

Minutes of the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee Meeting held in The Boeing Room, Classic Flyers NZ, 8 Jean Batten Drive, Tauranga Airport on Wednesday, 4 May 2011 commencing at 9.30 a.m.

Present:

Chairman: R Bennett

Deputy Chairman: P Sherry

Councillors: T Eru, T Marr, I Noble, N Oppatt, L Thurston, M Whitaker

In Attendance: M McConway (Group Manager Technology and Economic Development), C MacGregor (Senior Economic Development Advisor), M McLeod (Group Manager Strategic Development), K Maki (Sustainable Development Manager), M Calvert (Senior Transport Planner), J Owen (Planning Administration Officer), L Thompson (Senior Communications Advisor), S Kameta (Committee Secretary)

Attendance in part - T Hawken, B Heard (Bay of Connections Governance Group)

Apologies: Chairman J Cronin (Ex-Officio), Councillor P Thompson

1 Chairperson's Announcements

The Committee Chairperson Councillor Bennett advised there would be a change in the order of business to that listed in the agenda to provide extra time for Bay of Connections Advisory Group members to arrive and give a presentation on Agenda Item 3.1.

Chairperson Bennett recommended that members receive a tabled item to be discussed in confidence as the final item on the agenda.

Resolved

That the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Accepts a change in the order of business from that listed in the agenda.**

**Bennett/Sherry
Carried**

2 Tabled Item

Resolved

That pursuant to section 46A and section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 the following items be considered at this meeting.

2.1 Late Submission to the Proposed Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement

Reason

That the matter has just come to hand.

Grounds

The matter should be presented to the Committee as soon as practicable, and cannot wait until the next meeting of the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee.

**Bennett/Noble
CARRIED**

3 Reports

3.1 Upcoming Major Plan Changes

Mary-Anne MacLeod (Group Manager Strategic Development) presented the report informing the Committee of the scale of upcoming plan change work, which required their feedback around prioritising projects. Ms MacLeod noted the constraints on staff and consultant resources, and also advised that financial implications would be reported back at a later date once feedback had been evaluated.

Committee members sought questions of clarification on several matters. Ms MacLeod advised that work was being done on the Regional Water and Land Plan rules as a result of the Proposed Regional Policy Statement.

Councillors provided feedback on prioritisation. Feedback included the importance of the Proposed Regional Policy Statement and addressing Rotorua Lakes' issues, the Regional Coastal Environment Plan and Tauranga Harbour issues, and the River Gravel Management Plan. The potential of achieving outcomes at the operational level was also raised. Ms MacLeod advised that discussions at staff level had occurred on this matter and could be brought back to the next meeting.

Resolved

That the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Upcoming Major Plan Changes.**
- 2 Considers and discusses the upcoming projects outlined in the report and provides feedback to staff on priority projects.**
- 3 Requests staff report back with proposed priorities for the 2011/2012 financial year and for the next three years as part of the Ten Year Plan process.**

**Thurston/Nees
CARRIED**

3.2 **Bay of Connections - Progress and what's ahead**

Refer Tabled Document No.1

Miles McConway (Group Manager Technology and Economic Development) introduced the report on the recent progress and upcoming activities for the Bay of Connections projects. Mr McConway introduced Bay of Connections Advisory Group members, Tony Hawken and Bryce Heard and noted the apologies of Anthony Olsen.

Mr Hawken, Mr Heard and Cheryl MacGregor (Senior Economic Development Advisor) gave a presentation on the advisory groups and progress of the strategies. Key success factors that were noted were equal membership with an overlap of regional and national representation, collaboration and leadership of industry representatives.

Mr McConway advised that other regional initiatives were being aligned within Bay of Connections with Local Government funding secured for analysis on infrastructure and a recommendation for two Māori business representatives was going to the Triennial Chairs meeting on 6 May. Mr McConway also advised the draft strategies were due to be completed towards late 2011, and the Bay of Connections document was being reviewed due to be completed in December.

Councillors sought and received clarification on a number of matters including linkages with transport, forestry, aquaculture, education and research, and impacts of economic markets. Committee members thanked and congratulated the Advisory Group members for their time and input into the development of the region, and that further updates on their progress would be welcomed.

