

Minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held in the Council Chambers, 101 Bank Street, Te Awamutu on Monday 11 April 2005 commencing at 9.00am.

1 ATTENDANCE

Councillor AJH Empson - Chairperson

Members

His Worship the Mayor AD Livingston – from item 4; Councillors – EH Barnes, RJ Cooper, GC Flay, GH Jull, PL Lee, EC Newlands – from item 8, GG Scaramuzza, DL Sharpe, BJ Taranaki, BS Thomas, GRP Webber and Committee Member G Roberts – from item 3

Staff

Chief Executive (JC Inglis), Deputy Chief Executive (GD Dyet) – from 1.15pm, Group Manager Policy & Strategy (R McNeil), Group Manager Assets, Community & Business Services (JM Mills), Utilities Services Asset Manager (P Gunasinghe) – until item 8, Roading Manager (C Clarke) – item 10, Senior Engineering Officer Programming (M Hayes) – item 10, Communications Advisor (W Green) – from item 7, Committee Secretary (C Plowright)

2 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED

2/05/39

That apologies for lateness be received from Councillor Newlands and Committee Member Roberts.

Chairman Empson/Cr Webber

3 LATE ITEMS

Councillor Lee asked if a late item could be added to the agenda concerning the number of old houses that are being relocated to Cambridge and whether the District Plan can control this activity. The Chairman suggested that Councillor Lee put his request as a Notice of Motion for consideration at the 26 April Council meeting which would give staff time to provide a response on the matter.

[Committee Member Roberts joined the meeting at 9.04am]

4 CONFIRMATION OF ORDER OF MEETING

File: 01-85-12

RESOLVED

2/05/40

That the order of the meeting be confirmed.

Cr Taranaki/Cr Webber

[Mayor Livingston joined the meeting at 9.05am]

5 VISITORS

Nil.

6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

File: 01-85-12

Minutes of Policy Committee meeting held on 14 March 2005 were included in the agenda.

RESOLVED

2/05/41

That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 14 March 2005 be received.

Cr Cooper/Cr Jull

Matters Arising -

6.1 Toilets in Gorst Avenue

File: 01-23-01 & 15-05-05

Res: 2/05/34 & 35

The Chief Executive said the consultants are progressing the work on the design and siting of the toilet block. He said he would find out where they are up to in that process.

6.2 Review of Traffic Related Bylaws

File: 45-02-08

Res: 2/05/38

Mayor Livingston asked when the signage for Chestnut Lane in Pirongia would be put up. The Chief Executive said he would make enquiries.

6.3 Maungatautari Reserve Management Plan

File: 04-03-50

Res: 2/05/37

In answer to a question from Committee Member Roberts, it was explained that the draft Management Plan released for public submission already contains the amendment suggested by Committee Member Roberts at the 14 March Policy Committee meeting.

**7 ASSESSMENT OF WATER AND SANITARY SERVICES –
CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS**

File: 28-04-72

A schedule of the submissions received, summary of the key points raised and full copies of the submissions were included in the agenda.

Graham Sweetlove from Opus Consultants attended the meeting for this item.

The Committee was reminded that Council prepared a draft Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 and these assessments were released for public review and comment on 17 February 2005. A total of 12 submissions were received, of which three have asked to be heard at the Policy Committee meeting. It was noted that no new public health issues have been identified by the submitters.

The following submissions were heard by the Policy Committee -

9.15am RT Osmond

Mr Osmond asked the Committee to consider supplying piped water to Maungakawa Road. He said the number of properties in the area is rapidly growing and he is concerned about the risk of contamination from the current water supply (rain water and bore water)

Mr Osmond urged Council to hasten the completion of the reservoir for Cambridge North so that further consideration can be given to a piped water supply for Maungakawa Road.

Councillor Sharpe asked Mr Osmond if local residents would be prepared to contribute towards the capital cost of supplying water to Maungakawa Road and Mr Osmond said that, in his opinion, he felt they would.

