

**Environmental Reference Group Meeting Minutes
16th April 2012, Committee Room 2, Wellington City Council**

Present:

Bev Abbott
Hamish Allardice (Co-Chair)
Sophie Mormede
Howard Markland
Sarah Free
David Rohan
Jane O'Loughlin
Peter Gilbert
Councillor Ritchie
Councillor Lester

Apologies

Sea Rotmann (Co-chair)
Phil Hancock
Claire Graeme
James Wall-Manning
Charles Barrie

WCC Officers:

Graeme Shimmin (Consultation & Engagement
Advisor)
Tass Larsen (Programme Manager, Policy)

1. Adoption of Minutes from last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th March were adopted.

2. Conflict of Interests – No new conflicts of interest were raised.

3. Feedback from ERG Annual Report presentation to SPC – Hamish and Peter reported back to the group that the Annual Report was well received.

4. Draft Long Term Plan – Cllr Ritchie presented the Draft LTP to the group, highlighting key points and projects and areas that might be of interest. The group agreed it would be worthwhile doing a formal submission, which would cover areas where agreement on advice is found. Personal submission could be used where diverging opinions occurred.

It was agreed that subgroups would focus on different parts of the plan and an additional meeting on May 7th would be held to bring the submission together. The leads for the subgroups were:

Transport – Sarah / David

Maintaining Wellington as an inclusive place where talent wants to live – Bev

Enhancing resilience – Howard / Sophie

Balancing our Budget - Bev

- 5. Policy Forward Programme** - Tass Larsen (Programme Manager, Policy) presented the draft policy programme 2012-2015 and explained how the projects and work streams originate from the draft LTP and Wellington 2040. From her point of view it would be useful for the ERG to identify areas that ERG want early involvement in and opportunity to comment on. There is also the opportunity to help prioritise the more discretionary work streams.

There was a discussion around some of the issues facing Wellington and policy prioritisation and work that could be added to the programme. These were:

- Biggest 'tenant' in Wellington is the government, they should be encouraged to set a better environmental example to other businesses, via eco procurement etc.
 - Concern of the reduction in government employees in Wellington - reduction in size will lead to job losses and unemployment and potential smaller population as these leave for work elsewhere. More work needed to retain skilled workers in Wellington.
 - Eco and local procurement from the council – does it exist and is it monitored? If not a policy should be developed
 - Formalised advocacy role to central government, encouraging better environmental responsibility in Wellington
 - Food resilience
 - Earthquake strengthening should link up more with energy efficiency programmes.
 - Possible regional amalgamation
- 6. Zealandia – The Sanctuary** – Cllr Ritchie talked about Zealandia and the statement of proposal that had just been released by the Council. She explained that the Council wants to support Zealandia and values its work and place in Wellington. She outlined some of the options and issues surrounding the ECO-City proposal and how the Zealandia trust would refer to keep the status quo and is recommending this to its 400 volunteers.

There was concern that this would lead to a stand-off and the ERG agreed a formal submission should be made to aid the Council in making it's decision. There was a discussion in the group around the status quo or the need for change with comments made that some volunteers where unhappy with the current management or direction of Zealandia. Others were against a Council Controlled Organisation and feared merging with organisations like the Zoo would dilute the conservation aspects

of Zealandia.

It was agreed that Bev would lead the submission on this and circulate a rough draft to the group for comment.

7. Any other business

WCC Orientation Day – Graeme informed the group that in discussion with WCC Human Resources it has been agreed that advisory group members can attend one of the Council Induction sessions that run for new employees. This includes presentations on the council's work and a tour of some of the diverse facilities that the Council runs or manages. It is also an opportunity to meet people from across the council. These sessions generally happen once a month, and there will usually be 2 spaces available for advisory group members (to be shared between all the advisory groups). The next dates are:

- 18th July
- 8th August
- 26th September

Sophie expressed an interest in attending.

Other member to advise Graeme if you wish to go on the list.

8. Next Meeting

Monday 11th June 2012

Water Conservation & Efficiency Plan? (This may be postponed to allow time for effective discussion on the LTP & Policy Work Plan.)

Special Meeting for Draft LTP & ECO-City/Zealandia submissions Monday 7th May 2012.