
ORDINARY MEETING

OF

GOVERNANCE, FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Time: 9.15am
Date: Thursday, 30 April 2015
Venue: Committee Room 1
Ground Floor, Council Offices
101 Wakefield Street
Wellington

MEMBERSHIP

Mayor Wade-Brown

Councillor Ahipene-Mercer
Councillor Coughlan
Councillor Eagle
Councillor Foster
Councillor Free
Councillor Lee
Councillor Lester (Chair)

Councillor Marsh
Councillor Pannett
Councillor Peck
Councillor Ritchie
Councillor Sparrow
Councillor Woolf
Councillor Young

Have your say!

You can make a short presentation to the Councillors at this meeting. Please let us know by noon the working day before the meeting. You can do this either by phoning 803-8334, emailing public.participation@wcc.govt.nz or writing to Democratic Services, Wellington City Council, PO Box 2199, Wellington, giving your name, phone number and the issue you would like to talk about.

AREA OF FOCUS

The Governance, Finance and Planning Committee is responsible for long-term planning, setting the strategic direction for the city, agreeing outcomes, priorities, performance frameworks and annual budgets. The Committee is responsible for the long-term plan, annual plan, annual report, and quarterly reports. The Committee also makes sure residents are kept informed about what the Council is doing, are able to have their say, and feel confident that their views count.

Quorum: 8 members

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1 Meeting Conduct

1.1 Apologies

The Chairperson invites notice from members of apologies, including apologies for lateness and early departure from the meeting, where leave of absence has not previously been granted.

1.2 Conflict of Interest Declarations

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have.

1.3 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2015 will be put to the Governance, Finance and Planning Committee for confirmation.

1.4 Public Participation

A maximum of 60 minutes is set aside for public participation at the commencement of any meeting of the Council or committee that is open to the public. Under Standing Order 3.23.3 a written, oral or electronic application to address the meeting setting forth the subject, is required to be lodged with the Chief Executive by 12.00 noon of the working day prior to the meeting concerned, and subsequently approved by the Chairperson.

1.5 Items not on the Agenda

The Chairperson will give notice of items not on the agenda as follows:

Matters Requiring Urgent Attention as Determined by Resolution of the Governance, Finance and Planning Committee.

1. The reason why the item is not on the agenda; and
2. The reason why discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.

Minor Matters relating to the General Business of the Governance, Finance and Planning Committee.

No resolution, decision, or recommendation may be made in respect of the item except to refer it to a subsequent meeting of the Governance, Finance and Planning Committee for further discussion.

2. General Business

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2014

Purpose

1. To report on the work and achievements of the Accessibility Advisory Group (AAG) in 2014 and to signal the group's upcoming work programme.

Recommendations

That the Governance, Finance and Planning Committee:

1. Receive the information.
2. Note the work and achievements of the Accessibility Advisory Group in the period January 2014 to March 2015.

Background

2. The AAG's Terms of Reference, which were substantially changed in 2014 following a major review of the Council's advisory groups, require the AAG to publicly report progress against its work programme. The AAG may also raise issues with the Council through its Annual Report.

Discussion

3. The AAG has produced its Annual Report covering the period January 2014 to March 2015, which is appended as Attachment One.
4. The AAG believes that its new Terms of Reference provide clear guidance on how the AAG can best work with the Council. The AAG has started work on its approved work programme for 2014-2015.
5. The approved work programme is included as Appendix One of the AAG's Annual Report, which also includes information about meeting attendance and membership in Appendix Two.
6. The AAG has noted the following highlights for the period:
 - the completion of works to rectify ongoing accessibility challenges in Cuba Street
 - the open attitude Councillors and Council staff have to improving accessibility in Wellington
 - the significant number of projects the AAG has had an opportunity to advise on
 - the eagerness of many project leaders to meet with the AAG to seek practical advice from those with lived experience of disability.
7. The AAG's report also flags that members were disappointed that:
 - the position of Accessibility Advisor was not continued in 2015
 - the significant investment in the Parliament Precinct did not result in improved accessibility.

