
REPORT 4
(1215/11/IM)

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING PARTY

1. Purpose of Report

To seek agreement to the Terms of Reference for the Climate Change Working Party (the Working Party) and to initiate the appointment process for the Working Party.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Council:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Agree to the Terms of Reference for the Climate Change Working Party as attached in appendix 1.*
- 3. Agree to appoint the members of the Climate Change Working Party at this Council meeting if the Council adopts the Terms of Reference.*

3. Background

On 7 June, the Strategy and Policy Committee (the Committee) agreed to recommend to Council that it agree to the aspirational vision of carbon neutrality for Wellington City Council and the city as a whole. The Committee requested that officers report back to the Committee by September 2007 on a set of options for carbon reduction targets and carbon offsetting measures that provide a draft blueprint for achieving the carbon neutral goal. The Committee agreed that an elected members' Working Party' be formed to provide guidance to this process and the Committee also requested that officers develop a Terms of Reference for the Working Party for consideration by the Council at this meeting.

4. Discussion

It is recommended that the Council agree to the draft Terms of Reference for the Working Party attached as appendix 1. The aim of the Working Party is to provide input and guidance to the officers' report back on the Climate Change Work Programme to the Committee in September 2007. The report back will include a set of options for carbon reduction targets and carbon offsetting measures that make progress towards the vision of Carbon Neutrality.

The Committee requested that the Working Party consider specific issues alongside the draft recommendations that will be proposed in the officers' September report to Committee. These issues are covered in the Terms of Reference.

The Committee also requested that the appointment of the Working Party would take place at this meeting. It is therefore recommended that the Council initiate the appointment process if the Council agrees to the Terms of Reference.

5. Conclusion

This paper seeks Council agreement for the Terms of Reference for the elected members' Climate Change Working Party attached as appendix 1.

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Supporting Information

1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome

This report relates directly to two of the long-term outcomes from the Environmental Strategy as reflected in the LTCCP:

4.5 More Sustainable: *Wellington will reduce its environmental impact by making efficient use of energy, water, land and other resources; shifting towards renewable energy resources; conserving resources; and minimising waste.*

4.6 Safer: *Wellington will have access to safe and reliable energy and water supplies, clean air, and waste disposal systems that protect public health and ecosystems.*

This report also relates to a long-term outcome of the Transport Strategy:

2.3 More Sustainable: *Wellington will minimise the environmental effects of transport and support the environmental strategy.*

In addition, this report addresses one of the four three-year priorities from the Environmental Strategy as reflected in the LTCCP:

“We will increase our promotion of water and energy efficiency and conservation, energy security, and the use of renewable energy sources, and we will take a more active leadership role in these areas.”

2) LTCCP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact

This report has no financial implications. Future decisions on climate change targets may result in future new initiatives for the 2008/09 Draft Annual Plan

The report proposes a review of each strategy in the LTCCP, to take place for the 2009/19 LTCCP.

3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

This report has no Treaty implications.

4) Decision-Making

This report does not require a significant decision to be made.

5) Consultation

a) General Consultation

Input has been sought on the 7 June report from the Environment Reference Group and a range of experts. Further consultation on specific work items will occur while the Working Party is active and as part of the 2008/09 Draft Annual Plan.

b) Consultation with Maori

Climate change and sustainability are of interest to Maori. Input has been sought on the 7 June report from the Wellington Tenth Trust and Te Runanga O Toa Rangaria.

6) Legal Implications

Council is required to take the effects of climate change into consideration when making decisions under the RMA Climate Change Amendment Act (2002). There are no legal implications from this report.

7) Consistency with existing policy

This report is consistent with the outcomes and priorities of the Environment Strategy and Transport Strategy as reflected in the LTCCP. The advice provided supports existing policy and planning work to implement the Council's strategic direction, such as travel demand management, compact growth, and energy management planning.

CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING PARTY DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE (JUNE 2007)

Purpose of the Working Party

The purpose of the Elected Members Climate Change Working Party ('the Working Party') is to provide input and guidance to officers on the development of the draft climate change targets and proposed work programme.

Membership

The Working Party will comprise up to five elected members which will be appointed by the Council. All other elected members are welcome to attend and speak at the Working Party meetings.

Portfolio Leaders

Portfolio Leaders not in the Working Party will be invited to engage in discussions with the Working Party on actions or proposals which pertain to their area of responsibility.

Chair

The chair and deputy chair shall be appointed by the Council.

Terms of Reference

The Working Party will provide input and guidance to officers on

- the development of corporate and community emissions reduction targets
- a climate change work programme
- ensuring the report incorporates ways to fast track the resource consent processes for renewable energy projects
- undertaking an indicative cost-benefit analysis of Council's proposed actions, including direct cost to Council as well as potential positive and negative economic impacts of Council measures on residents and businesses.

Delegation

The Working Party has the authority to carry out its activities in line with its terms of reference.

Frequency of Meetings

A schedule of meetings will be agreed by the Working Party with the chair having the discretion to call additional meetings as required.

Duration/Sunset

The Working Party will cease at the end of the triennium.