

*Minutes of a meeting of the Policy Committee held on Tuesday 8 July 2008
in the Council Chambers, 101 Bank Street, Te Awamutu commencing at
9.00am*

1 PRESENT

Councillor GH Jull - Chairperson

Members

Councillors – EH Barnes, MEH Cox, LWE Hoverd, PL Lee (9.08am),
GG Scaramuzza, DL Sharpe, GW Simmons, BS Thomas, GRP Webber.

Other

Group Manager Policy & Strategy - R McNeil; Secretary - C Shaw

2 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED

2/08/63

*That the apology received from His Worship the Mayor – A D Livingston and Cr
Newlands for non attendance and the apology from Cr Lee for lateness be
received.*

Cr Webber/Cr Thomas

RESOLVED

2/08/64

That the late apology from Cr Taranaki for non attendance be received.

Cr Jull/Cr Sharpe

3 LATE ITEMS

There were no late items.

4 CONFIRMATION OF ORDER OF MEETING

File: 01-85-12

RESOLVED

2/08/65

That the order of the meeting be confirmed.

Cr Barnes/Cr Cox

5 VISITORS

There were no visitors.

6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

File: 01-85-12

Minutes of Policy Committee meeting held on 10 June 2008

RESOLVED

2/08/66

That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 10 June 2008 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Cr Barnes/Cr Scaramuzza

7 WAIPA DISTRICT CYCLING STRATEGY

File: 55-28-32

Group Manager Policy and Strategy Ross McNeil said that preparation of a draft Cycling Strategy for the District is underway as a project approved by Council as part of the 2007/08 Annual Plan.

He said the purpose of the Cycling Strategy is to provide guidance to Council (and the community) in the way it promotes, plans and provides for effective, safe and convenient movement of cyclists to, from and within the main urban areas of the District, and within the local rural environment commonly used by cyclists.

Mr McNeil said that the main milestones for the achievement of Phase 1 are:

- 18 June – Steering group workshop to identify issues, opportunities and future directions
- 2 July 2008 – Preliminary draft Strategy prepared
- 30 July 2008 – Proposed draft Strategy finalised for Policy Committee agenda
- August 2008 – Draft strategy considered by Policy Committee prior to release for public comment
- August/September 2008 – Public submission period
- October 2008 – Policy committee: Hear and consider submissions, and identify recommended changes
- November 2008 – Council adopt strategy

In response to questions, Mr McNeil said that Transit will have the opportunity to comment on the strategy and that the Committee will take into consideration and hopefully complement the existing Transit plan.

Discussion around the users of the cycle ways was held and it was considered that while this is an important project, education of drivers and parents of children will need to play a part. It was considered that one of the problems with the use of cycle ways to Schools was the level of safety on the roads and some driver education was also required before a measure of comfort with safety on the bikes will be found.

Ross McNeil said that one of the items that the Committee would need to consider is to identify the projects that need to be included within the Strategy. For example the suggested combined walkway between Karapiro and Leamington and you could see that in a list of potential projects.

In response to questions Mr McNeil said that the potential for sponsorship of some of the cycle ways was probably quite high and we will need to identify some opportunities.

RESOLVED

2/08/67

That the information be received.

Cr Barnes/Cr Scaramuzza

8 REVIEW OF THE WAIKATO REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT

File: 01-69-16

Group Manager Policy and Strategy Ross McNeil said that Environment Waikato (EW) are required (by the Resource Management Act 1991 - RMA) to conduct a review of their Regional Policy Statement (RPS), which became operative in 2000. He said that this is similar to the statutory requirement Council has to review the Waipa District Plan.

The purpose of the RPS is to:

- Provide an overview of the resource management issues of the region; and,
- Achieve integrated management of natural and physical resources of the whole region

The RPS provides the overarching resource management policy framework for the Region. Recent amendments to the RMA mean that regional and district plans must give effect to the RPS, making the RPS the most significant policy document for guiding the sustainable management of resources.

In relation to the RPS, and other resource management plans, RMA amendments over the past 5 years have had the effect of:

- Strengthening the hierarchy of policy to plans (increased certainty)
- Reconfirming the importance of the RPS as an integrative policy tool
- Clarifying agency roles to avoid duplication
- Signalling a much longer planning horizon is required (up to 100 years)
- Enabling a streamlining of the content of regional and district plans
- A greater expectation of lwi input at the policy/plan development stage
- Signalling a more collaborative approach is required to achieve integrated management of resources.

The RPS is required to contain the following:

- Significant resource management issues of the region
- Resource management issues of significance to lwi of a foreshore and seabed reserve
- Objectives
- Principal reasons for adopting objectives
- Policies
- Explanation and principal reasons for adopting policies
- Methods
- Explanation and principal reasons for adopting methods
- Environmental results anticipated
- Processes to be used to deal with cross-boundary issues
- Local authorities responsible for objectives, policies and methods for controlling use of land in relation to hazardous substances, natural hazards and biodiversity.

EW have signalled the scope, structure, timing and process associated with completing the RPS review. A key proposal is to address both cross-cutting issues (such as climate change, biodiversity and sustainable agriculture) and individual resources (such as air, land and water). Such an approach is considered an effective way of ensuring integrated policy development and implementation.

EW also acknowledge that the RPS review process must have regard to the Deed of Settlement regarding the Waikato-Tainui River Claim, and the expected statutory requirement for the RPS to give effect to the vision and strategy currently being developed in relation to the Waikato River.

To facilitate the review process, EW have proposed a governance arrangement involving all local authorities in the Region. In addition, EW have prepared a draft consultation strategy to support the RPS review process. This draft strategy is to be considered by the Triennial Forum at a meeting scheduled for August 2008.

As part of the progress made to date EW has commissioned a landscape scoping report. The report will consider approaches taken across the region, how the recent case law has been applied and identify opportunities for a strong and coordinated approach to protecting significant landscapes through the RPS review.

The review process proposed by EW signals a draft RPS will be prepared in late 2009, prior to a pre-notification consultation period and the RPS's subsequent notification in 2010.

RESOLVED

2/08/68

That the information be received.

Cr Sharpe/Cr Webber

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.43am

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD

CHAIRPERSON: _____

DATE: _____

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