
Strategy Committee

OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Horowhenua District Council Strategy Committee held in the Council Chambers, 126-148 Oxford St, Levin, on Wednesday 7 November 2018 at 4.00 pm.

PRESENT

Chair	Mrs V M Kaye-Simmons
Councillors	Mr W E R Bishop
	Mr R J Brannigan
	Mr R H Campbell
	Mr B F Judd
	Mrs J F G Mason
	Mrs C B Mitchell
	Ms P Tukapua
	Mr B P Wanden

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr D M Clapperton	
Mr D Law	(Chief Financial Officer)
Ms S Grant	(Group Manager – People & Community)
Mr D McCorkindale	(Group Manager – Strategy & Development)
Mr A Grant	(Group Manager – Infrastructure Services)
Mrs N Brady	(General Manager Horowhenua 2040)
Mr D Haigh	(Growth Response Manager)
Mr D O'Regan	(Acting Communications Manager)
Mrs K J Corkill	(Meeting Secretary)

MEDIA IN ATTENDANCE

Ms A Loo	("Manawatū Standard")
----------	-----------------------

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

There were four people in attendance at the commencement of the meeting.

1 Apologies

Apologies were recorded for Mayor Feyen and Cr Gimblett.

MOVED by Cr Wanden, seconded Cr Mason:

THAT the apologies from Mayor Feyen and Cr Mason be accepted.

CARRIED

2 Public Participation

Mrs Christina Paton spoke to the following:

7.1 2018 Resident Satisfaction Survey

Given the very small number of respondents – “more than 800” – compared to the stated population of 33,030, Mrs Paton suggested the results of the survey should be used with caution, giving her reasons for this viewpoint. She noted there was also no indication of where in the district the responses had come from.

8.1 Growth Response Projects Update

Mrs Paton queried what was meant by the statement “Provide certainty around services capacity and equitable sharing of costs”. Also queried was where the Foxton Beach Freeholding Account and Development Contributions fitted in and what was meant by ‘key stakeholders’ as residents and ratepayers were not specifically mentioned.

8.2 Policy Development Considerations

Mrs Paton queried the reference to ‘Private Developer contributions/Agreements and what that entailed.

In relation to the Resident Satisfaction Survey, Mr Clapperton said he would be happy to provide the geographic spread, where respondents were residing, their age and gender. Also in terms of the 800 respondents relative to the total population, that was statistically a reasonable number for these types of surveys, with NBR surveys for national politics only having 1,000 respondents for a population of 4½ million. Whilst Waiopahu College was used to undertake the survey, he confirmed that expert advice had been received in the development of the questions and formulation of the survey; that was not done by the College.

Officers would respond to Mrs Paton’s further queries when their reports were presented.

3 Late Items

There were no late items.

4 Declaration of Interest

Deputy Mayor Bishop declared an interest in 8.2 Policy Development Considerations.

5 Confirmation of Minutes – 26 September 2018

MOVED by Cr Campbell, seconded Cr Wanden:

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Strategy Committee held on Wednesday, 26 September 2018, be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

6 Announcements

Cr Kaye-Simmons announced that the Levin Public Gardens had received an international Green Flag Award, one of 20 sites in New Zealand, which was really exciting. Thanks would be passed on to the large number of KHB (Keep Horowhenua Beautiful) volunteers and organisations involved in maintaining the gardens.

7 People and Community

7.1 2018 Resident Satisfaction Survey

Purpose

To present the summary results of the 2018 Resident Satisfaction Survey for Horowhenua District Council. An info-graphic showing summary results of the survey is attached to this report.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Bishop, seconded Cr Brannigan:

THAT Report 18/624 2018 Resident Satisfaction Survey be received.

THAT this decision is recognised as not significant in terms of S76 of the Local Government Act.

