



Minutes of the public meeting of the Strategy and Policy Committee to deliberate on submissions made to the Draft Community Plan 2009-2019 held in the Tararua Room of Council's offices at 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North on Tuesday, 9 June at 10.05am, and Tuesday, 16 June 2009 at 10:02am.

- PRESENT**    9 June 2009    Crs G P Murfitt (Chair), L Bailey, L R Burnell, V J F Chettleburgh QSM ED, E B Gordon (to 5.10pm), M C Guy (until 12.34pm, from 2.56pm to 3.56pm), A K Main (until 5.44pm), D B Meads, M W Plowman, P W Rieger QSO, R G Walker JP (until 5.45pm) and J J White.
- 16 June 2009 Crs G P Murfitt (Chair), L Bailey, L R Burnell (until 11.12am), V J F Chettleburgh QSM ED, E B Gordon, M C Guy, A K Main, D B Meads, M W Plowman, P W Rieger QSO, R G Walker JP, and J J White.

### **Tuesday, 9 June 2009**

#### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Group Manager Regional Planning & Regulatory                      Mr G Carlyon  
Committee Secretary    Ms K Booth

#### **ALSO PRESENT:**

Mr E Duggan (Strategic Projects), Mr C Mitchell (Group Manager Environmental Management), Mr A Cook (Group Manager Operations), Mr C Grant (Group Manager Corporate & Governance), Mr G Shirley (Group Manager Regional Services & Information), Mr A Beveridge (Environmental Manager, Biodiversity), Ms M Ram (Chief Financial Officer), Ms F Maseyk (Senior Environmental Scientist, Mrs C Atkinson (Communications Manager), and Mr P Burke (Communications Adviser), at various times throughout the meeting, and Mr J Philpott (from 12 noon to 12.34pm).

### **Tuesday, 16 June 2009**

#### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Chief Executive    Mr M McCartney  
Group Manager Regional Planning & Regulatory                      Mr G Carlyon  
Committee Secretary    Ms K Booth

#### **ALSO PRESENT:**

Mr E Duggan (Strategic Projects), Mr C Mitchell (Group Manager Environmental Management), Mr A Cook (Group Manager Operations), Mr C Grant (Group Manager Corporate & Governance), Mr G Shirley (Group Manager Regional Services & Information), and Mr J Watson (Manager Catchment Information/Data), at various times throughout the meeting.

**Tuesday, 9 June 2009**

**APOLOGY**

An apology was noted from the Chief Executive, Mr M McCartney, who was in Auckland. Cr Guy advised he would be leaving the meeting to attend another meeting at 1.00pm.

**DCP 09-08**

**Moved**

**Murfitt/White**

*That an apology be received from the Chief Executive.*

**CARRIED**

**LATE ITEMS**

There were no Late Items.

Cr Guy asked for clarification on his ability to vote on recommendations, as he had not attended the Hearings. There was discussion on the Chairman's comments prior to the Hearings that if Members had not heard a submission, then they could not deliberate on it. The Chairman noted that this meeting would be making interim decisions which would be voted on by all Councillors at the Council meeting on 30 June 2009. Members expressed their views as to whether or not Members could deliberate on submissions which they had not heard, and whether there was a difference between voting at the Deliberations meeting and voting at the Council meeting on 30 June. A motion was then put.

**DCP 09-09**

**Moved**

**Chettleburgh/Meads**

*That all Councillors present have the right to debate and vote on deliberations of the Draft Community Plan.*

**Against: Crs White, Walker, Plowman, Bailey**

**Abstain: Crs Gordon, Main**

**CARRIED**

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Cr White noted a conflict of interest with Regional Archives.

The Chairman advised that the meeting would make interim decisions during the day, which would be ratified at the June Council meeting.

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Members commented positively about travelling to hear submissions at Ohakune and Wanganui and the value of mixing with ratepayers at those venues. They expressed concern that some submitters appeared to have misinformation about Horizons' activities and the possible rates increases, and requested that the letters to submitters at the end of the process, clearly explain the situation. The theme from Ohakune submitters was that they could not afford ongoing rate increases that would compound up to 19% over three years, however it was noted the rating impacts on that community would be much less than that. The Chairman explained that media releases had been prepared by the Communications team to explain the situation.

The Chairman asked Members for comments on the minutes.

Page 3, submission of Tararua District Council (TDC), where Mayor Reynolds said the shares in Port of Napier were originally held by TDC. The Chairman advised that the shares were not originally held by TDC and he had discussed that comment with Mayor Reynolds.

Page 4, submission of Ruapehu District Council (RDC). Cr Plowman advised the RDC had asked for a full section 32 analysis of the proposed One Plan, and also asked for an economic analysis to be carried out for hill country in the Ruapehu district with the likely effects of the One Plan, and this was not clear in the minutes.

Page 6, Mr Gordon McKellar's oral submission. The Chairman and Chair of Catchment Operations Committee advised that there was no intention of further investigation into the total contributor rating of the Lower Manawatu Scheme (LMS), and trusted Mr McKellar had not received the wrong impression. The Chairman asked for the wording to be deleted.

