

Strategy and Policy Committee

Open Minutes

- Commencing:** Wednesday 4 August 2021, 9.30 am
- Venue:** Council Chambers, Ground Floor, Regional House, 1 Elizabeth Street, Tauranga
- Chairperson:** Cr Paula Thompson
- Deputy Chairperson:** Cr Stuart Crosby
- Members:** Chairman Doug Leeder
Cr Jane Nees
Cr Te Taru White
Cr Kevin Winters
Cr Lyall Thurston
Cr David Love
Cr Norm Bruning
Cr Bill Clark
Cr Stacey Rose
Cr Andrew von Dadelszen
- In Attendance:** Presenters - as listed in the minutes, Fiona McTavish – Chief Executive (from 12.30 pm), Namouta Poutasi – General Manager Strategy and Science, Chris Ingle – General Manager Integrated Catchments, Sarah Omundsen – General Manager Regulatory Services, Amanda Namana – Committee Advisor
- Apologies:** Cr Matemoana McDonald, Cr Toi Kai Rākau Iti

Please note that the meeting was recorded via Zoom and is available on the Council YouTube channel via this link [Strategy and Policy Committee - August 2021](#)

1. Karakia

Cr Te Taru White acknowledged the passing of both Philip Sherry and Kaumātua Dr Kihī Ngatai, followed by a karakia and a minute of silence.

2. Apologies

Moved

That the Strategy and Policy Committee:

- 1 **Accepts the apologies from Cr Matemoana McDonald and Cr Toi Kai Rākau Iti tendered at the meeting.**

Thompson/Rose

CARRIED

3. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

Cr Lyall Thurston: Agenda Item 8.6 – Recommendations from Komiti Māori

Cr Te Taru White: Agenda Item 8.6 – Recommendations from Komiti Māori

Cr Andrew von Dadelszen – Agenda Item 5.9 - Increasing Council support for volunteers and community groups - options arising from LTP 2021-31 deliberations

4. Minutes to be Confirmed

4.1 Strategy and Policy Committee Minutes - 4 May 2021

Resolved

That the Strategy and Policy Committee:

Confirms the Strategy and Policy Committee Minutes - 4 May 2021 as a true and correct record.

**Thompson/Nees
CARRIED**

5. Reports

Strategy

5.1 Operating Environment

Presentation: NZ Marine Science Conference 2021: Objective ID A3898631

Professor Chris Battershill – Waikato University Chair in Coastal Sciences presented an update to the Committee on the New Zealand Marine Sciences Society Conference held 5-8 July 2021 in Tauranga.

Key Points:

- Largest conference ever held for marine science in New Zealand and the country's first NZ Marine Science conference with a Mātauranga Māori theme
- Most of the work on large national science projects was being undertaken within the Bay of Plenty, which was an acknowledgement of the innovation happening
- Plenary speakers set the scene for Mātauranga across the conference
- The conference attracted all disciplines associated with marine science including molecular science, innovation, aquaculture, conservation and sustainably making a living out of the sea
- Kelp and algae focused on the diminishment of kelp forests, algae bioremediation opportunities for cleaning water
- Approximately 40% of carbon that came off the land was utilised in primary productivity in the sea, highlighting important connectivity
- The new algal facility at Sulphur Point was identifying many commercialisation outcomes

- Outlined the work of University of Waikato's Artificial Intelligence Institute and how this could benefit the ocean with underwater remote vehicles for invasive species or aquaculture.

Key Points - Members:

- Acknowledged the reference to Mātauranga Māori throughout the presentation.

In Response to Questions:

- Discussion had occurred on the potential transfer of responsibility for monitoring marine reserves from the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) to the Regional Council. The Resource Management Act (RMA) review may present an opportunity to forge a new way of managing marine protected areas
- International participants were looking to New Zealand for leadership and many marine science practitioners were acutely aware of first nations' interests. There was strong recognition of the role and importance of Mātauranga
- Development of a marine spatial plan should be considered quickly to create connectivity throughout the moana and lead the way with policy and management of Motiti protected areas. Data was available to support this
- Crayfish and large snapper predate kina and marine protection was trying to restore some of the balance to the food chain.

Resolved

That the Strategy and Policy Committee:

1 Receives the presentation, NZ Marine Science Conference 2021.

**Thompson/Clark
CARRIED**

General Manager Strategy and Science Namouta Poutasi and Policy and Planning Manager Julie Bevan introduced the Operating Environment report and responded to questions.

