



Report of the fifteenth meeting, seventh triennium of the Strategy and Policy Committee of Horizons Regional Council held in the Tararua Room, Regional House, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North at 10.05am on Tuesday, 9 March 2010.

PRESENT

Crs G P Murfitt (Chair), L Bailey (from 10.14am), L R Burnell, V J F Chettleburgh QSM ED, E B Gordon, M C Guy, D B Meads, P W Rieger, R G Walker JP, and J J White.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Executive	Mr M McCartney
Group Manager Corporate and Governance	Mr C Grant
Committee Secretary	Mrs J Kennedy

ALSO PRESENT

Mr A Cook (Group Manager Operations), Mr G Carlyon (Group Manager Regional Planning & Regulatory), Mr G Shirley (Group Manager Regional Services & Information (from 10.56am to 11.53am), Ms K Booth (Governance Coordinator to 11.09am), Mr G Neilson (Corporate Asset & Project Manager to 11.53am), Ms H Marr (One Plan Manager from 11.07am to 11.22am), Mr C White (Senior Information Technologist from 10.23am to 11.09am).

APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from Crs Main and Plowman.

SP 10-127 **Moved** **Murfitt/Gordon**

that apologies be accepted from Crs Main and Plowman.

CARRIED

PUBLIC SPEAKING RIGHTS

No requests for public speaking rights had been notified.

LATE ITEMS:

The Chairman advised of a late item requested by Cr Chettleburgh relating to Horizons Insurance Cover. The item would be considered after Item 8 on the agenda.

SP 10-128 **Moved** **Murfitt/Chettleburgh**

that a Late Item in relation to Horizons' Insurance Cover, be received for discussion.

CARRIED

MEMBERS' CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest noted.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

There was discussion around the strikeout portion of the minutes which represented changes made at the Council meeting held on 23 February 2010. It was ultimately agreed that the minutes be confirmed as correct without the strikeout.

SP 10-129 **Moved** **Rieger/Meads**

that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2010, as circulated, without the strikeout, be confirmed as a correct record.

CARRIED

REGIONAL TERRITORIAL AUTHORITIES' FORUM 2010

Report No. 10-29

This report informed Members on progress with the organisation of the 2010 Regional Territorial Authorities' (RTA) Forum, to be held on 22 and 23 April 2010.

Mr Neilson, Project Manager advised that planning arrangements for the Forum were progressing well. It was not known at the time whether the Hon. John Carter would be available to open the Forum and Mr Neilson suggested that the Chairman, Mr Garrick Murfitt, could open it in the event that he was unavailable.

The Chairman advised that sponsorship from CentrePort for the Forum had been confirmed. He also confirmed that members of the Questions and Answers panel would be: Hon. Nathan Guy, Mayor Brendan Duffy, Cr David MacLeod, and Mayor Lawrence Yule.

Members asked questions of clarification around topics for discussion at the Forum and it was noted that Cr Chettleburgh suggested the inclusion of a discussion around windfarms. Cr Walker indicated that he saw no benefit in holding the Forum and asked that his opposition to it be recorded. Several councillors commented on the benefits and value of the Forum in providing an opportunity to communicate effectively with territorial authorities.

There was discussion around transportation arrangements to and from the dinner venue on the evening of Thursday 22 April. Mr Neilson undertook to investigate transportation options and report back.

SP 10-130 **Moved** **Bailey/Guy**

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** Report No. 10-29 for information; and
- b. **notes** that the Regional Territorial Authorities' Forum Registration Brochure will be distributed in March 2010; and
- c. **expresses** appreciation to Mr Neilson and the Committee for their efforts in organising the Forum.

Against: Cr Walker
CARRIED

BOARDROOM EQUIPMENT AND UPGRADE

Report No. 10-31

This report informed Members on the options available for upgrading the visual and sound equipment in the Boardroom.

Mr Grant, Group Manager Corporate and Governance introduced the item and along with Mr White, Senior Information Technologist was available to answer questions of clarification. Members generally supported and approved the options and indicative costs to upgrade the Boardroom. In regard to the cost involved for the proposed individual wired microphones, Members considered that a hand held microphone would be sufficient. It was also suggested that sufficient power point outlets for laptops be provided. Rather than create a new public entrance at the rear of the room, Cr White suggested that access to the room could be improved by opening the existing double doors into the reception area, rather than into the Boardroom. After further discussion the proposed options approved by Councillors included: the audio visual equipment, viewing equipment, carpet replacement and new wallpaper, and a removable raised floor. Cr Walker regarded the proposed cost for refurbishment of the room as unnecessary. Ultimately it was agreed that the options suggested by Councillors be investigated and implemented accordingly. Resolution (c) was altered to reflect the discussion in regard to the amplification and recording equipment.