Page 10, submission of Mr and Mrs Sivyver. Amendment to last sentence. Replace "One Plan" with "Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI)". The Chairman confirmed that it was SLUI that was voluntary, not the One Plan.

Page 11, submission of Mr Matthews. Amend "Mr Fraser" to read "Mr Matthews".

**DCP 09-10**

**Moved**

**Murfitt/Gordon**

*That the minutes of the Strategy and Policy Committee meetings to hear submissions on the Draft Community Plan 2009-2019 held on 25. 27, 28 May and 2 June 2009, as circulated and with the following amendments, be confirmed as a correct record:*

§ 'Mangone' to be corrected to **Mangaone**.

§ Page 4, Ruapehu District Council, 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence to finish at "...One Plan." New 4<sup>th</sup> sentence **"They asked for a full section 32 analysis of the proposed One Plan, and an economic analysis in order to give sufficient guidance for the future of hill country environment."**

§ Delete **"...and noted there would be further investigation into the total contributor rating of the LMS."** from report on Mr Gordon McKellar's oral submission as this was not the intention.

§ Mr Chris Teo-Sherell be amended to **Dr** Chris Teo-Sherell.

§ Page 10, Mr and Mrs Sivyver, last sentence. Replace "One Plan" with **"Sustainable Land Use Initiative"**.

§ Page 11, submission of Mr David Matthews. Amend "Mr Fraser" to read **"Mr Matthews"**.

§ Page 11, Peoples of Uenuku. 'peoples' to read **"Peoples"**.

**CARRIED**

## **CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS TO THE DRAFT COMMUNITY PLAN 2009-2019**

*Report No: 09-89*

The report provided management responses and recommendations regarding submissions made to the Draft Community Plan 2009-19.

Members then discussed the annexed Submissions summary and asked questions of clarification.

## SIGNIFICANT ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Rate Increase Affordability

Members commented on submitters' genuine appeal for affordability, and observed that many ratepayers were unfortunately confused about their possible rates increases through the way that information was communicated, whereas the intention was to be clear and transparent. Members expressed their concern that people had received the wrong message and said they would reconsider how to communicate this in the future. They noted that some submitters also asked the Council to concentrate on its core business.

### Tb Vector Funding & Biosecurity Activity

Some Members spoke in support of restoring the funding to the Animal Health Board (AHB) to \$500,000, without impacting on the general rate but instead funding through a surplus in the targeted rate. Other Members spoke against increasing AHB funding. It was noted by Members that some submitters had not understood that Horizons undertook possum control once the AHB stepped down.

**Moved**

**Meads/Plowman**

*That the Committee recommends to Council:*

- a. That the Council restores the funding to the Animal Health Board from \$400,000 to \$500,000.

Following comments about the motion, and discussion about a possible targeted rate surplus, Cr Chettleburgh proposed an Amendment to the motion.

### **(Interim Decision)**

**DCP 09-11 Moved**

**Chettleburgh/Gordon**

*That the Committee recommends to Council:*

- a. That the \$400,000 for Animal Health Board funding be increased by the amount of surplus funds available from the Possum Control targeted rate collection up to a maximum of \$100,000.

**Against:** Crs Walker, White, Main, Bailey, Murfitt  
**CARRIED**

The Amendment became the substantive motion and was put to the meeting. Members continued discussing the work of the AHB, and the request of many submitters for this work to carry on. The Group Manager Environmental Management (GMEM) provided clarification on the funding.

### **(Interim Decision)**

**DCP 09-12 Moved**

**Chettleburgh/Gordon**

*That the Committee recommends to Council:*

- a. That the \$400,000 for Animal Health Board funding be increased by the amount of surplus funds available from the Possum Control targeted rate collection up to a maximum of \$100,000.

**Against:** Crs Walker, White, Main, Bailey  
**Abstained:** Crs Guy, Murfitt  
**CARRIED**

### **Lower Manawatu Scheme (LMS) Rating**

The Group Manager Operations (GMO) tabled a spreadsheet identifying differential options for rural flood protection categories. He clarified the columns in the spreadsheet, and explained why Option 1 was the preferred option. The GMO advised that this suggested redistribution would have no impact on rates. Both the GMO and Cr Meads (Chair of Catchment Operations Committee) clarified Members' questions. Members discussed the management recommendation which was amended.

#### **(Interim Decision)**

**DCP 09-13 Moved**

**Meads/Burnell**

*That the Committee recommends that Council:*

- a. *acknowledges the scientific validity of the proposed Lower Manawatu Scheme Rating system in its Draft Community Plan form, but modifies the differentials for the rural flood protection categories to reflect Option 1 (as outlined below) of the Options dated 8 June 2009, to recognise issues of fairness, reasonableness and affordability:*

<b>Rating Category Description</b>	<b>Original differentials</b>	<b>Amended differentials (Option 1)</b>
Flood Protection 1	100%	100%
Flood protection 2	75%	80%
Flood Protection 3	50%	60%
Flood Protection 4	25%	40%
Flood Protection 5	5%	10%
Flood protection Spillways A	80%	85%
Flood Protection Spillways B	70%	75%
Flood protection Spillways C	45%	50%
Flood Protection Spillways D	20%	25%

**CARRIED**

### **River and Drainage Scheme Activity Pages 12- 20.**

The Chairman asked Members to consider the other recommendations in the Rivers and Drainage – Scheme Activity. The GMO clarified Members' questions as each recommendation was discussed, and undertook to clarify issues, where appropriate, in his responses to submitters.