9.21am M Osmond on behalf of B Unwin, Cantab Management Ltd

Mr Osmond said it was imperative for Council to plan for water supply and sewage infrastructure to service the proposed new industrial zone at Hannons Road, Cambridge. He said the growth cell identified for industrial development at Hautapu is too small for the speed at which Cambridge is growing and would be inhibited by the lack of services available there.

Councillor Lee asked if, during the design phase for the expressway, there would be provision for water supply, stormwater and other services to be piped under the road. Chairman Empson said the Committee was aware of the planning issues associated with Hautapu and Cambridge North and would ask staff for a progress update.

9.35 Katherine O'Regan on behalf of Te Awamutu Public Relations Organisation

Mrs O'Regan thanked Council for prioritising the development of a new public toilet block in Te Awamutu and said the Public Relations office was very grateful for the action that has been taken. She said the submission from Te Awamutu Public Relations reiterated its earlier request for the toilet block and stressed the urgency for the new facility. She said she hoped Council would act as quickly as possible to ensure the toilets are built in the vicinity of Gorst Avenue.

Having heard the verbal submissions, the Policy Committee then considered each of the written submissions and the following issues were noted -

- The submission from Environment Waikato suggested a number of amendments to the Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services to improve the quality of the Assessment's findings.
- The submission from Andy and Teresa Miller suggested that there be a requirement for new homes to have a three-stage septic tank, the last stage water being available to irrigate gardens. Councillor Sharpe said she felt this was a good, practical suggestion that should

be encouraged. She asked if Council could supply more information to people on this option when they apply for a building consent.

- In discussing the submission from James Parlane, it was asked whether Council has an alternative water supply in the event of failure. Utilities Services Asset Manager, Punu Gunasinghe, said that during peak summer time there would be the equivalent of 12 hours of water available for normal consumption if the water supply failed. It was explained that various strategies would be used to make the back-up supply last longer and water could be supplied by tanker if necessary.
- Another issue raised in Mr Parlane's submission was that Council's public toilet cleaning contractors tip used wash water on the road or footpath outside the toilets. The Chairman said the process for cleaning the toilets, and disposing of used water, would be detailed in the contract and staff need to ensure that the contractors are adhering to that process.
- Councillor Lee asked whether commercial properties, such as Service Stations, have been requested through the District Plan to collect the run off from their properties. Graham Sweetlove (Opus Consultants) said the issue of spillage from Service Station forecourts had been identified in the Assessment under stormwater.
- The Pirongia Ratepayer Association's submission expressed concern about the Te Rore water supply. The Chief Executive said it had been installed for stock watering but some rural properties have started using it for other purposes. Councillor Sharpe said people should be advised that the water is unsafe to drink. It was explained that both the District Health Board and Environment Waikato are aware of the situation. Te Rore is budgeted for connection to the Pirongia water supply in 2007/08.

Group Manager Policy and Strategy, Ross McNeil, said that although submissions have not been received from the Medical Officer of Health (Public Health Unit at Health Waikato), staff have been in close contact during the assessment process and they are happy with the draft Assessment as presented. He said most of the issues raised in the submissions were matters for discussion outside of the context of the Assessment. However, he said the suggestions put forward in the submission by Environment Waikato had been considered by staff and would be included in the Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services.

RESOLVED

2/05/42

That following consideration of submissions on the draft Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services, the Policy Committee recommend to Council the adoption of the Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services, subject to making the changes proposed by Environment Waikato in their submission.

Cr Webber/Cr Thomas

[The meeting adjourned at 10.20am and reconvened at 10.40am. Councillor Newlands joined the meeting from 10.40am.]

8 WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN/ASSESSMENT OF REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL SERVICES – CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS

File: 92-03-01

A schedule of the submissions received, summary of the key points raised and full copies of the submissions were included in the agenda.

