are controversial and/or has a likely impact on the reputation of Council."
- Concern was raised that what the policy deemed 'not significant' may be significant to the Community. Discussion ensued in regards to this and the Committee agreed that while every action of Council is significant to someone, the policy ensured consistent considerations were applied to every action to ensure fair consultation. As the consultation process was expensive, it was not possible to consult with the public on every matter. However it was over to Council to decide if a matter warranted consultation using the criteria outlined in the policy.
- Each action would be considered for significance overall and under the points for 'assessment of significance' so, while an action might have a high community interest, but the financial consequence was low, Council could still consider this significant to consult on.
- The Committee was advised that this policy did not override legislated consultation processes required by the Resource Management Act.

Councillor Jane Hennebry moved a motion to allow this item to lay on the table until the Committee could further workshop the policy. After some discussion and with the reassurance that Council could decide to consult on a matter the policy did not deem significant, the motion was retracted.

Cr D Minogue moved/Cr S Kneebone seconded.

SPC17/69

RECOMMENDED:

1. **That** the report 'Review of Council's Significance and Engagement Policy' (Doc #10188339) dated 3 May 2017 be received, and
2. **THAT** the reviewed Significance and Engagement Policy, with the 1 amendment as suggested, be endorsed and recommended to Council for adoption.

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/69)

2018-2028 Long Term Plan non-financial forecasting assumptions

File:01 12 18 A (Agenda Item #7) Doc #10326810

Presented by Chief Financial Officer (Mike Garrett), the report sought initial approval of the non-financial forecasting assumptions for the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan.

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

- At page 39 of the Agenda, under flood protection and control works, the Committee requested more information in this space as there was concern that implications could be bigger than expected.
- The Public Transport plan was being developed and would link into the LTP to ensure there was no disconnect between the two.

- The Committee agreed that while it was impossible to be exactly accurate regarding population and growth figures, it was important to ensure that all agencies were working from the same figures.
- It was suggested that (at page 38 of the agenda) the influence of Iwi should be more than a 'low' level of uncertainty with the possibility of new agreements coming out of the Taupo area, this could be both labour and financially intensive.
- In regards to "Iwi expectations of Government" Local Government was acting as an agent for Central Government in this space at a significant and increasing cost. It was suggested that a request for some recompense from Central Government be considered.

Cr B Quayle moved/Cr S Husband seconded.

SPC17/70

RECOMMENDED:

1. **THAT** the report '2018-2028 Long Term Plan non-financial forecasting assumptions' (Doc #10326810) dated 3 May 2017 be received, and
2. **THAT** the non-financial forecasting assumptions, as presented, be approved for recommendation to Council.

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/70)

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

Submission on 2017/18 Annual Plan consultation documents for Hamilton City Council, Taupo District Council and Waikato District Council.

File: 01 12 17A (Agenda Item #8) Doc #10381210, 10378830, 10321752

Presented by Chief Financial Officer (Mike Garrett) the report requested approval of submissions on the 2017/18 Annual Plan consultation documents for Waikato District Council and Hamilton City Council. Further the report sought approval for a submission to be drafted on Taupo District Council's 2017/18 Annual Plan consultation document.

Waikato District Councils submission was based around increased funding for wastewater. During questions, answers and related discussion the following points were noted:

- Concern was raised that district plans differed in some respects to Waikato Regional Council plans. The Committee was advised that while the roles and responsibilities of each authority differed, it was important for district plans to be consistent with the Regional Policy Statement. The Ministry for the Environment was currently considering a national planning standard for all government organisations.
- Councillors requested that an alert be emailed to them when there was a local consultation process underway in their constituency.

Cr B Quayle moved/Cr H Vercoe seconded.

SPC17/71

1. **THAT** the report 'Submission on 2017/18 Annual Plan consultation documents for Hamilton City Council, Taupo District Council and Waikato District Council' (Doc #10381210) dated 8 May 2017 be received, and
2. **THAT** the submission on Waikato District Council's 2017/18 Annual Plan consultation document, with any agreed amendments, be approved and submitted on 16 May 2017

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/71)

Hamilton City Councils submission was based on free parking in the central business district. The Committee was advised that, while approval of this submission was being sought retrospectively, any amendments could be made at the presentation to Hamilton City Council on 18 May 2017. During questions, answers and related discussion the following points were noted:

- Hamilton City Council appeared to be using the free parking as a means of economic recovery, while the Waikato Regional Council submission was focused on Public Transport. It was suggested that the submission be couched in a way that reflected and acknowledged Hamilton City Councils intention.
- The Committee raised concern that free parking may not affect Public Transport at all, with people preferring to park in town for free as opposed to taking a bus.
- The Committee was reassured that retrospective submissions were supplied to constituent councillors before they were submitted.