Update from Chairman Doug Leeder

Key Points:

- The raft of changes and resulting expectations was a challenge in terms of resourcing for rural communities and for councils in the freshwater and climate change spaces
- Most of the Department of Conservation (DOC) funding profile for Jobs for Nature had been allocated, therefore it was being recommended that the format for the reference group be changed
- The Farm Plan discussion document under the National Policy Statement was out for consultation until September 2021
- First draft of the regional sector's submission to the Future for Local Government had been received.

Key Points - Members:

- It was important to discuss how best to facilitate community input into how local government should operate in the future

- Councils needed to assist in facilitating community input into the various reforms.

In Response to Questions:

- Central government needed to allow more time for community engagement regarding the various reforms
- Regional councils would have responsibility for monitoring the safety of drinking water, which was included in the freshwater programme.

Update from Cr Stuart Crosby - President, Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ)

Key Points:

- Provided an update on the LGNZ conference held in Blenheim July 2021
- Heads of Agreement signed between LGNZ and the government to form a genuine partnership on how the sector and government could work together.
- The final Future for Local Government report would be presented to central government in April 2023
- Encouraged councillors to start conversations sooner rather than later with communities on the future for local government
- LGNZ was facilitating elected member input into Future for Local Government through the Zone Meetings
- Territorial Local Authorities (TLA's) had until 1 October 2021 to consider, analyse and undertake due diligence on the Three Waters data provided to them
- Concerned about how communities could participate in the proposed regional plans under the RMA reforms, given the timeframes.

Key Points - Members:

- Iwi Leadership Forum was seeking a mandate within the proposed Three Waters Entity B zone to work collectively in participating in the various reforms
- Expressed concern around engaging with communities for what were essentially government initiatives and responsibility
- The biggest challenge was identifying how to turn challenges into opportunities and councils' role in facilitating community discussion and involvement in such significant changes for local government and their communities.

In Response to Questions:

- Referenda was one of many tools available but the key was the quality of information being provided, with still further data to come from central government.

Resolved

That the Strategy and Policy Committee:

- 1 Receives the report, Operating Environment.**

**Thompson/White
CARRIED**

5.2 Bay of Connections update

Presentation: Bay of Connections update: Objective ID A3898630

Programme Manager – Regional Economic Develop Dean Howie and Bay of Connections Chair Tim Hurdle presented this item.

Key Points:

- Focus had been on the regional recovery framework
- Diversity among members provided a diverse range of thought and issues were looked at through a regional lens
- The data project was likely to grow through the Regional Data Group as information sets became available and trends emerged
- Current challenges to regional economy were labour market and housing shortages
- Was mindful of the ongoing threat of Covid-19 and the potential impact to the economy
- Provided community leadership in supporting transition to a regional low carbon economy ensuring this was not seen as a trade-off between economic growth and environmental outcomes.

Key Points - Members:

- Local developers were expressing frustration at the lack of practical solutions for recycling construction waste, particularly in Tauranga.

In Response to Questions:

- Planning at a local level for construction shortages was critical and was a concern
- Some construction waste solutions were being discussed and emphasised that more efficiency within the building sector could mean more commercial gain, along with environmental gain
- A good connection had been established between Bay of Connections and Toi Kai Rawa who were interested in accessing data for a digital project underway.

Resolved

That the Strategy and Policy Committee:

- 1 Receives the report, Bay of Connections update.**

**Winters/Rose
CARRIED**

10:52 am - The meeting **adjourned**.

11:10 am - The meeting **reconvened**.

5.3 Revised Climate Change Action Plan

Tabled Document 1 - Climate Change Action Plan 2021-23 (to replace agenda pages 49-64): Objective ID A3898827 [⇒](#)

Presentation: Revised Climate Change Action Plan: Objective ID A3898633 [⇒](#)

General Manager Integrated Catchments Chris Ingle and Senior Planner Climate Change Jane Palmer presented this item.

Key Points:

- The Climate Change Action Plan (the Plan) had been updated to reflect the decisions made following the Long Term Plan process and the funding assigned to the specific climate change projects
- The goals in the Plan had been consolidated from twelve to four
- The 19 actions in the Plan linked to one or more of the revised goals
- Six monthly progress reports to the Monitoring and Operations Committee would commence 7 September 2021
- Revision of the plan would be included in the next Long Term Plan (LTP) process, with checkpoints through each Annual Plan.