#### **Scheme Rating changes**

#### **(Interim Decision)**

**DCP 09-14 Moved**

**Meads/Murfitt**

*That the Committee recommends to Council:*

- a. *That Council adopts the proposed scheme rating changes, as scheduled in the table distributed at the meeting and outlined below.*

SCHEME	CHANGE	COMMENT	SCHEME RATE IMPACT	GENERAL RATE IMPACT
Manawatu Drainage	Reduce rate increase to 3.5% and modify reserves drawdown to maintain scheme account balance		-\$9,573	-\$2,100
Makerua Drainage	Reduce rate increase to 3% for maintenance, plus what is required for capex. Transfer savings to principal repayment		-\$5,918	Nil
Koputaroa Drainage	Reduce rate increase to 3%, utilizing interest savings and transfer any residual to reserves.		-\$4,131	-\$1,751
Moutoa Drainage	Apply interest savings to reducing rate increase		-\$8,666	-\$2,410
Te Kawau Drainage	Reduce rate increase to 8% utilizing interest savings		-\$3,863	-\$77
Rangitikei	Maintain proposed rates and apply interest savings to principal reduction		Nil	Nil
Lower Whanganui	Add \$5k to reserves, reduce closing balance. Reduce rates to reflect savings in interest costs.		Nil	-\$9,671
Whangaehu/ Mangawhero	Reduce rates increase to 10% utilizing interest savings		-\$2,232	Nil
Upper Manawatu	Maintain proposed rates and apply interest savings to principal reduction		Nil	Nil
Matarawa	Maintain proposed rates and apply interest savings to principal reduction		Nil	Nil
Upper Whanganui	Reduce rates increase to zero , any residual interest savings to scheme balance		-\$3,318	-\$1,010
Lower Manawatu	Maintain proposed rating level per consultation, increase principal repayment		Nil	Nil
Pohangina-Oroua	Transfer additional \$80 from scheme balance to reserves. Reduce rate increase to 15% using interest savings. Increase works expenditure \$30k for silviculture	Transfer to reserves will be addressed in prep for Annual Report. Silviculture expend. Will require transfer from reserves – won't attract Gen. Rate	-\$12,780	-\$1,885
Lower KIWITEA	Reduce rates increase to nil utilizing interest savings		-\$6,629	-\$742
Akitio	Reduce rates increase to nil utilizing interest savings and scheme balance		-\$1000	-\$191
SER	Maintain proposed rates and apply interest savings to principal reduction		Nil	Nil
Upper Whanganui	Reduce rates increase to zero, any residual interest savings to scheme balance		-\$3,318	-\$1,010
Tutaenui	Reduce rates increase to reflect interest savings		-\$829	-\$207
Ohau-Manakau	Maintain rates per recent consultation, apply interest savings to principal reduction		Nil	Nil
Lower Manawatu Special Project	Hold rates at 2008-09 level utilizing interest savings		-\$42,446	-\$19,889
Makirikiri	Reduce rates to reflect interest savings		-\$305	-\$77
Pakihi	Maintain proposed rate increase – apply to principal reduction	Scheme review pending – increased costs anticipated	Nil	Nil
Ashhurst	Maintain proposed rate increase – apply to principal reduction	Increased project costs anticipated	Nil	Nil
Foxton East	Reduce rates to reflect interest savings		-\$126	-\$32
Hokio	Reduce rates to reflect interest savings		-\$406	-\$102
Whirikino	Reduce rates to reflect interest savings		-\$813	-\$203
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>-\$105,548</b>	<b>-\$41,357</b>

**CARRIED**

Funding Impact Statement changes

**(Interim Decision)**

**DCP 09-15 Moved**

**Main/Meads**

- a. *That the Funding Impact Statement in the Draft Community Plan be amended to reflect the corrected rating information in respect of the Ohau-Manakau and Upper Whanganui Schemes.*

**CARRIED**

Pohangina-Oroua Scheme

**(Interim Decision)**

**DCP 09-16 Moved**

**Meads/Burnell**

- a. *That landowner contribution on erosion protection work to a maximum cost of \$100,000 attracts 20% General Rate. (Additional rating impact of \$15,000).*

**CARRIED**

Ohau-Manakau Scheme

**(Interim Decision)**

**DCP 09-17 Moved**

**Bailey/Burnell**

- a. *That the new rating system for the Ohau-Manakau Scheme, as included in the Draft Community Plan be confirmed for adoption;*
- b. *That the Ohau-Manakau Scheme flood protection upgrade proposals, as included in the Draft Community Plan, be confirmed.*

**CARRIED**

*The meeting adjourned at 12.34pm*

*The meeting resumed at 1.15pm.*

Lower Manawatu Scheme

The GMO clarified Members' questions in regard to the progress and timeframes of this proposed realignment, and communication to the public about the project.

