

Minutes of the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee Meeting held in Council Meeting Room One, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, 5 Quay Street, Whakatane on Tuesday, 14 June 2011 commencing at 9.30 a.m.

Present:

Chairman: R Bennett

Deputy Chairman: P Sherry

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

Ex Officio: Chairman J Cronin

In Attendance: G Maloney (Acting Group Manager Strategic Development), W Murray (Group Manager Land Management), E Grogan (Group Manager Water Management), K Maki (Sustainable Development Manager), J Owen (Planning Administration Officer), L Thompson (Senior Communications Advisor), S Omunsden, (Senior Planner), S Kameta (Committee Administration Officer), Attendance in part – M Macleod (Acting Chief Executive), M McConway (Group Manager Technology & Economic Development), K Tarboton (Group Manager Environmental Hazards), D Phizacklea (Planning Frameworks Manager), N Steed (Senior Planner), C Grant (Planner), S Weiss (Acting Manager Pollution Prevention), J Whale (Consultant)

Absent: T Eru

Apologies: P Thompson (for lateness), J Nees (on leave of absence)

1 Reports

1.1 Economic Development Outcomes - Broadband in the Bay of Plenty

Miles McConway (Group Manager Technology & Economic Development) presented the report advising of the impact that Council's funding and support over the past four years has had on the investment into broadband.

Resolved

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

- 1 Receives the report, Economic Development Outcomes - Broadband in the Bay of Plenty.

- 2 **Notes the positive Broadband outcomes that have been achieved in the Bay of Plenty, in part as a result of Council's roles.**

**Whitaker/Thurston
CARRIED**

1.2 **Policy Reporting to Council and Committees July-December 2011**

The report updated the committee on strategic policy reports that would be going to Council and key committees during July through to December 2011. Committee members noted that the work programme was not light.

Resolved

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

- 1 **Receives the report, '*Policy Reporting to Council and Committees July-December 2011*'.**

**Bennett/Noble
CARRIED**

1.3 **Proposed Regional Policy Statement Update**

The report provided an update on further submissions and project timeframes of the Proposed RPS and sought feedback to progress a variation to give effect to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

Committee members raised concern of tsunami risk to new development in Papamoa. Staff advised that work was being done for the Wairakei and Te Tumu area on some of the implications. A report went to the SmartGrowth Committee for evaluation recently, which would be brought back to Council.

Resolved

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

- 1 **Receives the report, Proposed Regional Policy Statement Update.**
- 2 **Notes the intended process for the hearing of submissions and that the RPS Hearing Committee will recommend to Council its decisions on submissions to the Proposed Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement in early 2012.**
- 3 **Notes that the Chairperson of the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee shall have the authority to exercise her discretion as to whether or not the delegated authority of the RPS Hearing Committee be used where, in the opinion of the Chairperson, circumstances warrant.**
- 4 **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.

**Bennett/Whitaker
CARRIED**

1.4 Summary of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Report on Maori Agribusiness

The report provided a summary of a recent Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) report titled, 'Maori Agribusiness in New Zealand: A Study of the Maori Freehold Land Resource'. The MAF report identified a number of capacity constraints on Māori agribusiness and land entities. Further to staff's review of the report's findings and the potential impact that Regional Council work had on māori land entities, staff considered potential in holding an event that would seek to address those capability and capacity issues.

Committee members asked for clarification on the timeframe and location of a proposed event(s). Staff advised the proposed timeframe would likely be held in early 2012, and that further cost analysis and consultation with Iwi would be undertaken prior to making a decision on the number and location of events.