In Response to Questions:

- The carbon footprint will be updated during the 2019/2020 year
- Net emissions include the carbon offsetting from plantings, therefore gross emissions were used to provide a more accurate picture of sources of emissions and where the opportunities lay for emission reductions
- Forestry emissions are unpredictable given the harvesting regime
- Risks within the region and likely climate impacts, e.g. severe flooding (as recently seen in the West Coast), would be covered under the adaptation work underway.

Minor Amendments Suggested by Members:

- Emphasise actively engaging with communities in the wider region
- Replace 'unknown' with 'uncertain' on the second page of the Introduction
- Include reflection of Bay of Connections projects in the actions
- Spatial planning should be added under Policy and Planning.

Items for Staff Follow Up:

- Members to be kept informed of relevant data for the region e.g. recent report on sea level rise and vertical uplift.

Resolved

That the Strategy and Policy Committee:

- 1 Receives the report, Revised Climate Change Action Plan;**
- 2 Approves the revised Climate Change Action Plan;**
- 3 Delegates to the Chief Executive the ability to make minor editorial changes to the Climate Change Action Plan before publication.**

**Thompson/Nees
CARRIED**

Regulatory Policy

5.4 Essential Freshwater Policy Programme update

Presentation: Essential Freshwater Policy Programme update: Objective ID A3898634

Policy and Planning Manager Julie Bevan, Principal Advisor, Policy and Planning Nicola Green and Senior Planner (Water Policy) Reuben Gardiner presented this item.

Key Points:

- The positive messaging promoting good management practice was timely as it aligned with the release of the National Proposal for Freshwater Farm Plan discussion document.

Key Points - Members:

- Suggested that the risk identified in the report was the delivery to 14 December 2021 and could be reported to the Audit and Risk Committee and the remainder fell under the operational context
- Requested staff address issues that arose day to day and included them in the narrative of the messaging
- Supported that the messaging was regarding good farm practices and was to be exercised wisely, judiciously and with empathy.

In Response to Questions:

- Clarified that the stock exclusion regulations would not apply to any land more than 500 metres above sea level, even if the land slope was less than ten degrees
- The messaging (Attachment 1) was primarily to assist staff in engaging with affected persons but could be made available to the public.
- Would include acknowledgement that most people were supporting good farm management practices.

Resolved

That the Strategy and Policy Committee:

- 1 Receives the report, Essential Freshwater Policy Programme update;**
- 2 Endorse the key messages promoting good management practice expressed in Section 3.1 of this report;**
- 3 Confirms the public be excluded on the grounds set out in the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 from consideration of the following report attachment:**
 - (a) Essential Freshwater Policy Programme: Key Risks 04 August 2021 under Section 48(1)(a)(i) Section 7 (2)(b)(ii) as withholding the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information and that this attachment be released to the public on the Chief Executive's approval.**

**Rose/Thompson
CARRIED**

5.5 Water Shortage Events: Review of the last two seasons and renewing delegation for future events

General Manager Regulatory Services Sarah Omundsen, Regulatory Compliance Specialist Steve Pickles and Data Service Manager Glenn Ellery presented this item.

Resolved

That the Strategy and Policy Committee:

- 1 Receives the report, Water Shortage Events: Review of the last two seasons and renewing delegation for future events.**
- 2 Approves the revised Standard Operating Procedure (July 2021) that has been developed to manage and respond to water shortage events in the Bay of Plenty.**
- 3 Delegates the responsibility for issuing a Water Shortage Direction under Section 329 of the Resource Management Act 1991 to the Chief Executive.**

**Leeder/Winters
CARRIED**

Non-Regulatory Policy

5.6 Recommendations from Komiti Māori

Cr Thurston and Cr White declared an interest and refrained from voting

Key Points - Members:

- May be seen as divisive by some in our community
- Partnerships with Māori was one of Council's key strategic directions and is another step forward in acknowledging that partnership.

Moved

That the Strategy and Policy Committee:

- 1 Receives the report, Recommendations from Komiti Māori;**
- 2 Adopts the recommendations from the Komiti Māori meeting held on 24 June 2021 specific to the report, Chairperson's Report to:**
 - **Agree to amend Council's existing policy to fly the National Māori flag at Toi Moana Regional Council every day, in accordance with the New Zealand Ministry of Culture and Heritage national guidelines and protocols.**

**Rose/Bruning
CARRIED**

Cr Love **opposed** the motion.

5.7 Bay of Plenty Sustainable Homes Scheme: Initial Direction

Presentation: Sustainable Homes Scheme: Objective ID A3898636

General Manager Integrated Catchments Chris Ingle and Senior Planner Santiago Bermeo presented this item.