**(Interim Decision)**

**DCP 09-18 Moved**

**Chettleburgh/Gordon**

- a. *That the proposals for realignment of the Manawatu River in the vicinity of Anzac Park Cliffs, as included in the Draft Community Plan, be confirmed.*

**CARRIED**

## Lower Whanganui Scheme

Cr Plowman advised he did not support the Scheme.

### (Interim Decision)

**DCP 09-19 Moved**

**Main/Walker**

- a. *That Council's position as regards the development/consultation process for Stages 2 & 3 of the Lower Whanganui Scheme Flood Protection proposals, as explained in the Draft Community Plan be confirmed, and that Wanganui District Council's desire to be involved as a partner in that process be noted and welcomed.*

### **CARRIED**

The GMO distributed, for Members' information, a model providing for recreational/amenity enhancement works for the Lower Whanganui River Scheme. He clarified Members' questions in regard to funding, and commented that good feedback had been received from the community on the enhancement project. Members discussed the level of funding for both the Lower Whanganui and Lower Manawatu Scheme enhancement projects, with the option for a review of the programme. The management recommendation was amended.

### (Interim Decision)

**DCP 09-20 Moved**

**Meads/Bailey**

- a. *That Council **approves** the special general rate assistance to the Lower Whanganui Scheme and the Lower Manawatu Scheme enhancement projects for the first three years of the Community Plan for \$50,000 per year per Scheme. to a total of \$50,000 per Scheme. The programme will be reviewed at the end of this period.*

### **CARRIED**

### (Interim Decision)

**DCP 09-21 Moved**

**Murfitt/Burnell**

- a. *That no other changes are made to the Community Plan in regard to submissions on the River and Drainage - Scheme Activity.*

### **CARRIED**

## Rangitikei Environment Group

Cr Gordon spoke in support of funding being reinstated to the Rangitikei Environment Group (REG) so they could continue with their pest plant control in the Rangitikei area. Members discussed funding through a targeted rate, and working together with the REG on focus areas. The motion was amended.

### (Interim Decision)

**DCP 09-22 Moved**

**Gordon/Meads**

*That the Committee recommends to Council:*

- a. *that funding of \$85,000 is reinstated for the Rangitikei Environment Group as a targeted rate.*

- b. *that the programme be developed on sites of significance in agreement with the Rangitikei Environment Group.*

**CARRIED**

The Chairman then asked Members to consider a new motion in regard to funding. Mr Duggan tabled funding options for Members to discuss.

**(Interim Decision)**

**DCP 09-23 Moved**

**Gordon/Meads**

*That the Committee recommends to Council:*

- a. *that the \$85,000 for the Rangitikei Environment Group be funded through a differentiated uniform charge - 50% funding from properties 4ha and over and 50% of funding from properties under 4ha.*

**CARRIED**

**Note:** Resolution DCP 09-23 was revisited at 3.17pm after new information was provided by Mr Duggan on rate options 'by capital value', 'by differentiated UAC', and by 'UAC'. In accordance with Standing Orders, 75% of the members then present and voting, resolved to move a new resolution (see DCP 09-29 – copied below for ease of viewing).

**Copy of (Interim Decision)**

**DCP 09-29 Moved**

**Main/Bailey**

*That the Committee recommends to Council:*

- a. *that the \$85,000 for the Rangitikei Environment Group be funded through a differentiated uniform charge - 70% funding from properties 4ha and over and 30% of funding from properties under 4ha for properties in the Rangitikei district area.*

**Against:** *Crs Chettleburgh, Guy, Plowman*

**CARRIED**

**Pest Plant and Living Heritage Level of Service and Funding**

Cr White spoke in support of reinstating funding for the Living Heritage activity, and the GMEM clarified that the funding would be applied to pest plant control in priority habitat sites. Crs Burnell and Walker did not support the motion as they were against rates increases. Mr Duggan clarified the rating impacts of this proposed funding.

**(Interim Decision)**

**DCP 09-24 Moved**

**White/Main**

*That the Committee recommends to Council:*

- a. *That in 2009-10 it reinstates funding of \$125,000 and \$125,000 (\$250,000 in total) in 2010-11 into the Living Heritage Activity. The focus for this will be pest plant control in priority habitat sites.*

**Against:** *Crs Walker, Burnell*

**CARRIED**

## **One Plan**

Cr Plowman said that he did not support the One Plan, and put a motion to abandon the One Plan.

### **(Interim Decision)**

**DCP 09-25 Moved**

**Plowman/Walker**

*That the Committee recommends to Council:*

*That it abandons the One Plan.*

**For the Motion: Cr Plowman  
LOST**

### **(Interim Decision)**

**DCP 09-26 Moved**

**Main/Murfitt**

*That the Committee recommends to Council:*

- a. *to reduce the interest payments on the One Plan and the corresponding internal interest income;*
- b. *That no other changes are made to the Community Plan in regard to submissions on the Strategic Management activity.*

**Against: Cr Plowman  
CARRIED**

## **Port of Napier (PoN) Shares and Investment Interest rate**

The Chairman spoke to this matter.