SP 10-131

Moved

Murfitt/Rieger

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** Report No. 10-31;
- b. **acknowledges** that the equipment and environment in the Boardroom needs upgrading;
- c. **approves** the budget at Annex A - modified according to advice to be received on the amplification and recording component.
- d. **instructs** the Group Manager Corporate and Governance to proceed with implementing the upgrade and refurbishment of the Boardroom in Regional House.

CARRIED

ONE PLAN UPDATE

Report No. 10-35

This report updated Members on progress towards completing the One Plan.

Mr Carlyon, Group Manager Regional Planning and Regulatory spoke to the item and commented on the sustained length of time and effort put in by staff and hearing commissioners to complete the public hearing process for the One Plan. He indicated that the final decisions would be completed by mid-year. Concern was expressed around not having sufficient resources available to possibly complete the One Plan earlier than indicated. Mr Carlyon advised that it was not a resource issue and that it would take time and commitment from Commissioners and Councillors to complete the process.

In discussing the One Plan process it was suggested that a review of the whole process be carried out once the final decisions were made public. Appreciation was expressed to staff and Councillor Commissioners for their time and tremendous effort over the period of the One Plan Hearings process. It was requested that recommendations (c) and (d) be included to reflect the discussion.

SP 10-132

Moved

Chettleburgh/Murfitt

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 10-35;
- b. **agrees** to continue to be available to complete Hearing Panel duties to ensure that final decisions are delivered on time;
- c. **agrees** to carry out a review of the process after the final decisions have been made public; and
- d. **expresses** appreciation to staff and Councillor Commissioners for their tremendous efforts over the One Plan Hearings.

CARRIED

LATE ITEM: HORIZONS' INSURANCE COVER UPDATE

Mr Grant, Group Manager Corporate and Governance and Mr Cook, Group Manager Operations gave a presentation to update members on Horizons' insurance cover. Members asked questions of clarification.

SP 10-133

Moved

Chettleburgh/Murfitt

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information and **expresses** appreciation to the Group Manager Corporate and Governance and the Group Manager Operations for their presentation on Horizons' Insurance Cover.

CARRIED

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Cr Chettleburgh referred to the closing of some services at the Horowhenua Health Centre and asked if it was possible for Horizons to submit on issues of interest to the annual plan of health organisations. Cr Burnell advised that the annual plan process for district health boards did not include submissions from outside organisations.

Cr Walker asked that consideration be given to turning off all laptops, ipods, and other communication devices during the Draft Annual Plan hearings. If a laptop was being used for recording purposes it was suggested that submitters be made aware of that.

In answer to a query around funding for the proposed upgrade of the Boardroom, the Group Manager Corporate and Governance advised that it would be funded from CAPEX.

Delegations – Resource Consents

The Chief Executive advised of the difficulties being encountered by consents staff and himself in regard to the resolution passed at the Council meeting of 23 February 2010 which delegated Schedule A and B of the delegations to himself in the interim. Members discussed and considered the issue and suggested that the Chief Executive be given the power to sub-delegate in relation to Schedule A, items of the delegations policy brought to the Council meeting of 23 February 2010 in the interim.

It was considered that the issue be included as a Late Item.

SP 10-134 **Moved** **White/Walker**

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **agrees** that the issue of the delegations of resource consents be considered as a Late Item, **in order to overcome the difficulties being encountered by consents staff and the Chief Executive.**

CARRIED

LATE ITEM: DELEGATIONS – RESOURCE CONSENTS

SP 10-135 **Moved** **White/Walker**

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **agrees** that the Chief Executive has the power to sub-delegate in relation to Schedule A, items of the delegations policy brought to the Council meeting of 23 February 2010 in the interim.

CARRIED

SP 10-136 **Moved** **Rieger/Meads**

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

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution	Grounds under section 48 (1) for passing this resolution
PX1 Confirmation of Minutes of 15 February 2010	As disclosure would not be in the public interest because of the greater need to enable Council to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage commercial negotiations.	That the exclusion of the public from that part of the meeting is necessary to prevent the disclosure of information for which good reasons for withholding exist.
PX2 Council to consider whether any item in the Public Excluded minutes can be moved into the public domain, and define the extent of the release.		

The meeting adjourned to Public Excluded part of the meeting at 12.07pm and resumed at 12.08pm.

The meeting closed at 12.09pm.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CHAIRMAN