Item 2.1

8. The AAG valued the Accessibility Advisor position because they considered it a direct and effective channel through which the AAG and the Council improved accessibility in Wellington.
9. Officers have advised the AAG that the Accessibility Advisor was never intended to be a permanent position. The 2-year, fixed term position was created under the Accessible Wellington Action Plan (AWAP) to embed accessibility within business-as-usual across the Council. The Community Services team is still responsible for ensuring that the AWAP is implemented. The Community Services Manager now attends AAG meetings to provide accessibility updates and to be a direct channel for communication between the AAG and the Council.
10. The AAG worked with the Council's Urban Design team on the Parliamentary Precinct project and developed accessible designs for Parliamentary Services to consider. Parliamentary Services did not accept these proposals.

Next Actions

11. The AAG intends to continue maintaining and improving accessibility in Wellington in 2015/16, with a particular focus on mobility parking, embedding accessibility awareness across all Council activities and shaping the accessibility of the urban environment.
12. Officers will work with the AAG to develop its work programme early in 2015/16.

Attachments

Attachment 1. Annual Report 2014 for Accessibility Advisory group

Page 10

Author	Simon Wright, Snr Advisor Consult&Engagement
Authoriser	Greg Orchard, Chief Operating Officer

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Consultation and Engagement

The AAG has approved its Annual Report. No consultation has been undertaken for this report.

Treaty of Waitangi considerations

There are no Treaty of Waitangi considerations for this report.

Financial implications

There are no financial implications. The AAG is managed through existing budgets.

Policy and legislative implications

There are no policy or legislative implications associated with this report.

Risks / legal

There are no legal or other risks associated with this report.

Climate Change impact and considerations

There are no climate change impacts or considerations associated with this report.

Communications Plan

A communications plan is not required.

Accessibility Advisory Group

Annual Report 2014

Co-Chair's report

We are pleased to report the Wellington City Council Accessibility Advisory Group (AAG) had another successful year.

The membership of the AAG has undergone significant change and refreshment as long-serving members have reached the end of their maximum term of service or moved away from Wellington City. Newly appointed members have demonstrated a keen interest in making Wellington the coolest little accessible capital.

The highlights have been:

- Seeing the completion of works to rectify ongoing accessibility challenges in Cuba Street
- The open attitude Councillors and Council staff have to improving accessibility in Wellington
- The significant number of projects we have had an opportunity to advise on
- The eagerness of many project leaders to meet with the AAG to seek practical advice from those with lived experience.

Low lights have been:

- While we recognise the position of Accessibility Advisor was never intended to be permanent, it was disappointing to see the position will not be continued in 2015. The Accessibility Advisor role was a direct and highly effective channel through which the AAG and the WCC improved accessibility in Wellington.
- We were disappointed that the significant investment in the Parliament Precinct does not include a new accessible route. The grand staircase is not design to be accessible to all and is missed opportunity for improving accessibility.

In 2015 we will continue maintaining and improving accessibility in Wellington with special focus on mobility parking, embedding accessibility awareness across all Council activities and shaping the accessibility of the urban environment.

Purpose

The purpose of the Accessibility Advisory (AAG) is to:

- Advise Council on how to help grow a great and accessible City where barriers to people with impairments are minimised.
- Bring lived experience and knowledge to Council around accessibility issues in the context of Council's roles and priorities.

The AGG will not be seen as representing all views on accessibility in the city.

Terms of Reference Review

The Terms of Reference were reviewed in 2014. The updated terms of reference provide the AAG with clear guidelines on how best to work with Council.

The new Terms of Reference base the AAG activities on the financial year rather than the calendar year. This report covers the period January 2014 to March 2015 to transition towards financial year reporting.

Annual Work Programme

As part of the 2014 Terms of Reference a new process of implementing an annual work programme (See Appendix One) was agreed on. The purpose of the work programme was to ensure that the work of the AAG was aligned with the City Council's Annual Plan and Long Term Plan.

The agreed work programme is set out in a letter that is attached as Appendix One. The following table summarises the work programme and comments on progress.

