



Report of the third meeting, eighth triennium of the Strategy and Policy Committee of Horizons Regional Council held in the Boardroom of the Marton Office, Hammond Street, Marton at 1.30pm on Tuesday, 8 March 2011.

PRESENT

Crs EB Gordon (Chairman), JJ Barrow, LR Burnell, VJF Chettleburgh QSM ED, GL Cox, M Guy, GM McKellar, PW Rieger JP, CI Sheldon, and JJ White.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Executive	Mr M McCartney
Group Manager Corporate and Governance	Mr C Grant
Committee Secretary	Ms K Booth

ALSO PRESENT at various times during the Meeting:

Mr G Carlyon (Group Manager Regional Planning & Regulatory), Mr R Munneke (Manager Policy/Consents), Mr P Hindrup (Senior Consents Planner), Mr A Cook (Group Manager Operations).

APOLOGIES:

SP 11-14 **Moved** **White/Rieger**

that apologies be received from Crs Plowman and Walker.

CARRIED

PUBLIC SPEAKING RIGHTS

No requests for public speaking rights had been notified.

LATE ITEMS:

There were no late items notified.

MEMBERS' CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest notified.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Cr Chettleburgh referred to resolution SP11-08 and clarified that Horizons' contribution to Te Manawa was \$50,000: \$25,000 from the current budget and \$25,000 overspend.

The Chairman clarified that the reference on 'direct contact with staff' in the Code of Conduct meant that Members could talk with staff so long as they did not instruct them.

It was noted that resolution SP 11-05 asked management to bring paragraph 24 of the Code of Conduct back to a future Strategy and Policy Committee meeting for its consideration.

SP 11-15

Moved

Rieger/Burnell

that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2011, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

CARRIED

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS – RESOURCE CONSENT PROGRESS UPDATE

Report No. 11-34

This report informed Members of progress toward resolving resource consents relating to sewage treatment plants (STPs).

Mr Munneke (Manager Policy/Consents) spoke to the report. He advised there was an active programme underway to resolve resource consents relating to STPs, not a passive one. The Consents team was working hard to progress old consents either to a hearing or pre-hearing. There was discussion about section 124 (of the Resource Management Act) and how the team was encouraging progress with applications. The Chief Executive outlined how regional councils, nationally, were working closely with territorial authorities (TAs) in their regions on wastewater issues, some through research, through joint partnerships and by building relationships.

He referred Members to the table attached as Annex A. Mr Hindrup (Senior Consents Planner) provided updates and answered questions about the status of specific applications. Horizons recognised that infrastructural costs were a consideration for TAs when TAs were setting their rates each year and trying to keep rate increases down. This was often taken into account by Hearing Commissioners when hearing resource consent applications, by allowing several years for the TA to consider funding for land alternatives. The Chairman reminded Members that Horizons had the ability to submit on all TA Annual Plans and Long-term Plans and ask for the inclusion of funding for infrastructure.

Members discussed possible ways of encouraging the applicants to resolve new applications. There was comment about the ongoing international research into possible contamination of land through land-based discharges. There was further discussion on the Report and Mr Munneke and the Chief Executive clarified Members' questions.

SP 11-16

Moved

Guy/White

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information in Report No. 11-34.

CARRIED

CONFERENCE / TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ELECTED MEMBERS

Report No. 11-22

The purpose of this report was to inform Members about conference and training opportunities for their consideration. The Group Manager Corporate and Governance introduced the report which identified the annual budget and the training costs already incurred in this financial year.

Members discussed the information in the Report. The Chairman mentioned that in previous triennia, attempts were made for all Members to attend a Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) annual conference during the three years. As the LGNZ conference was being held in Wellington in 2011, he believed it was a cost effective opportunity for several Members to attend this year, as it would be more expensive in future years when held at other locations. He also

believed the costs of Members attending certification and re-certification courses for becoming Resource Management Act Decision-makers, should not sit within the training budget.

During discussion on whether it was more cost effective for Members to attend conferences, or for a trainer/speaker to be brought in-house, it was identified there were pros and cons for each. Either one speaker was heard by all Members, or a number of different speakers were heard by one Member when attending a Conference. Comment was made of the networking opportunities when attending a conference, and several Members spoke of the positive aspects of external conferences they had attended.

There was comment from some Members that they received notification of future conferences and training via email, and they did not see a need for the ongoing provision of a schedule of training/conference opportunities.

A suggestion was made that those Members attending conferences should supply a written report to a Council meeting, and the recommendations were accordingly amended with the addition of a new paragraph (c). Recommendation (b) was also amended.

¹SP 11-17 **Moved** **Chettleburgh/Sheldon**

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** Report No. 11-22 and the updated Training and Conference Opportunities Schedule at Annex A; and
- b. **agrees** that the Chair and Deputy Chair consider and approve/decline requests by Members to attend training and/or conference opportunities.
- c. *that the Councillor attending a conference must supply a written report to Council at the next appropriate Council meeting.*

CARRIED

VERBAL UPDATE ON STRATEGIC WORK PROGRAMME FOR REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The Chief Executive distributed a report on the Regional Affairs Committee January workshop and drew Members' attention to the three key points of freshwater management, sustainable economic development and spatial planning. He elaborated on these and advised he would bring further information on freshwater management as it became available. He clarified Members' questions arising from the update.

ZONE 3

The Chairman outlined what was on the Agenda at the Zone 3 meeting held on 7 and 8 March, and asked Crs Sheldon and Chettleburgh to provide an overview of what was discussed. It was noted that the next Zone 3 meeting would be held on 3 and 4 November 2011.

The meeting closed at 3.30pm.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CHAIRMAN

¹ Resolution SP 11-17 was not endorsed and adopted at the Council meeting held on 22 March 2011. Instead a new recommendation 11-105 was passed at that Council meeting.