Resolved

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

- 1 Receives the report, 'Summary of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Report on Maori Agribusiness'.**
- 2 Agree that a capability and capacity building event be held with Maori land entities in the Bay of Plenty region in the 2011/2012 financial year.**
- 3 Confirms the funding for the capability and capacity building event with Maori land entities in the Bay of Plenty region in the 2011/2012 financial year at a cost of approximately 160 hours of staff time and \$20,000, which is to be funded from the responsive policy stream of the Strategic Policy Activity of the current Ten Year Plan.**
- 4 Confirms that the significance of the decision has been assessed as LOW, and confirms that it does not require: further identification and assessment of different options, investigation or consideration of community views or further written record.**

**Noble/Thurston
CARRIED**

1.5 Summary of Te Puni Kokiri report on Maori Land Owner Aspirations

The report provided a summary of a recent Te Puni Kokiri report titled, 'Owner Aspirations Regarding the Utilisation of Maori Land'.

Resolved

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

- 1 Receives the report, '*Summary of Te Puni Kokiri report on Maori Land Owner Aspirations*'.

Bennett/Sherry
CARRIED

1.6 Development of the Regional Land Transport Strategy 2011 - 2041

The report updated Committee members with information regarding the content of Part II – Implementation of the Regional Land Transport Strategy and timeframes for public consultation.

Resolved

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

- 1 Receives the report, Development of the Regional Land Transport Strategy 2011 - 2041.

Whitaker/Thurston
CARRIED

Attendance

Councillor Thompson attended the meeting at 9.45 a.m.

1.7 Developing Rules to Manage Nutrient Discharges to the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes – Legal Mandate

The report provided the Committee with an overview on setting the legal scope for establishing rules for the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes in a regional plan.

Councillors noted and expressed concern about the complexity of the many issues and links pertaining to Rotorua Lakes.

Members raised issue that a toolbox approach was needed to deal fairly with affected landowners. Kataraina Maki (Sustainable Development Manager) noted that the package of options being worked on by Keith Frenz was just for Lake Rotorua.

Resolved

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

- 1 Receives the report, '*Developing Rules to Manage Nutrient Discharges to the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes – Legal Mandate*'.

Oppatt/Thurston
CARRIED

1.8 **Developing Rules to Manage Nutrient Discharges to the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes - Timing and Costs**

The purpose of this report was to provide a project scope to develop regional plan rules to manage nutrient discharges including estimated costs and timing.

Councillors debated the complexity of issues relating to the Rotorua Lakes. Concern was raised by a councillor whether the desired outcomes were being obtained. The Sustainable Development Manager advised that the report related to work outcomes of the previous RPS Subcommittee in the development of the Proposed RPS. Further to this it was noted that further work was being done on nutrient reductions.

In response to a councillor request Committee members agreed that before progress is made on implementing and developing rules, a further paper and matrix be provided on all work streams pertaining to Rotorua Lakes, to gain a broader view of how everything fits together. It was noted that this should be followed up with quickly so as not to cause any further delays.

MOTION:

Moved: Thompson

Seconded: Thurston

To defer consideration of the report to consider it as a further report that brings together all current policy and work initiatives that are currently underway.

The motion was **PUT** and **CARRIED**.

Resolved

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

- 1 Defer consideration of the report, '*Developing Rules to Manage Nutrient Discharges to the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes - Timing and Costs*' and will consider it as a further report that brings together all current policy and work initiatives that are underway.**

**Thompson/Thurston
CARRIED**

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned for morning tea at 10.20 a.m. and reconvened at 10.43 a.m.

1.9 **An Overview of Strategy Development**

The purpose of the report was to provide an overview of strategy development in local government context.

Resolved

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

- 1 Receives the report, '*An Overview of Strategy Development*'.**

**Oppatt/Whitaker
CARRIED**

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10.45 a.m. to allow councillors to workshop and further discuss options outlined within the report on Research into Incentives for Low-Income Clean Heat.

The workshop concluded at 12.40 p.m.

Attendance

Chairman Cronin and Councillors Sherry, Thurston and Thompson left at the conclusion of the workshop at 12.40 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 1.30 p.m.

1.10 Research into Incentives for Low-Income Clean Heat

Refer Tabled Documents 2, 3 and 4.

The report summarised recent research from CRESA and provided for the Committee's consideration options to improve the number of low-income households converting to clean heat within the Rotorua urban airshed.