Item 2.1 Attachment 1

Work programme item	Progress
<u>Urban Landscape and Open Space Projects</u> To include projects such as Kilbirnie Centre upgrade, the Children’s Garden and the Victoria Street Precinct	The AAG has given advice on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Children’s Garden • the Victoria Street Precinct • the Mount Victoria Master Plan • Accessibility at the Museum of Wellington City and Sea, in the Parliamentary Precinct and for City Housing.
<u>Earthquake Strengthening</u> Providing advice on accessibility requirements while improving the earthquake strengthening of Council builds.	Work on this item will be scoped in last part of 2014/15.
<u>Transport</u> Work with officers to provide input into transport projects and support the Council to ensure compliance around the use of mobility parks.	The AAG provided advice on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Island Bay cycle way • four new mobility parking in the central city Work on mobility park compliance is planned for 2015/16.
<u>Events</u> Work with officers to develop a checklist for Council and event organisers which will help them identify and address issues so that their events are accessible to all.	This work will be scoped in the last part of 2014/15.

The AAG recommended that the 2014/15 work programme should include actions on accessible information as well as relate to the Accessible Wellington Action Plan. It hopes these areas of work can be added to the 2015/16 work programme.

Meetings

The AAG met 15 times between January 2014 and March 2015, with additional sub-group meetings carried out as required. The agendas and minutes for these meetings are available on the Wellington City Council’s website.

Membership

The AGG has eight members and one vacancy which will be advertised on the completion of a WCC internal restructuring. Tables listing the names of current AAG members and of ex-members who have left the AAG since the 2013 Annual Report are provided in Appendix Two.

Advice

The following is a list of the major pieces of work carried out by the Accessibility Advisory Group in 2014, and demonstrates how the Accessibility Advisory Group works on a wide variety of issues with Councillors and Council Officers.

Accessible Wellington Action Plan

The AAG believes that removing accessibility barriers will help grow the city and therefore recommends ensuring that accessibility is improved by reviewing and strengthening the Accessibility Wellington Action Plan in 2015/16. The Council should consider:

- Adding a section on accessibility in project Terms of Reference and templates
- Developing a network of accessibility champions across the Council
- Ensuring that there are a good range of accessible attractions for cruise ship passengers.

Parliamentary Precinct

The AAG is disappointed that the joint Parliamentary Services – Council project to upgrade the Parliamentary Precinct has not improved accessible access to the cenotaph or to Parliament via the grand stairway. In our view, these decisions are short-sighted and contrary to both the Accessible Wellington Action Plan and the second strategic objectives of Parliamentary Services – an “Accessible Parliament”.

Victoria St Upgrade

The following comments were made regarding the Victoria St upgrade:

- Mobility parking needs to be retained during the work
- Access must be taken into account at every stage of work
- The crossing on Dixon and Victoria St at the moment is very inaccessible, it would be good to see this brought up to standard
- Any seating needs to have standard arm rests and be low enough for cane users to pick up that there is a seat there
- Footpaths must not be obstructed

Overall the AAG is very happy with how the Memorial Park Alliance who is running the Victoria St Upgrade has interacted and consulted with them.

Mt Victoria Master Plan

The AAG provided officers with pre-consultation advice which included:

- the need for a section on how the plan deals with accessibility
- plans should comply with accessibility standards described by New Zealand Standard 4121:2001
- the social and recreation section of the Plan should provide for accessibility
- improved mobility parking is needed

- Braille signage should be considered.

While outside the scope of the Mount Victoria Master Plan project, the AAG believes that a ramp or lift should be installed to make the Mount Victoria lookout accessible as this is one of Wellington best view points.

Museum of Wellington City and Sea

The following comments were made regarding the upgrade of the Museum of Wellington City and Sea:

- Number and location of mobility parks
- Accessible tours of the Museum
- Films shown there should be captioned and/or interpreted into New Zealand Sign Language

Island Bay cycle way

The following comments were made regarding the proposed changes to the Island Bay Cycle Way:

- Cycle lanes inside parked cars put pressure on people getting from a car to pavement. In effect, there is traffic on both sides.
- Pedestrians should still have priority in shared space.
- Motorised wheelchairs should be able to use the cycleway as they can travel at similar speeds to bicycles and because pedestrians are much slower.
- Cycle parks numbers are increasing in the city but there is a dilemma around keeping pedestrian space free.

City Housing

The following comments were made regarding the changes to City Housing:

- AAG are happy to contribute on anything that the City Housing would like input on. Most things can be handled by subgroups but the very important projects could be managed by the full group.
- A question was raised regarding the Council fully partnering with Lifemark like Christchurch and Auckland Councils. City Housing pointed out that in Wellington there will be a number of processes including the Warrant of Fitness programme. City Housing are happy to work alongside all programmes.
- Other comments were made regarding the small size of lifts and hallways for wheelchairs in Hansen Court. However, as Hansen Court was an upgrade only, the lift wasn't replaced. Also a comment was made that touch screens should be avoided in any new lifts.

