
GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR REMAINDER OF 2007/10 TRIENNIUM

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to propose an amended governance structure for the remainder of the 2007/10 triennium.

2. Recommendations

Officers recommend that Council:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Agree to appoint a new Chairperson to the Strategy and Policy Committee, with effect from 16 November 2009.*
3. *Agree to appoint a new Deputy Chairperson to the Strategy and Policy Committee with effect from 16 November 2009.*
4. *Agree that Mayor Prendergast will Chair the Strategy and Policy Committee meetings when the Annual Plan or the Annual Report is being considered.*
5. *Agree to disestablish the current Urban Development & Transport portfolio and replace it with the following two portfolios, each with responsibility for the activities listed in Appendix One:*
 - *Urban Development*
 - *Transport*
6. *Agree that the current Portfolio Leader - Urban Development and Transport will become Portfolio Leader - Urban Development.*
7. *Agree to appoint a Portfolio Leader - Transport with effect from 12 November 2009.*
8. *Agree that Councillor Foster will remain as Alternate Council member of the Regional Land Transport Committee.*

9. *Note that the responsibilities of the Associate Portfolio Leader, Urban Development and Transport will remain unchanged, but support will now be provided to the two separate portfolio leaders.*
10. *Agree that Activity 6.4.4. Playgrounds will be moved from the Social Portfolio to the Economic Development and Recreation portfolio with effect from 12 November 2009.*
11. *Agree to make any consequential adjustments to the 2007/2010 Delegations arising out of the preceding changes.*

3. Background

The Council approved the current governance arrangements at its meeting on 6 November 2007. At that time, the Council agreed to review the details of those governance arrangements within six months in order to ensure they reflected the agreed strategic direction of the Council and associated workloads of the elected members. Arising out of the subsequent review, the following changes were agreed by Council on 24 April 2008:

- Appointment of Councillor McKinnon as Chair of the Strategy & Policy Committee (SPC),
- Appointment of Mayor Prendergast as Deputy Chairperson
- Establishment of Associate Portfolio Leaders for the Urban Development & Transport, and Social portfolios.

With the recent change of government and deteriorating economic climate, transport issues have taken on a level of priority and focus that they did not possess at the start of the 2007/10 triennium. It is therefore appropriate that the Mayor, as spokesperson for the Council, assumes responsibility for Transport related issues in acknowledgement of their heightened status and priority with the ratepayers of Wellington.

4. Discussion

4.1 Transport Portfolio

Change of Government

The change of government at the last election has shifted the political landscape considerably, resulting in increased government resources being directed at transport related issues. The government has announced an additional \$10.6 billion in funding for State Highways over the next ten years, with up to \$2 billion earmarked for the Wellington region.

It is essential that Wellington City Council is positioned to effectively participate in the debate on how this funding is to be allocated. The Transport spokesperson must be in a position to maximise personal contacts and must have a high profile and an appropriate level of seniority to enable ready access to Ministers.

Economic Climate

In addition to the change of government, we are now operating in a recessionary environment and this has had an impact on future transport investments. It is therefore increasingly important to ensure that the right investment decisions are made to support growth within the city and region.

Regional Land Transport Committee

Local government representation on the Regional Land Transport Committee is now, without exception, at mayoral level. It is anomalous that Mayor Prendergast is Wellington City Council's representative at this forum, yet is not the Council's transport spokesperson.

Regional Leadership

Greater Wellington Regional Council provides leadership on transport strategy within the Wellington region via the Chair of the Regional Land Transport Committee. It is important that the Wellington City Council spokesperson should be of an equivalent or greater level of seniority and profile.

Future Strategic Projects

The Ngauranga-Airport plan, approved in October 2008, included an unprecedented number of large transport projects which will have a major influence on the future shape of the city. It is important to ensure that arising issues are addressed at an appropriate level of seniority.

Portfolio responsibilities

Officers recommend that the Urban Development and Transport portfolio be split into two distinct portfolios (as listed in Appendix One) and that Mayor Prendergast assumes responsibility for the Transport portfolio.