### **(Interim Decision)**

**DCP 09-27 Moved**

**Bailey/Rieger**

*That the Committee recommends to Council:*

- a. *To reduce the provision for interest earned on deposits and increase the General Rate correspondingly;*
- b. *that Port of Napier share sale be investigated and proceeded with if Council decides sale is in the best interests of the Region;*
- c. *That no other changes are made to the Community Plan in regard to submissions on the Investment activity.*

**CARRIED**

*The meeting adjourned at 3.00pm.*

*The meeting resumed at 3.17pm.*

Members expressed a desire to revisit the Resolution passed in respect of funding for the Rangitikei Environment Group in regard to the effect on lower income ratepayers. The Chairman advised that in accordance with Standing Orders, if new information was received

concerning a matter already resolved at the meeting, the previous resolution could be altered or revoked by the consent of 75% of the members then present and voting. As requested by Councillors, Mr Duggan presented Members with rate options for properties of differing land sizes, for their consideration. They fully discussed the options and signalled a willingness to amend the previous resolution.

**(Interim Decision)**

**DCP 09-28 Moved**

**Murfitt/Main**

*That the Committee would like to revisit the interim decision DCP 09-23.*

**Against: Two Councillors**

**For the Motion: Nine Councillors**

**CARRIED**

**(Interim Decision)**

**DCP 09-29 Moved**

**Main/Bailey**

*That the Committee recommends to Council:*

- a. *that the \$85,000 for the Rangitikei Environment Group be funded through a differentiated uniform charge - 70% funding from properties 4ha and over and 30% of funding from properties under 4ha for properties in the Rangitikei district area.*

**Against: Crs Chettleburgh, Guy, Plowman**

**CARRIED**

**Iwi Budget reduction and Inclusion of the Peoples of Uenuku as an iwi**

Cr Plowman advised he would abstain as he had not received the Agenda in time to read all of the annexed management replies and recommendations.

**(Interim Decision)**

**DCP 09-30 Moved**

**Murfitt/Bailey**

*That the Committee recommends to Council:*

- a. *To alter the wording of the Maori Land Rate Remission (MLRR) policy on page 266 of the Draft Community Plan to allow the Chief Executive to consider and approve or decline all MLRR applications and to report annually to the Council;*
- b. *To add the Peoples of Uenuku as an iwi to the Community Plan on page 19 of the Plan;*
- c. *That no other changes are made to the Community Plan in regard to submissions on the iwi activity.*

**Abstained: Cr Plowman**

**CARRIED**

### **Green RIG, Waste and Environmental Education**

Members asked questions about sponsorship of the Green RIG and about its re-theming project. They asked to see more information on the Green RIG activity in the Community Plan. Comment was made that these were difficult economic times to achieve sponsorship, and Members discussed funding of the Green RIG should sponsorship not be realised.

In reference to page 52 of the Agenda, Members said they were not happy with the comment in the 2<sup>nd</sup> bullet point under Environmental Education (management reply). It was agreed to delete the wording "*I am unsure what UN Agenda 21 is but*".

Members amended (a) of the recommendations, and included a new (b).

#### **(Interim Decision)**

**DCP 09-31 Moved**

**Murfitt/White**

*That the Committee recommends to Council:*

- a. *To make changes to the Draft Community Plan and reporting of the Green RIG to better reflect funding, and performance;*
- b. *that the Green RIG be reported separately in the Community Plan.*
- c. *That no other changes are made to the Community Plan in regard to submissions on the Environmental Reporting and Education Activity.*

**Against recommendation (c) – Cr Plowman  
CARRIED**

### **Emergency Management – Flood Mapping in Tararua District**

#### **(Interim Decision)**

**DCP 09-32 Moved**

**Chettleburgh/Murfitt**

*That the Committee recommends to Council:*

- a. *To increase emergency management funding for flood modelling in Tararua District by:*
  - *Year 1 - \$101,000 CAPEX with an additional operational commitment of \$10,100/year (from year 2) for 10 years, being Pahiatua modelling and Woodville LiDAR.*
  - *Year 2 - \$71,000 CAPEX with an additional operational commitment of \$7,100/year (from year 3) for 10 years, being Woodville modeling;*
- b. *That no other changes are made to the Community Plan in regard to submissions on the Emergency Management Activity.*

**CARRIED**

**Transport Group of Activities:**

**(Interim Decision)**

**DCP 09-33 Moved**

**Gordon/Chettleburgh**

*That the Committee recommends to Council:*

- a. *To add participation in a joint strategic transport study to its list of activities, with the cost to be met from the existing budget;*
- b. *That no other changes are made to the Community Plan in regard to submissions on the Transport Planning activity.*

**CARRIED**

Cr Bailey amended recommendation (a) to include an investigation into any other anomalies.

**(Interim Decision)**

**DCP 09-34 Moved**

**Bailey/Chettleburgh**

*That the Committee recommends to Council:*

- a. *To classify Waitarere Beach as rural for the purposes of passenger services transport rating and investigate whether similar anomalies exist;*
- b. *That no other changes are made to the Community Plan in regard to submissions on the Passenger Services activity;*
- c. *That no changes are made to the Community Plan in regard to submissions on the Road Safety and Sustainability activity.*

**CARRIED**

**Long Term Financial Strategy (LTFS) Building up of Reserves**

Members discussed whether or not to build up cash reserves, and agreed to review the situation again in Year 4 of the Community Plan. Cr Rieger amended the recommendation.