Readability of Voting Documents

The AAG provided advice on proposed designs for voting papers and candidate profiles for the next local body elections. Some of the main points were:

- Ensure strong contrasts
- Avoid wordy instructions. List instead steps or use the Easy Read system
- Avoid small fonts
- Avoid difficult to read fonts
- Use Plain English

New Mobility Parking

The AAG provided advice on the four new mobility parks being put in Wellington CBD.

The number and location of these parks were:

- 2 on Balance Street at the waterfront end,
- 1 on Courtenay Place next to Cambridge Terrace on the south side,
- 1 on Blair Street at the Wakefield Street end.

Relationship Building

The AAG further developed relationships with the sector and the Council through:

- A successful accessibility forum to help develop the Accessible Wellington Action Plan in May 2014
- By co-hosting an event with the Disabled Persons Assembly for International Day of Persons with Disability in December 2014
- Regularly meeting with officers to provide formal and informal advice.

Acknowledgements

The Council is to be congratulated for:

- Fixing long standing accessibility issues in lower Cuba Street
- Creating a significant number of new mobility parks in the city
- Adding an accessibility section to the draft Mount Victoria Master Plan

The Accessibility Advisory Group would also like to thank Councillor David Lee and Councillor Malcolm Sparrow for their continued support and Simon Wright and Lisa Matthews for their administrative support.

Appendix One: Annual Work Programme 2014-2015

October 2014

Chair – Accessible Advisory Group

Wellington City Council

101 Wakefield Street, PO Box 2199

WELLINGTON 6140

Dear Chair

Re: Letter setting the Work Programme for the Accessible Advisory Group (AAG)

Purpose of this letter

I am writing to you as the Chair to clarify the Council's priorities and outline Council's expectations for the Accessible Advisory Group over the next 12 months.

The AAG is part of Council and I know that your group wants to contribute in the best possible way to our City. This letter will help focus the work of the group so that Council officers can engage with you at an early stage and in an effective way.

AAG's work over the next 12 months

The City Council recently finalised its Annual Plan (AP) and is working on developing the 2015-25 Long Term Plan (LTP). It is important that the work of your advisory group aligns with the priorities of the AP and LTP.

We want you to bring your experience as a group to help solve problems and find solutions for the work streams below. This is consistent with your group having deeper and more-ongoing involvement with the work-streams of greatest priority to the City.

Key AP and LTP priorities	AAG input
Urban Landscape & Open Spaces Projects: The Council is undertaking a number of landscape projects as part of its Urban Growth Plan for the benefit of residents and visitors. In keeping with past practice, the Council would like to work with AAG to ensure the projects take into account the needs of people with impairments.	Work with officers to provide input into projects including the Kilbirnie Centre upgrade, the Children's Garden and Victoria Street Precinct based on members' experience of living in Wellington.
Earthquake Strengthening: The Council is undertaking a programme of strengthening works on its portfolio of buildings. The Council has agreed to work with AAG to improve the accessibility of these buildings as part of the strengthening programme.	Work with officers to provide input into improving the accessibility of Council buildings that are being earthquake-strengthened.
Transport: The Council working on a range of transport projects this year. The Council is also looking at how it can ensure better compliance around the use of mobility parking in the city.	Work with officers to provide input into transport projects and support the Council to ensure compliance around the use of mobility parks.
Events:	Work with officers to develop a checklist for Council

The Council is looking to build on and refresh its events offer in the coming year. It wants to ensure there is a diverse range of events that appeal, and are accessible to all Wellingtonians.

and event organisers which will help them identify and address issues so that their events are accessible to all.

As part of Council's wider engagement, the Council will also consult with other groups on the issues that we bring to AAG. Furthermore, the above list does not preclude the AAG from having input into other Council projects and policies as these become apparent during the year. Such items can be considered by AAG with the agreement of the Chair and the Council Liaison Officer.

Additional information on how we see AAG operating is set out in the Terms of Reference.

