

Minutes of the second meeting of the eleventh triennium of the Strategy and Policy Committee held at 10.00am on Tuesday 10 December 2019, in the Tararua Room, Horizons Regional Council, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North.

**PRESENT** Crs RJ Keedwell (Chair), AL Benbow, EM Clarke, DB Cotton, SD Ferguson, EB Gordon, FJT Gordon, WM Kirton, JM Naylor, NJPatrick, and WK Te Awe Awe.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Chief Executive	Mr MJ McCartney
Group Manager	
Corporate and Governance	Mr C Grant
Committee Secretary	Mrs JA Kennedy

**ALSO PRESENT** At various times during the meeting:  
Mr R Strong (Group Manager River Management), Dr N Peet (Group Manager Strategy & Regulation), Mr G Shirley (Group Manager Regional Services & Information), Dr J Roygard (Group Manager Natural Resources & Partnerships), Mrs R Tayler (Manager Policy & Strategy), Ms A Matthews (Science & Innovation Manager), Ms C Morrison (Media & Communications Manager), Summer Holiday Students, members of the public, and a member of the press.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Cr Te Awe Awe to say a Karakia.

## **APOLOGIES**

**SP 19-6** **Moved** **Keedwell/Naylor**  
*That the Committee receives an apology from Cr Turkington.*  
**CARRIED**

## **PUBLIC FORUMS / DEPUTATIONS / PETITIONS**

There were no requests for public speaking rights.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS**

There were no supplementary items to be considered.

## **MEMBERS' CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

## **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**SP 19-7** **Moved** **Keedwell/Patrick**  
*That the Committee:*  
**confirms** *the minutes of the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting held on 12 November 2019 as a correct record, and notes that the recommendations were adopted by the Council on 26 November 2019.*  
**CARRIED**

Chair and Councillor Verbal Updates were not given at this meeting.

## **HORIZONS ONE PLAN: PLAN CHANGE UPDATE AND PROPOSED PANEL APPOINTMENTS**

*Report No 19-193*

This item provided Council with an update on the progress of plan changes being advanced to iterate the Horizons One Plan (One Plan), and sought Council's approval to appoint three hearing panel commissioners to hear, consider, report and make recommendations on decisions on submissions to Council for Plan Change 2. Dr Peet (Group Manager Strategy & Regulation) introduced the item, took Members through the specific decisions outlined in the recommendations, and clarified the role of Council in the decision making process. He outlined the skill set and expertise requirements of the hearing panel to hear and determine all submissions, and explained the panel's delegations. Members had the opportunity to express their views around the recommendations and their preferences for a way forward. Dr Peet and Mrs Tayler (Manager Policy & Strategy) clarified Members' questions and concerns raised around any possible risk of conflict between the One Plan panel and a proposed government appointed panel to hear Essential Freshwater proposals, and the skill set requirements of the proposed One Plan panel. To reflect Members' discussion, a new recommendation e. was proposed.

**SP 19-8**                      **Moved**    **Patrick/F Gordon**

*That the Committee recommends that Council:*

- a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 19-193;*
- b. *approves the appointment of the hearing panel for plan change 2 (Existing Intensive Farming Land Uses) pursuant to section 34A of the Resource Management Act as follows:*
  - i. *Brent Cowie – Independent Commissioner and Chairperson;*
  - ii. *David McMahon – Independent Commissioner; and*
  - iii. *Elizabeth Burge – Independent Commissioner.*
- c. *delegates to the Hearing Panel all of the powers, functions and duties under the Resource Management Act 1991 to hear, consider and make recommendations on submissions and further submissions on Plan Change 2, including (without limitation) any powers necessary to address preliminary matters and/or conduct of the hearing;*
- d. *authorises the Chair of Horizons to sign the appointment order on behalf of the Council, inclusive of the following conditions of appointment:*
  - i. *The Hearing Panel must conduct the hearing in accordance with the most recent version of the "Making Good Decisions" Workbook, 4th edition including the "Chair's Supplement".*
  - ii. *The Hearing Panel can continue to hear and make decisions if one or more of the commissioners is unable to continue with the hearing provided that there is at least one member of the panel able to hear the submitters.*
- e. *requests the Chief Executive to provide further evidence of Te Ao Maori experience in the panel, and if limited, provide a further option for the Council to consider.*

**CARRIED**

## **STRATEGIC GOVERNANCE: OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE TRIENNIUM**

### *Report No 19-194*

This report set out an approach to strategic governance for the triennium, including identification of strategic challenges, the likely influences on the policy programme over the three-year term and potential direction setting for the next Long-term Plan for the 2021-2024 period. Dr Peet (Group Manager Strategy & Regulation) and Mrs Tayler (Manager Policy & Strategy) introduced the item and outlined the framework for determining the three strategic challenges for Council to consider. Members discussed the proposed strategic challenges, provided their views, and sought clarification around their importance and reasons for being identified. After further discussion the word 'top' was inserted into recommendation b. to note that the priorities were the top three in addition to other Council priorities.

**SP 19-9**                      **Moved**    **Naylor/Ferguson**

*That the Committee recommends that Council:*

- a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 19-194 and Annexes.*
- b. *note that the three top strategic challenges proposed for Council to consider are:*
  - i. *Climate Change*
  - ii. *Fresh Water*
  - iii. *Information Management*
- c. *agree that the strategic challenges decided by Council will be included in the first instance in a strengthened triennial agreement with Territorial Authorities and their Mayors; providing greater direction of the key priorities and focus of the Council.*

**CARRIED**

## **DRINKING WATER**

### *Report No 19-195*

Ms Matthews (Science & Innovation Manager) spoke to a powerpoint presentation which provided Council with a progress report on drinking-water research undertaken to date as part of Horizons new drinking water research programme introduced through the Long-term Plan, and outlined the next steps for the regional programme. Dr Roygard (Group Manager Natural Resources & Partnerships) and Ms Matthews clarified Members' questions.

**SP 19-10**                      **Moved**    **Cotton/Patrick**

*That the Committee recommends that Council:*

- a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 19-195.*

**CARRIED**

## RIVER MANAGEMENT ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT PROCESS

### *Report No 19-196*

This item provided an overview of the Environmental Grants for River Works (EGWs) process. Mr Strong (Group Manager River Management) introduced the item for Members' information.

**SP 19-11**         **Moved**                             **Cotton/B Gordon**

*That the Committee recommends that Council:*

a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 19-196 and Annex.*

**CARRIED**

The meeting closed at 11.50am.

Confirmed

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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CHAIR