**(Interim Decision)**

**DCP 09-35 Moved**

**Rieger/Meads**

*That the Committee recommends to Council:*

- a. *that Council does not build up any more cash reserves for emergency purposes and Council is to review this position in Year 4 of the Community Plan and the Community Plan be amended accordingly.*

**CARRIED**

### **Revenue and Financing Policy**

In response to Members' questions about the Council's rate collection process, the Chief Financial Officer advised that staff worked sympathetically with those ratepayers who were having financial difficulties. Members asked further questions of clarification.

#### **(Interim Decision)**

**DCP 09-36 Moved**

**Rieger/Burnell**

*That the Committee recommends to Council:*

- a. *To reduce the admin fee for direct debits for instalment payments from 3% to 2% in the Community Plan;*
- b. *Reinsert the rate remission policy for Environmental Works into the rate remissions policies in the Community Plan;*
- c. *That no other changes are made to the Community Plan in regard to submissions on the Revenue and Financing Policies.*

**CARRIED**

### **Resource Consents, Multi Inspection Compliance Fees and Dam PIMs**

Mr Duggan spoke to this activity.

#### **(Interim Decision)**

**DCP 09-37 Moved**

**Bailey/Main**

*That the Committee recommends to Council:*

- a. *To set Consent Hourly rates at the 2008-09 level in the Community Plan;*
- b. *That the multi inspection fees be added to the Draft Community Plan as suggested in the staff submission;*
- c. *That additional words be inserted into the Draft Community Plan to clarify charging for PIMs as suggested in the staff submission;*
- d. *That no other changes are made to the Community Plan in regard to submissions on the Resource Consent and Pollution Management Activity.*

**CARRIED**

### **Foxton River Loop**

Cr Bailey referred Members to the submission from Save Our River Trust Incorporated on page 282 of the Submissions Hearing Agenda, and said the submitters were asking Council to fund a feasibility study. The GMO explained that there was no funding currently available, nor staffing resources available for several years, however he and the Group Manager Regional Planning and Regulatory (GMRPR) said there was an opportunity to better understand the scope of the project. Members discussed the matter and made a recommendation.

**(Interim Decision)**

**DCP 09-38 Moved**

**Meads/Burnell**

*That the Committee recommends that Council:*

- a. *offers management discussions with the Save Our River Trust to better understand the project scope and issues over the next twelve months.*

**CARRIED**

**Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI) and Land Management**

Cr Plowman advised he did not support SLUI.

**(Interim Decision)**

**DCP 09-39 Moved**

**Main/White**

*That the Committee recommends to Council:*

- a. *That no changes are made to the Community Plan in regard to submissions on Land Management Activity, including the Sustainable Land Use Initiative.*

**Against: Cr Plowman**

**CARRIED**

**OTHER ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**General Comments**

Cr White did not agree with a submitter suggestion that Horizons was not involved with economic development in the Region, and asked that the response letter to the submitter clarify how involved the Council was.

**(Interim Decision)**

**DCP 09-40 Moved**

**White/Walker**

*That the Committee recommends to Council:*

- a. *That no changes are made to the Community Plan in regard to general submissions.*

**Against: Cr Plowman**

**CARRIED**

**Climate Change**

**(Interim Decision)**

**DCP 09-41 Moved**

**Rieger/Meads**

*That the Committee recommends to Council:*

- a. *That no changes are made to the Community Plan in regard to submissions on Climate Change.*

**CARRIED**

## **Water Quality and Quantity Activity**

**(Interim Decision)**

**DCP 09-42 Moved**

**Main/Chettleburgh**

*That the Committee recommends to Council:*

- a. *That no changes are made to the Community Plan in regard to submissions on Water Quality and Quantity Activity.*

**CARRIED**

## **River and Drainage General**

**(Interim Decision)**

**DCP 09-43 Moved**

**Burnell/Bailey**

*That the Committee recommends to Council:*

- a. *That no changes are made to the Community Plan in regard to submissions on River and Drainage – General Activity.*

**CARRIED**

## **Community Relationship Activity**

Members noted comments from submitters on Horizons' publications, about using black and white for wording, in preference to coloured wording on coloured backgrounds.

**(Interim Decision)**

**DCP 09-44 Moved**

**Bailey/Walker**

*That the Committee recommends to Council:*

- a. *That no changes are made to the Community Plan in regard to submissions on the Community Relationships activity.*

**Against; Cr Plowman**

**CARRIED**

## **Information Activity**

**(Interim Decision)**

**DCP 09-45 Moved**

**White/Rieger**

*That the Committee recommends to Council:*

- a. *That no changes are made to the Community Plan in regard to submissions on the Information activity.*

**CARRIED**

**CAPEX:**

Mr Duggan clarified Members' questions in regard to CAPEX budgets and depreciation.