Meeting to discuss and agree the work programme

Once you have discussed the priorities and suggested work-streams outlined in this letter with the other members of your group, we would like to finalise and begin working on the programme with you. Please contact me with your response to this letter by 4 November 2014.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Martin Rodgers

Manager, Research, Consultation & Planning

Appendix Two: Membership of the Accessibility Advisory Group and individual meeting attendance

The membership of the AAG as at 31 March 2015 was as follows. The attendance figures are for the period January 2104 to March 2015. Note that some members were appointed during this period so could not have attended all 15 meetings of the AAG.

Name	No of meetings attended in period since appointment (% Attendance)	Name	No of meetings attended in period since appointment (% Attendance)
Tim Pate	12 (92%)	Christine O'Sullivan	13 (100%)
Julia Mosen	14 (93%)	Lee Rutene	12 (80%)
Paula Booth	14 (93%)	Tristram Ingham	6 (100%)
Micheal Bealing	13 (87%)	Christine Richardson	6 (86%)

Ex-members who left since the AAG's Annual Report 2013 was presented:

Alan Royal	Shannon Krogmann
Kendall Akhurst	Jackie Buckley
Jason Strawbridge	Robert MacKay
Rosemay Cole	Angela Vanderpoel
Linda Hobman	Lachlan MacKay

LGNZ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, ROTORUA, 19 JULY 2015

Purpose

1. This report recommends that the Council appoints a presiding delegate and an alternate presiding delegate to vote on behalf of Wellington City Council at the Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 19 July 2015.
2. This report also seeks that Council decides whether to support the remit being proposed by Palmerston North City Council to request government to impose a point of sale levy on plastic shopping bags.

Summary

3. The Rules of LGNZ allow the Council to appoint up to four delegates to attend the AGM which precedes the LGNZ conference to be held on 20 and 21 July at the same venue. Other elected members may attend the meeting as non-speaking observers. Member authorities are required to advise the Chief Executive of LGNZ, of the names and positions of the presiding, alternate and other delegates attending the AGM.
4. Remits to the AGM are a means of requesting specific government action on policy matters and require the formal support of at least five member Councils to be accepted for consideration at the AGM.

Recommendations

That the Governance, Finance and Planning Committee:

1. Receive the information.
2. Appoint the following delegates to attend the Local Government New Zealand Annual General Meeting to be held on Sunday 19 July 2015, in Rotorua:
 - (a) the Mayor as its presiding delegate, with authority to exercise Wellington City Council's six votes;
 - (b) an alternate presiding delegate (in the event that the Mayor is absent from the floor of the meeting at any time), who shall be the Deputy Mayor; and
 - (c) two other delegates, who shall be Councillors attending the conference.
3. Note that the attendance by Councillors at the conference on 20 and 21 July 2015 has been determined by the Deputy Mayor under delegated authority and is the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors Foster, Peck and Young.
4. Agree to support the remit proposed by Palmerston North City Council:
"That the government impose a compulsory levy on plastic shopping bags at point of sale."

Discussion

Delegates to the LGNZ AGM

5. Wellington City Council is entitled to six (6) votes at the AGM and these votes are cast by the presiding delegate.
6. To enable the Council to exercise its votes at the AGM, the Committee is required to appoint, under delegated authority, a presiding delegate, an alternate presiding delegate and up to two other delegates.
7. The Rules of LGNZ allow the Council to appoint up to four delegates to attend the AGM.
8. It is noted that if more than four elected members attend the conference, those elected members may attend the meeting as observers but have no speaking or voting rights and are required to be seated away from the Council's official delegation.