The Committee was reminded that Council prepared a draft Waste Management Plan and draft Assessment of Refuse Collection and Disposal Services in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Acts 1974 and 2002 which was released for public review and comment on 17 February 2005. A total of 36 submissions were received, of which five asked to be heard at the Policy Committee meeting, but only three came to the meeting.

The following submissions were heard by the Policy Committee -

10.40am Sally Hall

Mrs Hall endorsed Council's proposal to work towards zero waste. She said she is a rural resident and one of the very few people who support private recycling in Cambridge. As a part-time teacher at Te Miro School, Mrs Hall has helped to teach children about the environment, and a separate submission from the School shows how they are involved in recycling. She asked Council for some provision to allow rural people and schools to recycle.

Councillor Sharpe said she thought the suggestion of involving schools in recycling by using them as a drop off point for rural residents could be very convenient.

10.48am Colin Haines

Mr Haines said that whilst he agreed with recycling he objected to paying for it. He said there are many people like himself, who live alone on a fixed income, who do not want to pay for a recycling service. He suggested using another colour rubbish bag for recyclable material and said it would be preferable if rubbish bags could be purchased direct from Council as the cost varies amongst retailers.

11.00am Chris Humphrey on behalf of Carter Holt Harvey Fullcircle

Chris Humphrey outlined the recycling services offered by Fullcircle. He spoke about the latest approaches to recycling and answered some of the Committee's questions about recycling in general.

Having heard the verbal submissions, the Policy Committee then considered each of the written submissions. Chairman Empson said there was a common theme throughout the submissions. Most of them want a kerbside recycling service as soon as possible and some would like the service to be subsidised. Many submissions talk about the need for education, information and the recycling service to be user friendly. A number of submitters have asked for a rural recycling service and there were some requests for an inorganic rubbish collection.

Councillor Newlands said he saw value in having bins for recycling in the CBD and parks alongside the ordinary litter bins. Chairman Empson said that whilst it was a good idea, it was likely the recycling bins would be used for rubbish, and would need to be sorted when emptied.

Councillor Sharpe said most submitters wanted a recycling service before 2006 and she asked if Council had to wait that long. Group Manager Policy and Strategy, Ross McNeil, said if Council wanted to establish a recycling service it would have to be funded by way of a rate and the only way to confirm a rate is through an Annual Plan or Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP).

There was discussion concerning the process for identifying a service provider for the collection and disposal of recyclables. Mr McNeil said this would be a public process and open to whoever believes they can provide the service.

Mayor Livingston said the term "zero waste" was something Council aspired to but in reality probably wouldn't achieve. Mr McNeil said zero waste was a national initiative that a number of other Councils have signed up to. Chairman Empson suggested that the term "zero waste"

should be quoted in italics in Council's Waste Management Plan to cover this point.

It was noted that Environment Waikato have suggested in their submission that Council should join up with the Waikato Waste Advisory Service earlier than 2006. Following discussion it was agreed to amend the figure quoted in the Waste Management Plan from \$10,000 to \$25,000 for Waipa's contribution towards the Waste Advisory Service but the year will stay the same.

Under the heading of Kerbside Collection of Recycling and Refuse in the Waste Management Plan there was discussion about whether the words "access to a regular refuse collection service" should be clarified. Chairman Empson said the goal and target under this heading should stay the same but an explanation should be provided that the service will be available in rural areas but not necessarily at every gateway.

[The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.35pm and reconvened at 1.15pm. Councillors Barnes, Flay, Lee, Newlands, Scaramuzza and Taranaki, Mayor Livingston and Committee Member Roberts did not rejoin the meeting at 1.15pm]

It was agreed to amend the words under this heading to read "private sector to operate kerbside refuse collection where financially practicable".

