
Waikato Plan Committee

OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Waikato Plan Committee held in Waikato Regional Council Chambers on 19 June 2017 at 9:30am

	Present:
Waikato Regional Council	Cr A Livingston
Hamilton City Council	Mayor A King
	Cr M Gallagher
Hauraki District Council	Mayor J Tregidga
Matamata Piako District Council	Mayor J Barnes
Otorohanga District Council	Mayor M Baxter
South Waikato District Council	Mayor J Shattock
Waikato District Council	Mayor A Sanson
Waipa District Council	Mayor J Mylchreest (Chaired the meeting)
Waitomo District Council	Cr A Goddard

	Observers
New Zealand Transport Agency	P McLean

	In Attendance:
Staff	
Waikato Plan Project Team	Ken Tremaine - Project Advisor Bill Wasley - Governance Advisor Rachael McMillan – Project Team Susan Henderson – Project Team
Waikato Regional Council	Alex Williams – Democracy Advisor Urlwyn Trebilco – Principal Strategic Advisor Stephen Ward – Communications Advisor
Waikato District Council	Gavin Ion – Chief Executive
Hamilton City Council	Blair Bowcott – Executive Director Special Projects
Waipa District Council	Garry Dyet – Chief Executive

Apologies

Apologies were received from Margaret Devlin (Independent Chair), Mayor David Trewavas, Mayor Brian Hanna, Bev Gatenby, Mark Ingle, Steven Wilson

Accepted

Confirmation of Agenda

(Agenda Item 2)

Mayor J Barnes moved/Cr A Livingston seconded.

WPJC17/15

THAT the agenda of the meeting of the Waikato Plan Committee of 19 June 2017, as circulated, be confirmed as the business for the meeting.

The motion was put and carried (WPJC17/15)

Disclosures of Interest

(Agenda Item 3)

There were no disclosures of interest.

Confirmation of Minutes – Deliberations Meeting

File: 03 04 32 (Agenda Item 4) Doc # 10558749

The Committee was provided with the minutes of the Waikato Plan Deliberations meeting of 30 May 2017.

There was no further discussion on this item.

Mayor A Sanson moved/Mayor J Barnes seconded.

WPJC17/16

THAT the Minutes of the Waikato Plan Committee meeting of 30 May 2017 be received and approved as a true and correct record.

The motion was put and carried (WPJC17/16)

Approval Report

File: 03 04 32 (Agenda Item #5) Doc #10618404, 10618798 and 10617423

Project team members Ken Tremaine (Project Advisor), Rachael McMillan, and Bill Wasley (Governance Advisor) presented the Committee with the Waikato Plan and Summary Document and the updated Leadership Group Agreement for approval.

Changes to the Waikato Plan made in response to decisions from the 30 May 2017 deliberations meeting included:

- A mihi approved by Margaret Devlin
- Public transport content revision
- Revisions to the sustainable agriculture context and content
- Iwi/Maori changes
- Improvements to the affordable housing content
- Additions to the Waters centre of excellence context
- Other minor amendments.

The Governance Advisor reiterated that the implementation arrangements are transitional, recognising that there may be subsequent changes, such as the further integration of Waikato Means Business and Future Proof.

The updated Waikato Plan Leadership Group Agreement was presented by the Governance Advisor. The Governance Advisor noted that the team recognises that the Leadership Group will be large but it was important to focus on achieving balanced representation across Local Government, Central Government agencies, business, community and tāngata whenua. There have already been challenges in reducing the local government membership from all councils to five representatives from sub-regional groupings.

Thames Coromandel DC and Rotorua DC had observer status and had not participated in plan development. They have been included in the Leadership Group agreement but they would need to make a decision whether they intended to participate in the Leadership Group.

The Governance Advisor outlined the plan adoption process. A generic report for adoption would be circulated to councils. Each partner council would need to adopt the plan between 19 June and 1 August. Each council would then need to advise the project team that the plan had been through their council processes.

The launch of the plan will be scheduled for a date in August/September and potential arrangements are in the process of being considered.

The first meeting of the new joint committee – the Waikato Plan Leadership Group – is scheduled for 16 October 2017.

During questions, answers and related discussion the following points were noted:

The concept of the 'Water Centre of Excellence' referred to a collaboration of various groups that worked in this space already, including drawing on existing local authority knowledge. It will be focused on the Three Waters.

The Committee raised concerns about the membership of the Leadership Group. The question was asked that if councils were not willing to fund the implementation of the plan should they simply be observers? The Governance Advisor noted that a decision had not yet been made on this point. Some partner councils considered that those who do not contribute financially to implementation should be observers, while others would like to see all councils within the Waikato Region included. No decision was made.

The Committee was advised that implementation funding arrangements would have been considered as part of the Councils' 2017/2018 Annual Plans. The budget arrangements for the first three years have been through the regional Chief Executives Group several months ago. The first year budget covered seed capital for getting implementation underway. Ongoing implementation requirements were yet to be established, this would be a working of the Leadership Group as priorities are agreed. Staff advised that 25 per cent of funding in the second year of implementation was expected to be external, with 50 per cent expected in the third year. The Leadership Group would consider external funding from organisations, Government and other Crown entities. With the Annual Plan 2017/2018, councils were committed for a year and could review after that. The Committee noted that it was important that councils could see the benefit for both their areas, and across the region.