Remits to the LGNZ AGM

9. LGNZ calls for remits each year to be voted on at its AGM and which, if agreed, become part of the LGNZ work programme priorities.
10. The LGNZ policy agenda includes developing a proactive agenda of regulatory reform concerning legislation affecting local government which imposes high and unnecessary costs on local communities. The regulatory reform agenda is to be progressed hand in hand with building a stronger relationship with central government policy-setters to ensure that new initiatives are appropriate and able to be implemented without raising costs to communities.
11. Remits to the LGNZ AGM require the support of at least five Councils in order to be considered at the meeting. Palmerston North City Council is formally requesting this Council to support a remit to introduce a compulsory point of sale levy on plastic bags. Information explaining the proposal is attached to Mayor Smith's letter requesting Council's support as detailed in attachment 1. It is appropriate that the Committee decides whether the Council supports or declines to support the remit.
12. Officer advice is to support the Remit as it is consistent with the Councils of the Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2011- 2017. Part B Regional Action Plan, Action R7 Enhance packaging design controls and extended producer responsibility (EPR) for packaging materials states:
 - *“Enhanced packaging design controls and EPR while a Government responsibility can be supported by the Councils taking an active role to lobby Government, industry bodies etc. to make changes to packaging.*
 - *The majority of the Councils' recycling effort is spent collecting used packaging. In addition to this they can promote better packaging design which can potentially reduce the amount of waste from packaging and also make it easier and cheaper to recycle. By ensuring that the producers of packaging take some responsibility for the product they produce the Councils can facilitate a fairer distribution of the true costs traditionally paid for by ratepayers.”*

Attachments

Attachment 1. Remit to LGNZ on Plastic Bag Levy - Request from Palmerston North City Council Page 22

Author	Charlie Inggs, Project / Electoral Officer
Authoriser	Sally Dossor, Director Governance

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Consultation and Engagement

There has been no consultation on this subject.

Treaty of Waitangi considerations

There are no Treaty of Waitangi considerations.

Financial implications

Costs for the attendance at the LGNZ AGM and Conference is from the Elected Members budget.

Policy and legislative implications

Officer advice is that the Remit should be supported as it is consistent with the Councils of the Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2011-2017.

Risks / legal

There are no risks or legal implications.

Climate Change impact and considerations

There are no climate change considerations.

Communications Plan

A communications plan is not required.



Office Of The Mayor
Palmerston North City Council

15 April 2015

Celia Wade-Brown
PO Box 2199
WELLINGTON 6140

Dear Celia

REMIT TO LGNZ | Plastic Shopping Bags Levy

I am writing on behalf of our Council to ask for your support for the following remit to the Local Government New Zealand 2015 Annual General Meeting:

“That the government impose a compulsory levy on plastic shopping bags at point of sale.”

International experience shows that a compulsory levy is the most effective policy to reduce the waste disposal costs and environmental impact of single-use plastic shopping bags.

This policy recommendation to central government seeks to resolve an avoidable problem that harms our environment and creates costs for all councils. Background information is attached.

Remits must have formal support from at least five Councils to be submitted to LGNZ. To achieve this, can you please send a letter of support to me by Monday 18 May 2015.

Kind regards

Grant Smith | Mayor



Palmerston North City Council
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PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL

8 April 2015

Background Information to the Remit to LGNZ on Plastic Shopping Bags Levy

A remit to the Local Government New Zealand Annual General Meeting is proposed as follows: -

“That the government impose a compulsory levy on plastic shopping bags at point of sale.”

Issue

1. Discarded plastic polythene carryout shopping bags are a major cause of litter and environmental pollution. They consume finite resources in their manufacture, including oil and natural gas which contributes to climate change. Even when disposed of, plastic bags last for indefinite periods in landfill sites which can have a further negative environmental impact. Plastic bags pollute our streams, rivers and oceans. They can cause injury and harm, particularly to avian and marine wildlife. Humans ingest contaminated fish and mammals, but as the impact is universal it is hard to determine the human health consequences.
2. The fundamental problem is the use of plastic bags with no responsible means of disposal. Councils attempting to resolve this can lead to responsibility being ascribed to local authorities for a problem created by manufacturers, retailers and consumers which is not readily capable of a local solution.
3. Costs to Council from plastic bags include collection of plastic bag litter, blockage of stormwater drainage, contamination of the recyclable waste stream, and, disposal.

Background

Palmerston North City

4. Pre-2010 the City Council did not accept single use plastics bags for recycling. Recyclables collected from the kerbside recycling collection service were placed out for collection in single use supermarket bags. However, these bags were not recycled and they were disposed to landfill.
5. Post July 2010, when wheelie bins and glass crates were introduced, the Council expanded the range of plastics accepted in the kerbside collection service. This included single-use supermarket bags which were recycled until February 2012, after which all plastic bags were disposed to landfill. Council continued to accept single-use plastic bags in the recycling stream in the hope of finding a viable market which did not eventuate. So in 2014 the Council ceased accepting plastic bags in the recycling stream.
6. Between the 2010 and 2014 the perception of a 'plastic bag' that could be placed in the recycling bin grew to include mixed materials. Plastic bags collected were often mixed material, multi-coloured, non-recyclable and contaminated with other waste. This caused problems at the Materials Recovery Facility, including:
 - Downtime (jamming of equipment)
 - Site litter issues (lightweight nature of plastic bags)