During the workshop Ms Maki and Ms Henton provided a presentation to the Committee on the recommended options (refer Tabled Document No.2) and Councillors were provided with a revised version of Appendix 1 - Options and Recommendations (refer Tabled Document No.3).

Councillors discussed and were provided clarification on the options and recommendations outlined in the report. During discussions councillors noted that one of Council's core principles was a duty of care to the wider regional community, and that a range of options should be looked at to support healthy homes across the region.

Committee members agreed to further changes to the revised recommendations attached in Tabled Document No.4 – Appendix I. This included two new recommendations to be brought back to the committee for consideration for a range of options for insulation and clean heat across the wider region.

Resolved

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

- 1 Receives the report, '*Research into Incentives for Low-Income Clean Heat*'.**
- 2 Agree to the revised recommendations *i* to *xxv* contained in Tabled Document No.4 – Appendix I (attached).**
- 3 Confirms that community views need to be identified and considered before the Council makes its final decision on a *Rates Rebate Grant for Clean Heat*.**

- 4 **Agrees that staff will seek community views on the option/costs of a Rates Rebate Grant for Clean Heat and report back to the September 2011 meeting of the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee before the Committee makes its decision.**
- 5 **Notes that future cost implications of Council decision-making can be considered during the development of the Ten Year Plan 2012-2022.**

**Whitaker/Oppatt
CARRIED**

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1.45 p.m. for councillors to workshop matters within the 'On-Site Effluent Treatment Regional Plan – Next Steps' report.

Attendance

Councillor Whitaker left at 2.12 p.m.

The workshop concluded and the meeting resumed at 2.52 p.m.

1.11 On-Site Effluent Treatment Regional Plan - Next Steps

Refer Tabled Document No.5.

The report outlined the progress made in addressing further matters outside of the scope of Plan Change 1 (Date Deferral for Small Communities) to the On-Site Effluent Treatment Regional Plan and sought approval from the Committee to make further changes to the Plan.

Staff gave a presentation on options to address the further matters for consideration outlined in section 6 of the report. During the workshop Committee members discussed and were provided with clarification on the staff recommendations.

Resolved

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

- 1 **Receives the report, On-Site Effluent Treatment Regional Plan – Next Steps.**
- 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 investigation and assessment of different options under section 77 LGA; (b) Further investigation or consideration of community views under section 77 and section 78 matters have been addressed; (c) Any further written record of the manner in which section 77 and section 78 matters have been addressed.**
- 3 **Notes that the On-Site Effluent Treatment Regional Plan further matters previously recommended by the Committee for consideration have now been progressed.**

- 4 Approves commencement of a plan change to the On-Site Effluent Treatment Regional Plan that addresses the staff recommendations contained within Section 6 of the report. Specifically:**
- a. Removing maintenance zone requirements for areas with newly-installed and imminent sewerage reticulation.**
 - b. Addressing those minor matters listed in Appendix 2 to the report.**
 - c. Proceeding with the following options to address the five matters contained in section 6.3 of this report:**
 - i. Properties greater than 2 ha within the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes catchments - Combination of Option 1 (Install advance systems or obtain consent), Option 2 (Require benchmarking of nutrient contributions) and Option 3 (Require nutrient offsetting).**
 - ii. Matatā, Te Teko, Opotiki and Pukehina communities – No option yet selected. Staff to undertake further monitoring and investigation work.**
 - iii. Maintenance Zones - Option 1 (Re-define the area of the existing maintenance zones).**
 - iv. Nitrogen Limit - Option 2 (Retain the existing Plan requirement of 15g/m³).**
 - v. Faecal coliform performance requirement - Option 1 (Introduce a faecal coliform performance requirement).**
- 5 Notes that changes to the On-Site Effluent Treatment Regional Plan will be consulted on with the affected communities and presented back to the Committee for their consideration.**

**Bennett/Oppatt
CARRIED**

Attendance

Chairman Cronin (Ex-Officio) re-joined the meeting at 3.10 p.m.

