



Report of the thirteenth 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, 13 October 2009.

PRESENT

Crs G P Murfitt (Chair to 12.20pm), P W Rieger QSO (Deputy Chair from 12.55pm), L Bailey (to 12.20pm), L R Burnell (from 11.00am), V J F Chettleburgh QSM ED, E B Gordon, M C Guy, D B Meads, M W Plowman, R G Walker JP (to 12.20pm), and J J White.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Executive

Mr M McCartney (to 12.20pm)

Committee Secretary

Mrs J A Kennedy

ALSO PRESENT

Mr C Grant (Group Manager Corporate and Governance), Mr G Carlyon (Group Manager Regional Policy and Regulatory from 10.18am), Mr C Mitchell (Group Manager Environmental Management from 12.55pm), Mr G Shirley (Group Manager Regional Services and Information from 11.22am), Mr R Munneke (Manager Policy from 10.15am to 11.45am), Ms H Marr (One Plan Manager from 1.17pm to 1.40pm), Dr J Roygard (Manager Science from 11.10am to 1.40pm), Ms F Maseyk (Senior Environmental Scientist-Ecology from 11.10am to 1.40pm).

APOLOGIES:

SP 09-105

Moved

White/Guy

that an apology be accepted from Cr Main, and an apology for lateness from Cr Burnell.

CARRIED

PUBLIC SPEAKING RIGHTS

No requests for public speaking rights had been notified.

LATE ITEMS:

The Chairman advised of a late item from Cr Chettleburgh in regard to the Tertiary Education Review. Submissions on the Review closed on 6 November 2009, and Cr Chettleburgh explained he was unaware of the issue at the time the Agenda was set.

SP 09-106

Moved

Murfitt/White

that a Late Item in relation to the Tertiary Education Review be accepted for discussion.

CARRIED

The Chairman further noted there would be a discussion on the SWOT Analysis Review, prepared by Cr Guy.

MEMBERS' CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest noted.

MW LASS LTD UPDATE

Report No. 09-160

This report was to inform Members of the current status of MW LASS Ltd.

The Group Manager Corporate and Governance (GMCG) presented the item and was available to answer Members questions of clarification. In regard to the Regional Archives, the GMCG explained that the facility would be located in a section of an existing building, and confirmed that a key part of the project was to provide suitable public access. There was discussion around the returns to LASS from the completed Insurance Services Review, clarification on the salary terms and conditions of the LASS Executive Officer, the potential savings from creating a shared valuation database system (SVDS), and clarification on the Canister return project.

In view of Cr White's interest and expertise in the Regional Archives Project, it was suggested that Cr White be invited to participate in formal discussions with the GMCG and Archives team, in regard to progress on the project.

SP 09-107

Moved

Rieger/Bailey

that the Committee recommends that Council:

a. **receives** Report No. 09-160.

CARRIED

MOTOR VEHICLE POLICY UPDATE

Report No. 09-161

This report was to inform Members of the current status of Horizons' Motor Vehicle Policy.

Cr Chettleburgh did not agree with the Chairman's comment that the Motor Vehicle Policy came under the domain of the Chief Executive. He believed it was a combined policy between the Council and staff. Cr Chettleburgh outlined some objectives he would like to see the Policy include around the emphasis to use smaller vehicles / lower emission vehicles, eg. hybrid, and to explore the possibility of staff access to buy vehicles at the same discounted price as was available to Council. The Chief Executive advised it was not possible to offer the discount price of new vehicles to staff; however, Managers were given the opportunity to acquire their used vehicle when it was up for replacement.

There was further clarification around the salary sacrifice (**which term was agreed would be better expressed as "trade off"**) that could be undertaken by first and second tier managers in order to support the operational costs of their vehicles, the number and type of vehicles that had a GPS data logger fitted, and the potential for the Councillor representing the Ruapehu area to be provided with a Council vehicle and fuel card, rather than claim mileage travelled. The Group Manager Corporate and Governance advised that decisions relating to councillor vehicle use and mileage claims was determined by the Remuneration Authority.

SP 09-108

Moved

Rieger/Plowman

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** Report No. 09-161.

CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS POLICY 2009

Report No. 09-154

This report was to present Members with the Communications Policy 2009. This Policy was an update on the Communications Guidelines adopted in 2005.

The Communications Manager spoke to the item and answered questions of clarification around the correct interpretation and use of the name, Horizons Regional Council. She advised that for the first mention of the name in a document it should be referred to in full, Horizons Regional Council, and thereafter shortened to Horizons. The Chief Executive commented that for clarity, the full name, Horizons Regional Council, be used in verbal conversation.

The Organisational Priorities were noted and clarification asked for around the terminology used in regard to 'balanced' policy. For clarity, it was suggested that the words *Relatively Weighted* would be more suitable.