Resolved

That the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Bay of Connections - Progress and what's ahead.**
- 2 Confirms that the significance of the decision has been assessed as LOW, and under Section 79 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) confirms that in light of the level of significance of the decision it does not require: (a) Further identification and assessment of different options under section 77 LGA; (b) Further investigation or consideration of community views under section 78 LGA; (c) Any further written record of the manner in which section 77 and section 78 matters have been addressed.**

**Eru/Oppatt
CARRIED**

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned for morning tea at 10.50 am and reconvened at 11.07 am.

3.3 **Regional River Gravel Management Plan Review**

Chad Grant (Planner) provided an overview of the report seeking a decision from the Committee to alter or retain the Regional River Gravel Management Plan. Key findings from consultation showed the majority of stakeholders supported provisions being incorporated into the Regional Water and Land Plan.

Committee members asked and were provided clarification on which stakeholders supported and were opposed to an alteration of the plan, and figures within the financial implications section of the report.

Resolved

That the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Regional River Gravel Management Plan Review.**
- 2 Confirms that the significance of the decision has been assessed as LOW, and under Section 79 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) confirms that in light of the level of significance of the decision it does not require: (a) Further identification and assessment of different options under section 77 LGA; (b) Further investigation or consideration of community views under section 78 LGA; (c) Any further written record of the manner in which section 77 and section 78 matters have been addressed.**
- 3 Confirms after consideration required by section 79 of the Resource Management Act 1991, that the Operative Regional River Gravel Management Plan requires alteration through the process set out in Schedule 1 to the Resource Management Act 1991.**
- 4 Notes that altering the Regional River Gravel Management Plan involves commencing a process under Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991 to withdraw the Regional River Gravel Management Plan and, via a plan change, incorporate provisions for managing river gravel into the operative Regional Water and Land Plan.**

**Bennett/Whitaker
CARRIED**

3.4 Development of Bay of Plenty Regional Land Transport Strategy

Refer Tabled Document No.2.

Mary-Anne MacLeod (Strategic Development Group Manager) introduced the report and provided an overview of legislative requirements of the Land Transport Management Act 2003. Councillor J Nees advised committee members that the Strategy aligned with national policy and was developed in a way to help gain funding. The Regional Transport Committee would be workshopping the Strategy tomorrow with some parts still being developed. The Strategy will come back to Council for approval and Council would also have to decide whether to make a submission on the Strategy.

Mike Calvert (Senior Transport Planner) provided further background on the strategic direction of the Strategy and the issues and opportunities highlighted by the Regional Transport Committee.

Committee members sought clarification on matters within the Strategy and noted that the Rotorua Regional Airport was not included in the Strategy. As a major investment to tourism in the region councillors asked that this be included in the document.

Councillors noted the difficulty of developing a 30 year plan in a changing environment. Ms MacLeod advised that Council had raised this point, and noted that the Strategy would serve the region well in terms of any changes coming from Central Government.

The Committee congratulated the team for their work and wished to extend their congratulations and appreciation to the Regional Transport Committee.

Resolved

That the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Development of Bay of Plenty Regional Land Transport Strategy.**
- 2 By way of letter extend their congratulations and appreciation to the Regional Transport Committee for their efforts in the development of the Bay of Plenty Regional Land Transport Strategy.**

**Noble/Bennett
CARRIED**

3.5 Emerging Issues for Local Government

Mary-Anne MacLeod (Strategic Development Group Manager) provided an overview of the two documents outlined in the report. The ministerial review highlighted resource capability and infrastructure legacy issues, made reference to unitary models and is seeking a local government with a clear role fit for purpose. Whilst there was no opportunity to make a submission at this stage, the potential outcomes of the review called for active engagement where possible. Ms MacLeod advised that staff were using contacts to keep updated on any developments.

Ms MacLeod advised that the Auckland Unleashed discussion document raised potential issues with the Waikato and Bay of Plenty regions seen as a possible threat. Talks regarding the Upper North Island (golden triangle) were coming through in transport linkages. Ms MacLeod recommended that a collaborative approach be taken and that staff prepare a submission on the discussion document where any issues could be raised.

Committee members discussed and were provided clarification on matters within the two documents. Councillors agreed that engagement and a collaborative approach was required.