1.12 Creating 100 hectares of wetlands in the lower Kaituna catchment

Sarah Omunsden (Senior Planner) presented the report that sought a decision on Council's role in creating 100 hectares of wetlands in the lower Kaituna catchment. Ken Tarboton (Group Manager Environmental Hazards) noted that the report was a direct result of the Kaituna River and Ongatoro/Maketu Estuary Strategy and that the policy would enable operational staff to move forward.

Committee members debated the options outlined in the report and raised concern regarding staff resources and whether this matter was a priority that should be progressed at this time. Staff provided clarification on costs and key benefits and disadvantages of the options that were debated.

Resolved

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

- 1 Receives the report, '*Creating 100 hectares of wetlands in the lower Kaituna catchment*'.
- 2 Agrees in principle that Bay of Plenty Regional Council's preferred role at this stage in creating wetlands in the lower Kaituna catchment will be to support the creation of wetlands when the opportunity arises through:

Option 2a: Developing a wetland policy through the review of the Policy on Regional Parks scheduled for 2011/12

- 3 Notes that future cost implications of Council decision making can be considered during the development of the Ten Year Plan 2012-2022.

Cronin/Bennett
CARRIED

2 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:

2.1 District Plan Appeals Update

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

Bennett/Marr
CARRIED

The meeting closed at 3.29 p.m.

CRESA Options A to G for Encouraging Clean Heat Conversions in CSC Households

Options	Recommendations for Rotorua Airshed
<p>Option A: Waive loan repayments for extremely low income CSC households eligible and receiving central government Rate Rebate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="786 360 1944 464">i. Approve the use of central government’s Rates Rebate eligibility criteria to identify the Regional Council’s low-income homeowners within the Rotorua airshed. <li data-bbox="786 504 1944 647">ii. Approve in principle a Rates Rebate Grant that would waive the Clean Heat Voluntary Targeted Rate (annually) for ratepayers who meet the criteria and the total number of rates rebates that Council prefers at this stage <u>is 100% of those eligible</u>. <li data-bbox="786 687 1944 791">iii. Confirms that community views and implementation requirements need to be identified and considered before the Council makes its final decision on a Rates Rebate Grant for Clean Heat. <li data-bbox="786 831 1944 975">iv. Agrees that staff will seek community views on the option/costs of a Rates Rebate Grant for Clean Heat and report back to the September 2011 meeting of the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee before the Committee makes its decision. <li data-bbox="786 1015 1944 1086">v. Notes that future cost implications of Council decision making can be considered during the development of the Ten Year Plan 2012-2022.

Options	Staff Recommendation
<p>Option B: Waive loan repayments for CSC households within the Rotorua Airshed simultaneously exposed to ratepayer contributions to the Rotorua Lakeside Communities Sewerage Scheme Programme.</p>	<p>vi. <i>Do not waive any future Clean Heat Voluntary Targeted Rate for Hinemoa Point ratepayers who are paying the Lakes Communities Sewerage Scheme to ensure any rate subsidises are carried out fairly and equitably.</i></p>
<p>Option C: Institute a discretionary decommissioning grant to assist extremely low income CSC households to decommission non-compliant heaters when no replacement is sought through a Hot Swap Loan.</p>	<p>vii. <i>Do not offer a discretionary decommissioning grant for operable, non-compliant open fires and wood burners that are located within the Rotorua airshed, when no replacement is sought.</i></p>
<p>Option D: Provide a decommissioning grant for all extremely low income CSC households for decommissioning wetbacks where replacement clean heat appliance does not include a wetback.</p>	<p>viii. <i><u>In principle Do not offer a grant for decommissioning wetbacks <u>subject to further advice on liability.</u></u></i></p>