Cr J Hennebry moved/Cr B Simcock seconded

SPC17/72

THAT the submission Hamilton City Council's 2017/18 Annual Plan consultation document, which was submitted on 5 May 2017, be approved retrospectively, modified for the points raised.

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/72)

Taupo District Councils submission would be based on the opportunity of co-location with the Taupo office of the Waikato Regional Council in proposed new Taupo District Council building. There was no further discussion on this item.

Cr K White moved/Cr S Husband seconded

SPC17/73

THAT the Committee approves in principle the drafting of a submission on Taupo District Council's 2017/18 Annual Plan consultation document stating that, if Taupo District Council does proceed with a new building, the option of co-location with Waikato Regional Council's Taupo-based operations is further investigated.

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/73)

Submission to the Urban Development Authorities Discussion Document

File: 22 12 05 (Agenda Item #9) Doc #10135857

Presented by Policy Advisor (Haven Walsh) the report sought approval from the Committee of the submission prepared on the Urban Development Authorities Discussion Document.

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

- While the submission supported the UDA proposal, concern was noted that the submission needed to be stronger in its recognition of the existing process. The Committee was advised that while the existing system is not broken, it only works well when Councils (both Regional and District) work collaboratively. Councils submission suggested that Regional Councils be involved from the beginning as opposed to brought into the issue later on.
- The submission should suggest that only in exceptional circumstances should the Minister go against the existing regulatory process.
- The submission should be more high level and note the critical role Regional Councils play. The submission should spell out specifically what was supported and

the strong belief that Regional Councils need to be a critical component of the UDA process.

- Recognition in the submission also needed to be given to the significant investment of time and money that communities make in plan development

The Committee requested that, if possible and if it fitted within the submission timeline, that the amended submission be referred to Strategy and Policy Chair (Cr B Simcock) for review before it was submitted.

Cr B Simcock moved/Cr D Minogue seconded.

SPC17/74

1. **THAT** the report 'Submission to the Urban Development Authorities Discussion Document' (Doc #10135857) dated 1 May 2017 be received.
2. **THAT** the Committee approve the 'Submission to the Urban Development Authorities Discussion Document' (Doc #10135857) dated 1 May 2017, including directions provided by the Strategy and Policy Committee, for lodgement to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/74)

SECTION B: (FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL)

Hamilton to Auckland Passenger Rail Update

File: 21 20 83 (Agenda Item #10) Doc #10320672

Presented by Manager for Integration and Infrastructure (Annika Lane) and Senior Policy Advisor (Vincent Kuo) the report provided the Committee with an update on the Hamilton to Auckland Passenger Rail service. The report outlined the findings of a staff assessment of the 2011 Hamilton to Auckland Passenger Rail Working Party Final Recommendations Report and sought a decision from the Committee on a preferred option going forward.

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

- The Committee was reassured they are not being asked to consider significant additional costs in this space, only to advise an option for next steps. Further, the Committee was advised that any cost for Option 3 would be able to be sourced from existing budgets, however if the preference was for option 2 – cost considerations would be made at a subsequent meeting.
- Some members suggested that it would be better to leave it as status quo, Option1, as there were too many unknowns at this point in time while others believed it was important to consider next steps especially in regards to population growth and the current commuter situation between Auckland and Hamilton.
- The Committee was concerned about the lack of 'buy in' to the suggested rail line at the Auckland end. There was discussion as to whether it would be a rail from Hamilton to Auckland or an outlying area with a park and ride option.
- The Committee was advised that if the option to develop a strategic business case was chosen, all aspects would be considered. It was clarified that the strategic business case would establish what the issue or problem is and a range of different solutions and investment options, it would not lock parties into a singular solution. The Committee was advised that there were a range of partners and stakeholders involved and submitting to the steering group and any business case would be structured and considered.

Following discussion, the majority of the Committee agreed to option 3: Developing a strategic business case.

Cr B Quayle moved/Cr C Simcock seconded.

Cr J Hennebry, Cr D Minogue and Cr S Husband opposed.