CARRIED

Mr O'Regan spoke to this report and gave an overview of results of the survey which had been undertaken earlier in the year. With 800 people taking part, Mr O'Regan said this was a lot of people from the community and it was quite a large and significant survey for a Council of this size, with HDC being one of the few Councils that did this on an annual basis.

In terms of the demographics of those that were surveyed, Mr O'Regan said there was a higher proportion of older residents because it was a landline survey; however it had also been available on line in an endeavour to increase the number of younger residents taking part.

<u>Respondents by Age:</u>	18-24 year olds	9.22%
	25-39 year olds	12.63
	40-49 year olds	20.58%
	50-64 year olds	28.54%
	65 plus	26.77%

<u>By location:</u>	Kere Kere Ward	13.48%
	Levin Ward	59.69%
	Miranui	5.26%
	Waiopahu	21.57%

Mr O'Regan spoke to the InfoGraphic included in the report; the areas where Council was doing well and where it could do better and the other information that had come out of the survey in relation to people in the community, also responding to queries and comments from Councillors.

Whilst the full survey had not been provided publicly, Mr O'Regan said the results had been taken to the Leadership Team and from there the responsible managers had taken them back to their teams. The teams did take note of the results and did act on them. He confirmed the InfoGraphic would be posted on Council's website tomorrow and would be included in the next "Community Connection".

Mr Clapperton gave an explanation as to what prompted the types of questions that were included in the survey, with feedback sought from officers and groups with whom Council dealt as to what information they would like to gather from the community.

Picking up on Mrs Paton's comments and commenting on the presentation to the Community Wellbeing Committee of the community wellbeing part of the survey, Cr Judd, said one would get a different view or answer to some of the questions in the survey depending on who one was talking to and Council would not want to base how it moved forward solely on the survey responses from 800 people of varying ages and in varying locations. It needed to be acknowledged that there were a lot of processes, such as the LTP, that fed in to moving the organisation forward. The survey did provide a flavour, but certainly a lot more was needed. Cr Judd said that had come through the CWC really strongly and the government departments around the table had supported that because a lot of their actions were strongly evidenced based so gave a different reading to the survey and that needed to be understood moving forward.

8 Strategy and Development

8.1 Growth Response Projects Update

Purpose

To provide a status update on the Growth Response work programme with a focus on providing up to date information on current key projects and planning.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Bishop, seconded Cr Judd:

THAT Report 18/623 Growth Response Projects Update be received.

THAT this matter or decision be recognised as not significant in terms of s76 of the Local Government Act 2002.

CARRIED

Requesting that the report be taken as read, Mr Haigh initially responded to Mrs Paton's queries.

- Foxton Beach Growth Area Master Plan and equitable sharing of costs – this was about endeavouring to understand the big picture when it came to potential future growth and applying costings to that growth to ensure any development that did happen was attributed to those costs.
- the Growth Strategy and public engagement feedback – this was not in reference to the Customer Satisfaction Survey but was in relation to public engagement undertaken specifically around the growth strategy. In November/December last year Council engaged district-wide with all land owners within growth areas, as well as through the LTP consultation process. Some engagement with land owners had occurred as late as last week. The result of that consultation would be presented when the Growth Strategy came up for adoption.
- Foxton Beach and the reference to key stakeholders – this included anyone that Council perceived as having more than a general interest and potentially having an interest in the design or master plan that was being developed specifically around Foxton Beach. There had been notification to all iwi groups and engagement with landowners within the development – including phone conversations and site meetings with the site and feedback had been sought from neighbouring properties. There had or would be engagement with the Foxton Community Board, the Foxton Beach Progressive Association, Councillors, Horizons, utility groups and government agencies such as the

Ministry of Education. Whilst the members of the public were obviously stakeholders, the general public was not classified as a key stakeholder at this juncture.

Speaking to the report and responding to Councillors comments, queries, Mr Haigh highlighted the importance of the O2NL decision which was starting to move forward. It was understood this would be going to the Board on 14 December, with it having been indicated that there would be a decision this side of Christmas. It validated the work done on the Growth Strategy and the Town Centre and was a really important milestone.