<p>Option E: Extend allowable items for Hot Swap Loans to include, within the maximum, insulation and/or dry wood storage contingent on satisfactory conversion to an improved clean heat appliance.</p>	<p><u>Loan balance used for insulation</u></p> <p>ix. <i>Clean heat, ahead of insulation, is retained as the <u>and insulation are offered as an equal</u> priority for homeowners within the Rotorua airshed.</i></p> <p>x. <i>Agree in principle that any remaining Hot Swap loan balances can be put towards insulation.</i></p> <p>xi. <i>Agree that funding only for clean heat and insulation will be provided as a top-up within the current terms and conditions of the Hot Swap loan including being interest free. Notes that the homeowner will need to coordinate with the Regional Council clean heat providers and EECA insulation providers.</i></p> <p>xii. <i>Agree that staff discuss how insulation funding arrangements with EECA might work. If suitable arrangements cannot be negotiated we may need to look at other funding arrangements with the ratepayer.</i></p> <p><u>Whole-of-Home Heating – Sizing Rooms</u></p> <p>xiii. <i>That ‘primary living’ room sizing guidelines be maintained as a measure of quality control and accountability for Regional Council service providers.</i></p> <p><u>More than one (existing) heating appliance installed in a home</u></p> <p>xiv. <i>Grant permission to allow a remaining loan balance to be put towards an additional heat pump or gas heater provided it is sized correctly for the area it will be installed.</i></p>
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	<p>xv. <i>Note that if clause xiv is approved then staff will ask Council's contracted service providers to submit additional heat pump / gas heater options for evaluation.</i></p> <p><u>New Products - Heat Transfer System and Wood Storage</u></p> <p>xvi. <i>(a) Do not a Allow a remaining Hot Swap loan balance to be put towards a heat transfer <u>system</u>.</i></p> <p><i>(b) Do not allow a remaining Hot Swap loan balance to be put towards a firewood storage purpose built shed. or a firewood storage purpose built shed.</i></p>
<p>Option F: Intensify dry wood promotion by extending period of public information around dry wood suppliers.</p>	<p>xvii. <i>No recommended change.</i></p>
<p>Option G: Develop targeted population and community based communications strategies that directly engage community networks to disseminate information and assist CSC householders to apply and manage the clean heat conversion process.</p>	<p><u>Other Funding Agencies</u></p> <p>xviii. <i>Agree that staff develop targeted population and community based communications strategies that directly engage community networks to disseminate information and assist CSC householders to apply and manage the clean heat conversion process.</i></p> <p><u>Ministry for the Environment Contestable Fund</u></p> <p>xix. <i>Agree that staff can prepare a tender to the Energy Efficiency Conservation Authority Clean Heat Contestable Fund, (on behalf of the Ministry for the Environment) up to a total contribution by the Regional Council of \$100,000.</i></p>

CRESA Options for Encouraging Clean Heat Conversions in Rental Dwellings

Options	Staff Recommendation
Option 1: Direct promotion of clean heat conversion to landlords with a particular emphasis on their ability to attract and retain tenants	xx. <i>No recommended change.</i>
Option 2: Active promotion of the Council's clean heat loans with local property managers, particularly those who manage properties owned by landlords living outside the region	xxi. <i>No recommended change.</i>
Option 3: Promote knowledge of the clean heat conversion loans among tenants. This will allow sitting tenants to actively promote conversion with their landlords and prospective tenants to select clean heat dwellings	xxii. <i>Staff will explore alternative ways of engaging with low-income tenants.</i>
Option 4: Encourage the development and implementation of a clean air accreditation scheme for landlords	xxiii. <i>No recommended change.</i>

	<u>New Recommendations:</u>
	<p><u>xxiv</u> <u>The Committee agrees that one of its core principles is a duty of care to the wider regional community This includes helping as many people as we can to live a life that is reasonably successful.</u></p> <p><u>xxv</u> <u>That the committee supports the concept of healthy homes across the region. A definition of healthy homes must be provided. It requests a range of matters to achieve healthy homes is brought back to the committee for its consideration include insulation, clean heat and, heat transfer systems. Options should be provided which include looking at an amount for insulation and clean heat. Funding assistance options should include looking at interest-free, partially interest-free, for example clean heat (interest-free),and interest bearing.</u></p>