RESOLVED

2/05/43

That following consideration of submissions on the draft Waste Management Plan and draft Assessment of Refuse Collection and Disposal Services, the Policy Committee recommend to Council the adoption of a Waste Management Plan and Assessment of Refuse Collection and Disposal Services, subject to the following changes -

- a) *That the \$10,000 for Waikato Waste Advisory Service be amended to \$25,000.*
- b) *That the words "private sector to operate kerbside refuse collection where financially practicable" be added as a note in the Waste Management Plan.*

Cr Cooper/Cr Jull

[Councillors Flay, Lee, Webber and Committee Member Roberts rejoined the meeting at 1.18pm.]

RESOLVED

2/05/44

That the Policy Committee recommends that Council consider recycling services in other areas of the District.

Cr Sharpe/Cr Thomas

[Councillors Barnes and Newlands and Mayor Livingston rejoined the meeting at 1.20pm.]

RESOLVED

2/05/45

That details of the cost of any proposed recycling service be included in the preparation of the 2006 Long Term Council Community Plan.

Cr Barnes/Cr Cooper

RESOLVED

2/05/46

That the estimated annual recycling charge is \$35 per household per year subject to the annual budgeting process.

Chairman Empson/Cr Taranaki

[Item 10 was taken at 1.25pm and then the meeting returned to item 9 at 2.33pm.]

9 STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL - ESTABLISHMENT OF A WAIKATO REGION COUNCIL CONTROLLED ORGANISATION

File: 01-69-04

Summary of Information, Statement of Proposal and Draft Statement of Intent and Forecast Financial Statements for the Proposed Council Controlled Organisation were included in the agenda.

The Committee was advised that 13 Waikato Region Councils are proposing the establishment of a council controlled organisation (CCO) to oversee the future development and delivery of shared services throughout the region. The establishment of 'Local Authority Shared Services Limited' (LASS) provides an 'umbrella' mechanism for Councils to work together to develop and deliver services that can be shared, resulting in lower operating costs compared with each Council providing the service separately.

RESOLVED

2/05/47

That -

- a) *The information be received.*
- b) *The Policy Committee supports the proposed establishment of a Council Controlled Organisation for developing shared services and Council's proposed shareholding in it.*
- c) *The Policy Committee approves the release of the Statement of Proposal for the establishment of a Council Controlled Organisation (Local Authority Shared Services Limited) for public comment and that submissions be received until 5.00pm on Monday 16 May 2005.*

Cr Lee/Cr Newlands

10 TE AWAMUTU WESTERN ARTERIAL

File: 28-04-71

Report from Opus Consultants dated 31 March 2005 was included in the agenda.

Alisdair Gray and Melanie Parsons from Opus Consultants attended the meeting for this item.

The Committee was reminded that a report on the proposed Te Awamutu Western Arterial was presented to Council on 21 December 2004. The report sought a decision on the preferred proposed alignment between Rewi Street and Alexandra Street and approval to proceed with designation of the complete route. Council decided that it wished to deliberate further on the different options and to consult with the community and further information was requested for presentation to the Policy Committee.

Mr Gray said Opus Consultants had re-examined the various options and, in particular, had looked into further versions of options 1 (Station Road East) and 5 (Anchor Park). This information was presented for the Committee's consideration.

Mr Gray said that in his opinion option 5A (Anchor Park) was the option that best met the project objectives and he recommended that Council confirm that option for preliminary design work. It was also recommended that Council address the concerns with heavy traffic in Alexandra Street and the CBD through the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) consultation process in order to develop short to medium term solutions to those problems.

Chairman Empson said there was no single solution and Council had to look at both the Western Arterial and the CBD heavy traffic problems. He said that whilst the Western Arterial would fix everything it could not be funded in the immediate future. He suggested that the Committee focus on Options 1 and 5A and decide which one was the preferred route for designation.