**(Interim Decision)**

**DCP 09-46 Moved**

**Chettleburgh/Rieger**

*That the Committee recommends to Council:*

- a. *That no changes are made to the Community Plan in regard to the CAPEX (excluding the changes made to flood mapping in Tararua District DCP 09-32 above).*

**CARRIED**

The Chairman mentioned he had received requests for rating invoices to show funding to the Animal Health Board on a separate line to ordinary possum control programme.

**(Interim Decision)**

**DCP 09-47 Moved**

**Rieger/Plowman**

*That the Committee recommends to Council:*

- a. *That there is separation of the Animal Health Board funding on rates invoices from Possum Control funding.*

**CARRIED**

The GMRPR advised Members that a note had been received from CentrePort Limited while he was in the meeting, but that further and fuller information would be distributed to Members once it was received.

Mr Duggan presented a summary of the rates position following the interim decisions at the meeting and he clarified Members' questions. The Chairman suggested he arrange another meeting prior to the Council meeting on 30 June 2009 to consider further, the rates position as summarised by Mr Duggan.

The Chairman thanked Members and staff for their input into the meeting.

*The meeting adjourned at 6.06pm on 9 June 2009.*

*The meeting resumed at 10.02am on 16 June 2009.*

**Tuesday, 16 June 2009**

**APOLOGY**

There were no apologies.

**LATE ITEMS**

There were no Late Items.

The Chairman advised a letter had been received from National MP, Nicky Wagner (Deputy-Chair of the Local Government and Environment Committee and a Member of the Emissions

Trading Scheme Review Committee), congratulating Horizons Regional Council for winning the Ministry of Environment Green Ribbon Award – Innovative Solutions for the Environment - for its Water Matters website.

The Chairman reminded Members that at the end of the Deliberations meeting on 9 June 2009, they were considering the results of their interim decisions on the proposed rates percentages for Years 1, 2 and 3 of the Community Plan (Long-term Council Community Plan [LTCCP]). Management had since discussed the outcomes and the Chief Executive would put forward their suggestions for Members' consideration. Following the Chief Executive's explanation that the presentation included some confidential information, Members agreed to hear, and discuss, all of the presentation in Public Excluded.

**DCP 09-48 Moved**

**Chettleburgh/Burnell**

*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 Presentation and deliberation on submissions to the Draft Community Plan 2009-19	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 and to protect the privacy of natural persons.	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.

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned to the Public Excluded part of the meeting at 10.08am and resumed at 1.59pm.

The Chairman referred to his comments in the Public Excluded part of the meeting where he asked Members to consider the interim decisions made on 9 June 2009 relating to the AHB funding (DCP 09-12), and funding for plant pests (DCP 09-24), as some Councillors had expressed a wish to revisit these at the Council meeting on 30 June 2009.

Throughout discussions on the submissions to the Draft Community Plan, Members expressed their preference that submitters receive letters giving clear and explanatory responses to their submissions, which would also clarify statutory and legislative requirements where appropriate.

The meeting closed at 2.00pm.

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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CHAIRMAN

**ANNEX**

- A Public Excluded part of Strategy & Policy minutes to deliberate on submissions made to the Draft Community Plan 2009-19 held on Tuesday, 16 June 2009.

**In the Public Excluded part of the Council meeting held on 30 June 2009, Council resolved (resolution PX 09-103) that these minutes be made available in the public domain**

**CONFIDENTIAL**



Minutes of that part of the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting of Horizons Regional Council to deliberate on submissions made to the Draft Community Plan 2009-19 held on Tuesday, 16 June 2009, from 10.18am until 1.59pm, in the Tararua Room, Regional House, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North to which the public were excluded, pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the specific grounds under Section 48(1) LGOIMA are 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 Presentation and deliberation on submissions to the Draft Community Plan 2009-19	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 and to protect the privacy of natural persons.	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.

**PRESENT**

Crs G P Murfitt (Chair), L Bailey, L R Burnell (until 11.12am), V J F Chettleburgh QSM ED, E B Gordon, M C Guy, A K Main, D B Meads, M W Plowman, P W Rieger QSO, R G Walker JP, and J J White.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Chief Executive	Mr M McCartney
Group Manager Regional Planning & Regulatory	Mr G Carlyon
Committee Secretary	Ms K Booth

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Mr E Duggan (Strategic Projects), Mr C Mitchell (Group Manager Environmental Management), Mr A Cook (Group Manager Operations), Mr C Grant (Group Manager Corporate & Governance), Mr G Shirley (Group Manager Regional Services & Information), and Mr J Watson (Manager Catchment Information/Data), at various times throughout the meeting.

**APOLOGIES**      There were no apologies.

The Chief Executive said his presentation would provide Members with information to consider in their deliberations, especially for Years 2 and 3 (2010-11 and 2011-12) of the Community Plan (ie Long-term Council Community Plan). Following his explanation that the presentation included some confidential information, Members agreed to hear all of the presentation in Public Excluded.

