

Minutes of the Policy and Planning Committee Meeting held in Council Meeting Room One, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, 5 Quay Street, Whakatane on Tuesday, 14 September 2010 commencing at 9.30 am

Present:

Chairman: R Bennett

Deputy Chairman: A von Dadelszen

Councillors: R Ford, T Marr, J Nees, P Sherry, K Summerhays, M Whitaker

Ex Officio: Chairman J Cronin

In Attendance: Councillor I Noble, G Maloney (Acting Group Manager Strategic Development), M Macleod (Acting Chief Executive), E Grogan (Group Manager Water Management), K Maki (Sustainable Development Manager), L Thompson (Senior Communications Officer), M Boyd (Planner), P Crabbe (District Applications Officer), J Burrup (Planning Administration Officer), F Johnson (Johnson McSweeney Ltd) and P Maxwell (Committee Secretary)

1 **General Business and Tabled Items**

Resolved

That pursuant to section 46A of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 the following items be considered at this meeting.

1.1 **General Discussion on the Policy & Planning Committee Meeting**

Reason

The matter has just come to hand.

Give Reasons

This matter cannot wait as this was the last scheduled Policy and Planning Committee meeting for the triennium.

**Bennett/Summerhays
CARRIED**

2 Reports

2.1 District Consent Applications Annual Report

Pam Crabbe (District Applications Officer) presented the report that updated the Committee on the district resource consent applications received and processed for the 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 financial year.

Members were given a summary of the applications received by territorial authorities in the region and also a summary of those applications that were then referred to the Bay of Plenty Regional Council. It was noted that the number of applications received was 257 which was a reduction in comparison to the 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 financial year.

The Committee received an overview of the submissions lodged by Council and the appeals that Council had been involved in during the 2009/2010 year.

Resolved

That the Policy and Planning Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 **Receives the report, District Consent Applications Annual Report.**

**Cronin/Marr
CARRIED**

2.2 Update on Submissions to the Policy of Central Government and Others

Kataraina Maki (Sustainable Development Manager) presented the report that provided the Committee with an update on submissions Council made to Central Government and Tauranga City Council. It was noted that both submissions were made under delegated authority by the Chair of the Policy and Planning Committee and the Group Manager Strategic Development.

Resolved

That the Policy and Planning Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 **Receives the report, 'Update on Submissions to the Policy of Central Government and Others'.**

**von Dadelszen/Summerhays
CARRIED**

2.3 Bay of Plenty Regional Council Submissions to District Plans

Moana Boyd (Planner) presented the report that updated the Committee on a further submission made by the Regional Council to the Proposed Kawerau District Plan. The submission was made under delegated authority by the Group Manager Strategic Development, in consultation with the Chair of the Policy and Planning Committee. The submission noted that Regional Council wished to be heard in support of its submission.

The Chair noted a concern that was raised about the time it took to resolve Plan appeals. The Chair also noted a suggestion that if the region had a single District Plan it may be more efficient and effective therefore it was asked whether BOPLASS could consider such an approach. Garry Maloney (Acting Group Manager Strategic Development) advised the Committee that he would raise the matter at the next Executive Leadership Team meeting.

Resolved

That the Policy and Planning Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Bay of Plenty Regional Council Submissions to District Plans.**

Summerhays/Marr

CARRIED

3 Committee Chairperson's Announcement

The Chair announced that there would be a change to the order of the Agenda to allow Fiona Johnson from Johnson McSweeney Ltd to make her presentation to the Committee.

3.1 Independent Assessment of Policy Advice

Refer PowerPoint 1.

Kataraina Maki (Sustainable Development Manager) presented the report that informed the Committee of an independent assessment that had been undertaken within the Strategic Policy Section. She explained that the assessment looked at the Section's policy advice to Council and its Committees and advised that 55% of the Section's policy advice was rated as 'high quality' while 45% was rated as 'quality'. She noted that the Strategic Policy Section did not meet its key performance indicator (KPI) but that processes would now be set in place to meet the 2010/2011 KPI.

Ms Maki introduced Fiona Johnson (Independent Assessor, Johnson McSweeney Ltd) who made a powerpoint presentation to the Committee that explained the assessment process. Ms Johnson defined what she considered as 'high quality advice' and identified what the section had done well and what could be improved.

Members discussed the assessment further. It was asked whether providing further background on the sequence of events leading up to the report recommendation would strengthen a report and was advised that staff would address the matter in future reports.

A member of the Committee asked Ms Johnson for her view on the Financial Implication section of the assessed reports. She advised that in her opinion they were satisfactory.

A concern was expressed about the Strategic Policy Section not meeting its KPI of 80% of reports being of high quality. Some members requested that a report be brought back to a subsequent meeting to identify the process that would be put in place to address that issue.

MOTION:

Moved: Chairman
Seconded: von Dadelszen

To add an additional recommendation to read:

Requests an update on issues raised by the report and the improvements recommended to the next Policy & Planning Committee Meeting.

It was asked whether the assessment process would be undertaken in other sections and Garry Maloney (Acting Group Manager Strategic Development) advised that other managers were considering undertaking the same exercise.

Resolved

That the Policy and Planning Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, 'Independent Assessment of Policy Advice'.**
- 2 Request an update on issues raised by the report and the improvements recommended to the next Policy & Planning Committee Meeting.**

**Cronin/von Dadelszen
CARRIED**

4 Resolution to exclude the public

THAT the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

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

**Bennett/von Dadelszen
CARRIED**

4.1 Update on District Plan Appeals**Reason**

That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information where the withholding of the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege.

Grounds

That the exclusion of the public from the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting is necessary to enable the local authority to deliberate in private on its decision or recommendation in any proceedings before a local authority where a right of appeal lies to any Court or tribunal against the final decision of the local authority in those proceedings.

5 **General Business and Tabled Items**

5.1 **General Discussion on the Policy & Planning Committee Meeting**

The Committee Chair sought feedback from members on their views of the Policy and Planning Committee over the triennium.

- Members thanked the Committee Chair for her chairing over the triennium and looked forward to her continued chairing in the new triennium.
- A member of the Committee suggested that there needed to be more openness with Council's consultation process.

The Committee Chair thanked the members for their words and their participation over the triennium. She acknowledged the work undertaken by staff and their assistance and support to her and the Committee. In conclusion she asked staff to look at a better process that allowed Councillors more time to consider Policies before they were adopted and to review the Policy and Planning Committee's Terms of Reference as there appeared to be some overlaps and/or crossovers with other Committees.

Resolved

That the Policy and Planning Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 **Notes the Committee's congratulations to staff acknowledging the work staff have undertaken including their assistance and support to the Committee Chair and members of the Committee.**

**Bennett/von Dadelszen
CARRIED**

The meeting closed at 10.55 am