Key Points - Members:

- It was important to consider how electricity might be generated in New Zealand in the future
- The narrative attached to the proposal required careful consideration, regarding the justification for it.

In Response to Questions:

- It was important to recognise that while there were co-benefits such as air quality, the design of the scheme was based on the primary drivers. The committee would consider the definition of a low income household at a further meeting, prior to adoption of the scheme
- The reason for proposing to target low income households was they were the most likely in need of efficient heating and insulation.

Resolved

That the Strategy and Policy Committee:

- 1 Receives the report, Bay of Plenty Sustainable Homes Scheme: Initial Direction;**
- 2 Agrees with the intervention logic and proposed objectives for the Scheme;**
- 3 Notes the process we expect to follow to develop the Scheme.**

**Love/Nees
CARRIED**

5.8 Update of the Environmental Programmes Grants Policy

Coastal Catchments Manager Pim de Monchy and Senior Planner Santiago Bermeo presented this item.

Key Points - Members:

- Broadly supportive but required further information and guidance around compensation.

In Response to Questions:

- An escalated approval process could be put in place when a particular part of the policy was invoked.

12:26pm - Cr Rose **withdrew** from the meeting.

Items for Staff Follow Up:

- Confirmed budgets related to environmental programmes for water quality and biodiversity to be circulated to Members
- Requested a high level strategic paper in terms of funding and compensation, including opportunities and demand going forward
- In the reconsideration of Policy 4, provide options for Members to understand what a regional versus a case by case process might look like.

Resolved

That the Strategy and Policy Committee:

- 1 Receives the report, Update of the Environmental Programmes Grants Policy;**

- 2 Approves the proposed changes to the Environmental Programmes Grants Policy (Attachment 1), with the exception of Policy 4 which will be reconsidered at a future meeting of the Committee.**

**von Dadelszen/Love
CARRIED**

5.9 Increasing Council support for volunteers and community groups - options arising from LTP 2021-31 deliberations

Coastal Catchments Manager Pim de Monchy, Land Management Officer Tim Senior and Land Management Officer Anna Dawson presented this item.

Cr von Dadelszen declared an interest and refrained from voting.

Key Points:

- Staff met with Bay Conservation Alliance, Tauranga City Council, EnviroHub and Western Bay of Plenty District Council quarterly. to ensure care groups were being supported collaboratively.

Key Points - Members:

- Highlighted that the role the Regional Council played should not be underestimated and commended all staff involved in the care group sector for their work
- Needed to understand the relationships between the care groups and other volunteer environment groups where there were crossovers in roles.

In Response to Questions:

- Staff had close relationships with the groups doing this valuable work. While the groups were always wanting to accomplish more the resources were not available
- Staff ensured there was collaboration between the various groups to ensure cross over of roles were minimised
- The care groups were asked if they would prefer the support provided through partner non-governmental organisations (NGOs) however feedback indicated the face to face relationship with council staff was highly valued.

Items for Staff Follow Up:

- Members sought an integrated report to the Monitoring and Operations Committee, providing a regional breakdown of how funds were spent, outcomes achieved and the scale of volunteer participation.

Resolved

That the Strategy and Policy Committee:

- 1 Receives the report, Increasing Council support for volunteers and community groups - options arising from LTP 2021-31 deliberations;**
- 2 Approves Council supporting environmental volunteers and care groups with the activities and methods identified in this paper that have not been supported in the past;**

- 3 Approves the budget to support environmental volunteers and care groups in the region by \$215,000 per year.**

**Leeder/Clark
CARRIED**

6. Public Excluded Section

Resolved

Resolution to exclude the public

- 1 Excludes the public from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting as set out below:**

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

Item No.	Subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Grounds under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution	When the item can be released into the public
8.5	Essential Freshwater Policy Programme update - Attachment 2 - Essential Freshwater Policy Programme: Key Risks 04 August 2021 - Public Excluded	Withholding the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.	48(1)(a)(i) Section 7 (2)(b)(ii).	On the Chief Executive's approval.
6.1	Public Excluded Strategy and Policy Committee Minutes - 4 May 2021	As noted in the relevant Minutes.	As noted in the relevant Minutes.	To remain in public excluded.

**Thompson/Leeder
CARRIED**

1.10 pm - the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED 27 OCTOBER 2021

Cr Paula Thompson
Chairperson, Strategy and Policy Committee