The Chief Executive introduced his presentation which included management recommendations December 2008, additions to 2009-10, adopted Draft March 2009, addition to Draft from 9 June 2009 meeting, current position, and management cuts. He referred to new information received from CentrePort Ltd regarding the Port dividend, and he believed Audit NZ would want to see reference to that in the Community Plan (CP). The Chief Executive identified the current position was 6.59% in 09-10, rather than the 4.66% flagged in the Draft Community Plan, and provided more detail about the management cuts. Members commented on the suggestions and asked questions of clarification which included the Green RIG, Animal Health Board (AHB) funding, biodiversity, and flood protection.

There was a full discussion on possum control, the level of AHB funding and the impact on rates, especially on Years 2 and 3. Mr Duggan and Mr Mitchell provided clarification on questions about rating for possum control and AHB funding.

Members discussed the resolution made on 9 June 2009 in regard to funding for the Animal Health Board. Although an amendment was proposed, Members agreed it was first necessary to resolve to rescind the original resolution (DCP 09-12) with a majority of 75% of those present and voting. Crs Chettleburgh, Gordon, Plowman and Meads indicated they supported the \$500,000 funding to the AHB and would oppose the motion, which could be revisited at the Council meeting on 30 June 2009.

**PX DCP 09-01**

**Moved**

**Main/Bailey**

*That the Committee recommends that resolution DCP 09-12 be rescinded.*

**Against:** Crs Chettleburgh, Gordon, Plowman and Meads

**LOST**

Members then discussed the funding for pest plant management, with clarifications given by Mr Mitchell and the Chief Executive. Several Councillors spoke against the suggestion to rescind the resolution made at the meeting on 9 June 2009 (DCP 09-24).

Members considered and discussed options for reducing the cost to ratepayers over the next three years. These considerations included water quality, information, strategic management, biosecurity, Capex, One Plan, sponsorship, He Tini Awa, environmental grants, flood protection schemes, 'sinking lid' policy, communications, governance. The Chief Executive and Group Managers explained the work being carried out in the areas mentioned.

A suggestion was to accept the figures for Years 1 and 2 and to signal that Council would consider a variation to the CP/LTCCP in Year 3.

*The meeting adjourned at 12.10pm.*

*The meeting resumed at 12.55pm.*

Discussions continued on where possible cuts in funding could be made, including spreading the One Plan loan period over 15 years rather than 10 years. Cr Meads said he was not in favour of spreading the cost further, and Cr Plowman spoke against the motion.

**(Interim Decision)**

**PX DCP 09-02**

**Moved**

**Rieger/Guy**

*That the Committee recommends that Council:*

**adopts** a loan period for repayment of the One Plan of 15 years instead of 10 years and that it be reviewed annually.

**Against:** Crs Plowman, Meads

**CARRIED**

Members then discussed the new information from CentrePort Ltd. The Chairman confirmed that Council would receive a visit from the Chairman of CentrePort Ltd to its meeting on 30 June 2009, when Members could seek answers to their questions. Any further information would be distributed to Members. In the meantime, he suggested that he, Cr Rieger and the Chief Executive meet with the Chairman of Greater Wellington about this matter.

**In the Public Excluded part of the Council meeting held on 30 June 2009, Council endorsed and adopted these minutes and resolved (resolution PX 09-101) that the following table be included:**

**Level Of Service Cuts**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>Rate Type Affected</b> (Percentage indicates split between rate types)
Environmental Education	93,000	96,000	Environmental Initiatives UAC
Biosecurity Pest Plant Policy	156,000	161,000	Environment Initiatives UAC (50%) / General Rate (50%)
Information	93,000	93,000	Spread Across Rate Types
Corporate	78,000	87,000	General Rate
Communications	150,000	155,000	Spread Across Rate Types
Reallocation of Overhead Component	51,000	51,000	Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC)
	-	-	
	270,000	280,000	Spread Across Rate Types
<b>Total Savings</b>	<b>Approximate</b>		
		<b>351,000</b>	<b>363,000</b>

**PX DCP 09-03**

**Moved**

**Murfitt/White**

*That the Committee recommends that Council **receives** the Management cuts as presented.*

**CARRIED**

Prior to the meeting on 30 June 2009, the Chairman asked Members to consider the resolutions made at the meeting on 9 June 2009 relating to the AHB funding (retaining \$400,000 in Year 1 and moving \$100,000 to Year 3), and funding for plant pests (\$125,000 in Year 2, not \$250,000), and he asked them to indicate their voting through a straw poll. It appeared the majority were in favour of the changes.

In regard to communicating the total funding from rates to members of the public in an 'easy to understand' way, Members suggested that this information be placed near the front of the Community Plan. Members agreed with Mr Duggan's suggestion that a new page be inserted including both Common rates and Individual rates, with a statement that highlighted that not all rates applied to all ratepayers. It was also suggested that Volumes 1 and 2 be compiled into one document for selected readers such as Councillors, submitters, those on the CP distribution list, and that information on the rates be communicated in the next 'Across The Region'.

**PX DCP 09-04**

**Moved**

**Murfitt/Bailey**

*that the Committee moves out of Public Excluded.*

**CARRIED**

The Public Excluded section of the meeting concluded at 1.59pm.

Confirmed

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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CHAIRMAN