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- Under-recovered recyclables (recyclables tied-up inside plastic bags)
- Increased waste (non-recyclable plastics)

New Zealand

7. Recycling of plastic bags can be problematic with limited outlets and uses in New Zealand. The costs of the recovery of bags is high compared to the market price when other variables are taken into account, such as mixed material plastic bags, coloured bags, contamination and sorting/processing issues. Approximately 180,000 plastic shopping bags are required to make up one tonne of saleable product.
8. Plastic bags have a lower market price than other plastic commodities. Polythene plastic bags (HDPE and LDPE) may be sold at around \$ 50 per tonne. By contrast, December 2014 tender prices for plastics were:

• Mixed Plastic	\$195 per tonne
• Coloured 2's	\$290 per tonne
• Clear PET	\$520 per tonne
• Clear Milk Bottles	\$750 per tonne
9. A bylaw cannot be used to make a local 'ban' on single-plastic bags because would not meet the test of Section 155 of the Local Government Act 2002 which requires the local authority to assess if a bylaw is the most appropriate way of addressing the perceived problem. That is because the negative environmental consequences of plastic bags applies to all territorial authorities in New Zealand. Therefore, it is a national problem best resolved by central government legislation. In addition, a bylaw may not be enforceable in practice. Auckland Council, for example, explored and rejected a bylaw approach in 2015.
10. Voluntary reduction schemes have not proven to be effective over time. For example, in Collingwood, Golden Bay a voluntary approach produced results for a few years until the support of local retailers gradually waned.

International

11. Shipping our plastic waste overseas at low cost is not socially or environmentally responsible and can contribute to worsening pollution of the oceans.
12. Overseas a levy is becoming more common and has been generally successful in reducing usage. Some places have prohibited plastic carryout bags and other jurisdictions are in the process of legislating. For example:
 - In Denmark, the use of 750 million plastic bags per year in 1993 reduced to 300 million in 1995 after a levy was introduced by the government.
 - In San Francisco, a voluntary approach started in 2005, but results were short-lived. So in 2007, a prohibition of plastic carryout bags at supermarkets was imposed. This prohibition was then extended to all retail outlets in 2012. A state-wide bill was subsequently introduced in California to come into effect 1 July 2015 so that retail outlets cannot distribute or sell a single-use carryout bag at the point of sale.



PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL

- In China, when retail stores were notified to charge consumers for plastic bags, consumption reduced by half according to a 2010 study of Beijing and Guiyang.
 - In Taiwan, a prohibition on plastic bags was in place for three years before that was lifted in 2006. This is an isolated case of a prohibition being reversed.
 - In Bangladesh, polythene plastic bags were prohibited in 2002 as studies showed that they had played a causal role in flood damage by blocking stormwater drainage systems.
 - In Rwanda, non-biodegradable polythene shopping bags were prohibited in 2008.
13. In Ireland, a 15 Euro cent levy was imposed in 2002. This was led by a Cabinet Minister and resulted in a 94% reduction in use and a notable reduction in litter. Efficient collection of the levy was achieved via sales Value Added Tax (the equivalent of GST). Cost savings were made by retailers. The levy revenue was ring-fenced into an Environment Fund. In 2007, the levy was increased to 22 Euro cents as use had started to increase again and this proved to be effective. Similar approaches have been enacted in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Government research looking at introducing a compulsory levy in England suggests that the Irish approach has been widely popular. The Irish approach is the exemplar for the national levy proposed in this report.
14. A proposed remit for consideration at the Local Government New Zealand Annual General Meeting:
- a) requires support of *at least* five Councils;
 - b) has to be received by Friday 22 May at the latest.
15. It is proposed that the Mayor of Palmerston North writes to Mayors across all of New Zealand to request formal support from their Councils for the remit.

Conclusion

16. Overseas experience shows that a significant reduction in plastic bag waste can be achieved through a government levy which could be linked to sales taxation.