There was comment on the difficulty of receiving feedback from some parts of the regional community, with a suggestion that Council explore the possibility of engaging in **referenda** ~~referendum~~ in order to increase community participation on issues. In regard to the public notices placed in newspapers it was suggested that the location of the advertisement, and the possibility of enhancing the advertisement with the use of colour, be investigated with a view to attracting increased readership.

There was discussion around the level of community awareness and community understanding around the range of services provided by Horizons Regional Council for the Region. The Communications Manager spoke of the ongoing challenge to build a greater understanding of Horizons business amongst the general public.

SP 09-109

Moved

Murfitt/Walker

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the Communications Policy 2009.

CARRIED

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT (SIMPLIFYING AND STREAMLINING) ACT 2009

Report No. 09-158

This report was to inform and update Councillors on the Resource Management Amendment (Simplifying and Streamlining) Act 2009 (RMAA 2009), including an update on those provisions that were the subject of the Horizons Regional Council's (HRC's) submission on the Resource Management (Simplifying and Streamlining) Amendment Bill 2009 (RMA Bill 2009).

Mr Munneke, Manager Policy spoke to the report and outlined the key changes around the RMA, the implications of those changes on how Council conduct their business, the functions of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the implications of that on Council business.

Members considered the item and commented on a number of issues around the limiting role of local authorities in regard to private Plan changes, the provision to recover costs, the implications to Horizons on amendments to combined planning documents, the intent of the changes, and the impacts of that on staff.

SP 09-110

Moved

Murfitt/Gordon

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information in Report No. 09-158 and Annexes.

CARRIED

PRESENTATION: REVIEW OF FLUVIAL SCIENCE – DR J ROYGARD

Dr Roygard explained the Fluvial Science Review was scoped and commissioned by himself, with input from Horizons staff, and Mr Graham Smart (NIWA). He outlined the goals of the Review as being; to establish how fluvial science was currently implemented, list perceived problems, give a historical perspective of how things were done in the past, establish what a fluvial monitoring programme would monitor, and recommend how fluvial science could be improved.

*The meeting adjourned at 12.20pm.
The meeting reconvened at 12.55pm.*

The Chairman (Cr Murfitt) vacated the Chair at 12.20pm and Cr Rieger (Deputy Chair) assumed the role of Chairman for the remainder of the meeting.

Crs Murfitt, Bailey and Walker left the meeting at 12.20pm.

Apologies for the afternoon part of the meeting were received from Crs Murfitt, Bailey, and Walker.

SP 09-111

Moved

Rieger/Meads

that an apology be accepted for the afternoon part of the meeting from from Crs Murfitt, Bailey, and Walker.

CARRIED

REVIEW OF FLUVIAL SCIENCE (continued)

Members considered the Review and asked questions of clarification.

SP 09-112

Moved

Rieger/Meads

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the presentation on the Review of Fluvial Science.

CARRIED

PRESENTATION: SCIENCE FOR THE ONE PLAN WATER CHAPTER – DR J ROYGARD

Dr Roygard advised that the material in the presentation was also available through the Science Technical reports for the One Plan Hearings. Members considered the presentation and asked questions of clarification around points raised.

12TH INTERNATIONAL RIVER SYMPOSIUM, BRISBANE 21-24 SEPTEMBER 2009 - CR GUY

Cr Guy's report on the Symposium was presented and he was available to answer questions of clarification on points raised.

HORIZONS' SWOT ANALYSIS REVIEW – CR GUY

Cr Guy presented a review of his thoughts on the SWOT analysis and asked members for their comment. Topics raised for further discussion included; sustainability of smaller communities, and Shape and Change in relation to Land Use. The Group Manager Regional Planning and Regulatory advised they were earmarked for discussion at an upcoming workshop.

In regard to Councillor Workshops there was a concern noted from Cr White around a number of scheduled/confirmed workshop dates that had been re-scheduled.

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Cr White asked for an update on progress in regard to an earlier request to install microphones in the Tararua Room. The Group Manager Corporate & Governance replied that the matter was under investigation.

Councillors commented on the air conditioning unit in the Tararua Room and asked for a safety check to be carried out to ensure that the air quality in the room was healthy, and that the required health and safety standards were being met.

LATE ITEM: SUBMISSION TO TERTIARY EDUCATION REVIEW

Cr Chettleburgh commented the Tertiary Education Review and noted that Submissions closed on 6 November 2009. He said that media reports on the Review indicated a greater emphasis for funding would be placed on students graduating, as opposed to papers taken, and he was concerned about the detrimental effect that would have on Massey University funding. Members discussed the matter and agreed that a letter be written to the Tertiary Education Commission, expressing the concerns of Council.

SP 09-113

Moved

Chettleburgh/Guy

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. ***requests*** that the Chief Executive write to the Tertiary Education Commission highlighting Council's concerns in relation to the funding review underway.

CARRIED

The meeting closed at 2.23pm.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CHAIRMAN