SPC17/75

RECOMMENDED:

1. **THAT** the report Hamilton to Auckland Passenger Rail Update (Doc #10320672) dated 24 April 2017 be received.
2. **THAT** the Committee identified Option 3 as the preferred option from the three options for next steps identified in the attached 'Report on Hamilton to Auckland Passenger Rail Service' (Doc #10142891) and recommend this option to Council.
3. **THAT** the Council communicate this decision to the North Waikato Integrated Growth Management Programme Business Case Steering Group who will collate responses from all partner organisations and report to the Waikato Regional Transport Committee for consideration.

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/75)

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

Submission on yellow draft of Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2017.

File: 03 04 11 (Agenda Item #11) Doc #10395659

Presented by Manager Integration (Annika Lane) the report informed the Committee on a Regional Transport Committee submission on the yellow draft of Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2017.

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

- The submission should note considerations for under and over the current speed limit.
- Road conditions meant that speed limits should vary in some areas. Concern was raised regarding areas where the limits varied several times between 80 and 100km. It was suggested that all roads are not equal and speed limits needed to change until road conditions improved.

Cr A Livingston moved/Cr S Husband seconded.

SPC17/76

THAT the report 'Submission on yellow draft of Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2017' (Doc #10395659) dated 8 May 2017 be received for information.

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/76)

New Zealand Productivity Commission Better Urban Planning Final Report

File: 19 03 03 (Agenda Item #12) Doc #10362710

Presented by Principal Strategic Advisor (Urlwyn Trebilco) the report provided a summary overview of the New Zealand Productivity Commission's Better Urban Planning Final Report.

There was no further discussion on this item.

Cr S Kneebone and Cr S Husband left the meeting: 12:28pm

Cr B Simcock moved/Cr B Quayle seconded.

SPC17/77 **THAT** the report 'New Zealand Productivity Commission Better Urban Planning Final Report' (Doc #10362710) dated 16 May 2017 be received for information.

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/77)

Cr S Kneebone returned at 12:33pm

Resource Legislation Amendment Act 2017 overview

File: 03 04 15 (Agenda Item #13) Doc #10388244

Presented by Director Science and Strategy (Tracey May) the report outlined the key changes made to the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) by the Resource Legislation Amendment Act 2017 relevant to the Waikato Regional Council functions.

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

- The Committee noted concern about the RMA's consultation requirements and the issue with affected parties (who were, and who were not) being consulted. While this was acknowledged as a significant issue, the Committee was advised that these amendments would not change the RMA in that regard.

Cr H Vercoe moved/Cr S Kneebone seconded.

SPC17/78 **THAT** the report 'Resource Legislation Amendment Act 2017 overview' (Doc #10388244) dated 5 May 2017 be received for information.

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/78)

Regional Policy Statement Implementation – One year on

File: 22 06 50 (Agenda Item #14) Doc #10135300

Presented by Senior Policy Advisor (Hannah Beaven) the report provided the Committee with an update on implementing the Waikato Regional Council's Regional Policy Statement.

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

- The development of the Coastal Marine Strategy was waiting on other programmes to come to fruition to ensure that there would not be duplication of staff effort.

Cr A Livingston moved/Cr K Hodge seconded.

SPC17/79 **THAT** the report 'Regional Policy Statement Implementation – one year on' (Doc #10135300) dated 16 May 2017 be received.

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/79)

Investigating investment approaches to land use in the Upper Waipa River catchment.

File: 20 00 15 (Agenda Item #15) Doc #10381509

Presented by Senior Strategic Advisor (Tariq Ashraf) and Manager Strategy (Katie Mayes) the report provided the Committee with background information on a feasibility study that is being undertaken with co-funding from the Waikato River Authority.

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

- Investors were all motivated by a financial return, it was up to investors to ensure they were comfortable with the level of return.
- Other Catchments could use the feasibility study if they were considering this approach.
- Once feasibility was established, the Committee would be advised of potential next steps. This was expected in July 2017.

Cr B Simcock moved/Cr S Kneebone seconded.

SPC17/80

THAT the report 'Investigating investment approaches to land use in the Upper Waipa River Catchment' Doc # 10381509) dated 3 May 2017 be received.

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/80)

Regional Public Transport Plan Development Subcommittee minutes of 27 April 2017

File: 03 04 31 (Agenda Item #16) Doc #10349966

The Committee was provided with the minutes of the Regional Public Transport Plan Development Subcommittee meeting of 27 April 2017.

There was no further discussion on this item.

Cr B Simcock moved/Cr S Kneebone seconded.

SPC17/81

THAT the minutes of the Regional Public Transport Plan Development Subcommittee meeting of 27 April 2017 be received.

The motion was put and carried (SPC17/81)

The meeting concluded at 1:03pm.

Doc # 9809080