It is recommended that Councillor Foster retain responsibility for the Urban Development portfolio.

4.2 *Strategy and Policy Committee*

This proposed change to the governance structure will have a considerable impact on the Mayor's already substantial workload. Accordingly, the Mayor will no longer be able to undertake the responsibilities of Deputy Chair of the Strategy and Policy Committee.

In addition it should be noted that the Deputy Mayor has had held the appointments of both Deputy Mayor and Chair SPC, plus Chair of ARMS and Portfolio Leader – Governance. In the last triennium, in recognition of the workload entailed in the appointment of Deputy Mayor and Chair of SPC, those positions were held by two Councillors.

With the change in Portfolio arrangements, Councillor Foster would be in a position to share some of the workload currently held by the Deputy Mayor, which would give the Deputy Mayor a more balanced set of responsibilities. This also frees up the Deputy Mayor to pursue any other opportunities he may be offered externally.

Accordingly, a new Chair and Deputy Chair of the Strategy and Policy Committee will need to be appointed.

French Presidential (Open Voting System)

The Local Government Act 2002 provides for the following open voting system to be used for the appointment of Chairpersons. It is also proposed to use this system for the appointment of the Deputy Chairperson:

- a) *requires that a person is elected or appointed if he or she receives the votes of a majority of the members of the local authority or committee present and voting; and*
- b) *has the following characteristics:-*
 - i. *there is a first round of voting; and*
 - ii. *if no candidate is successful in that round there is a second round of voting from which the candidate with the fewest votes in the first round is excluded; and*
 - iii. *if no candidate is successful in the second round there is a third, and if necessary subsequent, round of voting from which, each time, the candidate with the fewest votes in the previous round is excluded; and*
 - iv. *in any round of voting, if two or more candidates tie for the lowest number of votes, the person excluded from the next round is resolved by lot.*

4.2 Associate Portfolio Leader - Urban Development & Transport

It is proposed that the responsibilities of the Associate Portfolio Leader - Urban Development and Transport remain unchanged. However, Councillor Wain will now assist both the Portfolio Leader - Urban Development, and the Portfolio Leader - Transport in carrying out tasks relating to their portfolios, including introducing reports on their behalf when absent, and will be accountable to each portfolio leader individually for those responsibilities that fall within their portfolios.

Councillor Wain will retain responsibility for the following activities:

1.5.3 Heritage Development

1.5.4 Public Space and Centre Developments – Cog Park

1.1.1 Northern Growth Management Framework (working with the Portfolio Leader, Urban Development on Johnsonville and Newlands)

2.5.1 Road Safety (including Safer Roads)

Off Ramp Park

Tawa Seedlings

Cable Car (top)

Westchester Drive

4.3 Social Portfolio

As a result of an informal review of portfolio responsibilities, the Portfolio Leader - Social has agreed that Activity 6.4.4 - Playgrounds would be more appropriately positioned within the Economic Development and Recreation portfolio.

Accordingly, officers recommend that this activity be moved.

4.4 Remuneration

The Council is required to approve a remuneration proposal, for submission to the Remuneration Authority for the 2010/11 year. This proposal will be considered by Council before Easter 2010. It is envisaged that the revised governance structure will be reflected in the officer's advice on the remuneration proposal at that time.

5. Conclusion

The proposed governance structure contained in this report has been designed to acknowledge the shift in the political and economic landscape that has taken place over the last year and to ensure that the Council is well placed to respond appropriately.

Contact Officer: *Svea Cunliffe-Steel, City Secretary*

Supporting Information

1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome

This project supports Outcome 7.2.2 – More actively engaged: Wellington will operate an open and honest decision making process that generates confidence and trust in the democratic system.

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

This project relates to C534: Elections, Governance and Democratic Process.

3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

Not applicable

4) Decision-Making

This is not a significant decision.

5) Consultation

a) General Consultation

Not applicable.

b) Consultation with Maori

Not applicable

6) Legal Implications

The advice in this report has been discussed with the General Counsel and there are no legal implications.

7) Consistency with existing policy

This report is consistent with existing policy.