Mr Haigh further highlighted:

- the population growth figures, being 33,030 in 2018, up from 31,300 in 2014;
- there had been 69 buildings consents for the month and 253 for the year to date, well in excess of last year.

Also raised and discussed:

- Gladstone Green and the stormwater analysis being undertaken and any possible uses for that information going forward, particularly in terms of Lake Horowhenua, with Mr Haigh saying that it was specific to that site;
- the Foxton Beach Master Plan which had been work-shopped last week. The quality of the work undertaken was commended with it making a difference in terms of engagement;
- the turn-around in terms of growth from the zero growth predicted in 2015 and the challenges that that was bringing, particularly in terms of such issues as affordable housing;
- in relation to the transformation of the Levin town centre, it was good that officers went out to another district and looked at what was being done there as it was important to have enough flexibility in the strategy to be responsive to new opportunities;
- understanding the spread of the additional people coming into the district and where they were coming from;
- the representation around the Community Wellbeing Committee table, such as MoE and the Health Board, provided the opportunity to start discussions around catering for the growth challenges;
- contrary to previous data received, the information now being provided by Statistics NZ was more in line with what was actually happening;
- the understanding and adjusting to the changing demographics in relation to the district's smaller towns.

Having declared an interest in the following item, Deputy Mayor Bishop did not participate in the discussion/debate.

8.2 Policy Development Considerations

Purpose

To consider certain policy development matters that were to be part of the 2018/2019 work programme and a related fit for purpose planning/budgeting process for the 2019/20 financial year.

MOVED by Cr Brannigan, seconded Cr Mitchell:

THAT Report 18/630 on Policy Development Considerations be received.

THAT this matter or decision be recognised as not significant in terms of s76 of the Local Government Act 2002.

CARRIED

Responding to Mrs Paton's query in relation to Private Developer Contributions/Agreements, Mr Clapperton said that there were no terms of reference and these were assessed on a case by case basis. What Council did was to identify infrastructure requirements to determine whether there was a component that was required from a Council perspective over and above what the developer was providing. The opportunity would then be taken to negotiate with that developer relative to the additional Council cost that may be required. It was a tool available to Council and Council had been able to use that on two or three occasions in the last few years.

With regard to Development Contributions and moving this forward, with Tauranga suggested as a Council worth looking at in terms of its policy, Mr Clapperton referred to Recommendations 2.3 and 2.4 which provided for Officers to keep a watching brief on developments at a national level in this regard. There was not as yet any indication of time frames and no further signal had come through since the recent presentation to Councillors by Brookfields. Councillors would be kept abreast of any relevant information as it came through.

With the agreement of the mover and seconder the words "or earlier if Government legislation changes" were added to 2.4.

Responding to a query about recent information produced by the Productivity Commission, Mr Clapperton said that information had come to Council earlier in the week. Given the circumstances the district was facing around growth, this was very relevant. Submissions were due in February 2019.

Mr McCorkindale and Mr Law also provided an explanation as to how the list of Hot Topics had been determined, with these having come from a recent Council workshop.

MOVED by Cr Brannigan, seconded Cr Mitchell:

THAT Council officers be instructed to keep a watching brief on developments at a national level as they relate to the funding of infrastructure and that of Local Government services in general.

THAT investigations and analysis continue so to ensure that Council is ready to consider the introduction of new policy tools if considered appropriate as part of the 2021-2041 LTP or earlier if Government legislation changes.

THAT the Strategy Committee recommends to Council that it utilises an Exceptions Annual Plan process to (where necessary) refine or modify the 2019/20 work programme and associated budgets established by the 2018-2038 LTP.

CARRIED

5.25 pm

There being no further business, the Chairperson
declared the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD
AT A MEETING OF THE STRATEGY COMMITTEE
HELD ON

DATE:.....

CHAIRPERSON:.....