Councillor Lee said if the Committee put funding considerations to one side and looked at the best possible option for the route it would be either option 5 or 5A. Mayor Livingston said that whilst he agreed those options were preferable from an engineering perspective they might not be able to be funded for a very long time. He said a version of Option 1 (Station Road East) would be more achievable in the short to medium term. Councillor Newlands said he felt Council should make a commitment now to build the best possible route in 20 years time and, in the meantime, find a short to medium term solution to the problems with

heavy traffic in the CBD. Councillor Sharpe said it was in Council's best interests to designate the route now so it could plan around it.

RESOLVED

2/05/48

That the Policy Committee recommends that Council proceed with further consultation on the preferred option 5A and progresses to designation of the corridor.

Cr Lee/Cr Webber

RESOLVED

2/05/49

That the Policy Committee recommends that Council defines the Alexandra Street and CBD concerns through Council's Long Term Council Community Plan, consultation and develops short and medium term options that contribute to their resolution.

Cr Newlands/Cr Barnes

11 ALLOCATION AND EXPENDITURE OF RESERVES CONTRIBUTION FUNDS

File: 60-12-32

Report of the Chief Executive dated 5 April 2005 was included in the agenda.

The Chief Executive said reports on the allocation of reserve contribution funds were presented to Policy Committee meetings in December 2004 and February 2005 and, as a result of discussion at the meeting in February, a further report had been prepared. He said it presented a single programme for reserves development and recommended the adoption of that programme. He said the schedule of work would use up all the available reserve contributions within the next three years.

The Chief Executive said 50 – 60% of reserve contribution funds would be allocated to local projects and the Community Boards' local knowledge and interest would be used to determine how the funds should be used on each project. He explained that if the Community Boards felt a project should have a higher priority they would need to inform Council.

Mayor Livingston suggested that another column should be added to the schedule showing where reserve funds are being spent or have been allocated in the 2004/05 year. The Chief Executive said that information would be contained in a routine monthly report to Council. He said if a new project came up Council could then decide if it wanted to reprioritise the list to fit it in.

Chairman Empson asked if the Boards' Minor Community Works allocations would be increased, as had been suggested in earlier reports, to provide funding for smaller projects. The Chief Executive said the Minor Community Works allocations for the Boards and the Pirongia Ward Consultative Committee had not been increased but they would have an input into how the reserve contribution funds allocated to local projects would be spent.

The Chief Executive said the timing of Community Board and Pirongia Ward Consultative Committee meetings had not allowed them to consider the revised programme but he said they would still have the opportunity to comment on it.

Mayor Livingston said he felt the proposed programme should also show that Cambridge North receives 75% of the reserve contribution funds collected from that area. The Chief Executive said that information would be added to the schedule and the monthly report to Council would show what commitments have been made to Cambridge North in the current year.

It was **moved** Mayor Livingston, **seconded** Councillor Newlands -

That -

- a) *Council adopt the programme of Reserve Development Projects as the projects set out below to be undertaken and funded from reserves contributions for April to June of 2004/05 and for the three years from 2005/06 to 2007/08 inclusive.*
- b) *Project details and specific work locations for local reserves be referred to the relevant Community Board or the Pirongia Ward Consultative Committee for consideration and approval in consultation with appropriate staff to ensure reserve development projects are coordinated with other associated work programmes and requirements.*
- c) *Staff be delegated authority to make minor variations to the programme that are consistent with the intent of the programme.*
- d) *Progress towards achievement of the programme, any variations made and expenditure of reserves contribution funds be reported to Council as part of routine financial reports.*
- e) *That details of Cambridge North expenditure be added to the schedule. (Resolution 2/05/50)*

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Councillor Sharpe mentioned some Pirongia Ward projects that have not been included in the list. The Chief Executive said the Pirongia Ward Consultative Committee would need to advise if there were other projects that should be included.

It was agreed to rename the “River Walkway – Pirongia” project to “Pirongia Ward – River Walkway”.

Chairman Empson put the motion which was **carried**.

The Chief Executive said work on projects in the proposed programme would start immediately.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.18pm.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD

CHAIRPERSON: _____

DATE: _____