Resolved

That the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Emerging Issues for Local Government.**
- 2 Instructs staff to continue their engagement on the Ministerial review of the local government system – *Smarter Government, Stronger Communities*.**
- 3 Makes a submission on *Auckland Unleashed* through the submission process.**
- 4 Confirms that the significance of the decisions has been assessed as LOW, and under Section 79 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) confirms that in light of the level of significance of the decisions it does not require: (a) Further identification and assessment of different options under section 77 LGA; (b) Further investigation or consideration of community views under section 78 LGA; (c) Any further written record of the manner in which section 77 and section 78 matters have been addressed.**

**Sherry/Whitaker
CARRIED**

3.6 **Upper North Island Interregional Agreement**

Mary-Anne MacLeod (Strategic Development Group Manager) presented the report of an interregional agreement proposed between Auckland Council and the three regions from the Upper North Island. The report sought the Committee's approval for the Chairman to sign the agreement on the Council's behalf. Ms MacLeod noted that the agreement was not binding on Council's statutory requirements and provided opportunity for Council to be at the table and involved in discussions.

Resolved

That the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Upper North Island Interregional Agreement.**
- 2 Approves the Upper North Island Interregional Agreement (attached as Appendix 1) and authorises the Chairman of Council to sign, when appropriate, on behalf of Council.**
- 3 Confirms that the significance of the decision has been assessed as LOW, and under Section 79 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) confirms that in light of the level of significance of the decision it does not require: (a) Further identification and assessment of different options under section 77 LGA; (b) Further investigation or consideration of community views under section 78 LGA; (c) Any further written record of the manner in which section 77 and section 78 matters have been addressed.**

**Nees/Thurston
CARRIED**

3.7 **National Policy Statement on Renewable Electricity Generation**

Mary-Anne MacLeod (Strategic Development Group Manager) presented the report advising of the effect of the NPS on Renewable Electricity Generation on Regional Policy Statements and plans. Ms MacLeod noted that the NPS required the RPS to give effect through Schedule 1 RMA process by May 2013, and that it gave clear direction to enhance renewable activities.

Councillors sought and were provided clarification on status and risk to wild and scenic rivers. Ms MacLeod advised that effects within the region needed to be reviewed.

Resolved

That the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, National Policy Statement on Renewable Electricity Generation.**

**Nees/Marr
CARRIED**

3.8 **An Overview of Policy Formulation**

Kataraina Maki (Sustainable Development Manager) provided an overview of the report on what policy is and how it is developed. Ms Maki advised that an independent review of several reports was undertaken with the aim providing quality policy advice.

Committee members congratulated Ms Maki on staff's endeavours to highlight any improvements that could be made.

Resolved

That the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 **Receives the report 'An Overview of Policy Formulation'.**

**Whitaker/Marr
CARRIED**

3.9 **Update on Submissions to the Policy of Central Government and Others**

Kataraina Maki (Sustainable Development Manager) presented the report providing an update on Regional Council submissions lodged to the policy of Central Government and others. Ms Maki noted that papers released by Central Government had slowed prior to elections, which indicated that there could be further decrease.

Ms MacLeod noted that the Regional Council and Environment Canterbury were exchanging submissions for review purposes and provided a brief summary of Council's process for coordination of submissions.

Resolved

That the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee under its delegated authority:

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

**Thurston/Sherry
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:

4.1 **Late Submission to the Proposed Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement**

Reason

That the whole or 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.

Give Reasons

The matter should be presented to the Committee as soon as practicable, and cannot wait until the next meeting of the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee.

**Bennett/Noble
CARRIED**

5 Restatement in Open Meeting

5.1 Late Submission to the Proposed Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement

That the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Late Submission to the Proposed Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement.**
- 2 Confirms that the significance of the decision has been assessed as LOW, and under section 79 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) confirms that in light of the level of significance of the decision it does not require: (a) Further identification and assessment of different options under section 77 LGA; (b) Further investigation or consideration of community views under section 78 LGA; (c) Any further written record of the manner in which section 77 and section 78 matters have been addressed.**
- 3 Rejects the late submission received 54 working days after the closing date for submissions, based on the principles of fairness and equity pursuant to sections 37 and 37A of the Resource Management Act.**

**Oppatt/Thurston
CARRIED**

The meeting closed at 12.28 p.m.