It was noted that this is a long term plan and councils need to invest to get access to crown funding. The Committee was advised that Central Government is well aware of the Waikato Plan and could see its merits. Also Government is observing how the Waikato councils were working together. To gain crown funding it is essential that there is ongoing demonstrative collaborative support across the region. A member noted that with smaller councils being

supported by larger councils, benefits were available to them that would not be able to be achieved without region wide involvement.

Discussion commenced on the Recommendations, and the Leadership Group. Mayor Andrew King noted that HCC supports the plan and how it works towards improving prosperity across the region. Mayor King moved an amendment to the Leadership Group arrangements. Mayor King noted that feedback and information gathering was best done in a smaller group and suggested that the proposed arrangement of this group was too large. He noted that reducing the membership would be too hard once the Group was established.

Mayor A King moved/Mayor J Mylchreest seconded:

THAT the Waikato Plan Joint Committee:

a. Approve the:

Updated Leadership Group Agreement in Appendix C, for inclusion in the adopted Waikato Plan document

The membership will be as follows:

- Independent Chairperson (non-elected member)
- Local Government – one representative being the chair of the Waikato Mayoral Forum
- Tāngata whenua –one representative selected by iwi
- Business / Community –one representative selected from the Steering Group of Waikato Means Business
- Government Agencies – up to four representatives (non-voting)

In discussion of this amendment, the Committee noted that:

- The Leadership Group had delegations to act independently and were not required to recommend back to the Mayoral Forum.
- A member suggested that there needed to be more than one iwi representative with iwi preferring to act in their own capacity as opposed to being spoken for.
- The Committee raised concerns that, with amending the arrangement of the Leadership Group, there would be a need to refer back to partner councils for approval, resulting in the plan not being adopted at this meeting.
- The Committee raised concern about amending the arrangement of the Leadership Group when there were no non-local government members at the current meeting.
- A member suggested that a member of Waikato Means Business on the Leadership Group would cover the social sector input. The Project Advisor noted that this would not sufficiently cover the community/social sector who are potential funding partners and sat outside of the business grouping.
- A member raised concerns that having a Local Government representative from the Mayoral Forum might result in a narrow view and smaller councils not having a clear voice.

The Committee agreed that, while the original recommendation involved too many members, Mayor King's suggestion was a bare minimum and a middle ground was needed. The Committee suggested also that a 'review' of the Leadership Group arrangement be committed to within the recommendation.

This motion was amended to:

THAT the Waikato Plan Joint Committee:

a. Approve the:

Updated Leadership Group Agreement in Appendix C, for inclusion in the adopted Waikato Plan document

The membership will be as follows:

- Independent Chairperson (non-elected member)
- Local Government – one representatives being the chair of the Waikato Mayoral Forum
- Tāngata whenua – up to three representatives selected by iwi
- Business – one representative selected from Waikato Means Business
- Community – one representative
- Government Agencies – up to four representatives (non-voting)

Leadership group arrangement will be reviewed within 18 months.

This motion was put (two votes for and seven against) and therefore failed for lack of support.

Further discussion in regards to the Leadership Group ensued. The Committee agreed that there needed to be public clarity of any changes made to the group, especially in relation to the fact that the membership structure had already been publicly consulted on and iwi were aware that provision for up to six iwi representatives has been discussed. The Committee decided that it would be prudent to defer any reduction in the iwi representations until a later date so that it could be given the appropriate due consideration.

The Committee agreed to only amend the recommendation to note that membership of the Leadership Group would be reviewed within 12 months of the adoption of the plan with the aim of reducing numbers to 12 in total.

Mayor A King moved/Mayor J Mylchreest seconded.

WPJC17/16

THAT the Waikato Plan Joint Committee:

- a) Approve the:
 - Changes made to the Plan in response to the Joint Committee special consultative procedure deliberations meeting on 30 May 2017 as set out in the approval report and Waikato Plan in Appendix B.
 - The amended decisions in relation to submissions as set out in Appendix A;
- b) Approve the:
 - Waikato Plan and summary document including the changes as attached in Appendix B and recommend to the partner councils that the draft Waikato Plan and summary document be adopted;
- c) Approve the:
 - Updated Leadership Group Agreement in Appendix C, for inclusion in the adopted Waikato Plan document;
 - Referral to the partner councils to establish the Waikato Plan Leadership Group as a Joint Committee under the Local Government Act 2002.
- d) Approve the:
 - Drafted Mihi for inclusion in the adopted Waikato Plan document
- e) Review the membership of the Leadership Group within 12 months of adoption of the plan with the aim being to reduce the number to 12 members in total.

The motion was put and carried (WPJC17/16)

The meeting closed at 10:58am