

# **Environmental Reference Group Minutes**

**Monday, 2 February 2015, 5:30-7:45 pm**

**Wellington City Council, 101 Wakefield St, Committee Room 2**

*Bev Abbott in the Chair*

## **Present**

Members: Bev Abbott, Graeme Sawyer, Howard Markland, Janet Young, Kate Mitcalfe, Martin Payne, Nick Crocker, Paula Warren, Peter Gilberd, Phil Hancock, Sophie Mormede, Stu Farrant, Yvonne Legarth

Officers: Simon Wright (Consultation & Engagement)

## **Apologies**

Mark Fenwick

### **1. Introduction, apologies and conflicts of Interest**

Bev welcomed everyone to the meeting, the last for Bev and Peter after serving for 6 years on the ERG.

Cr Ritchie and Cr Pannett thanked Bev and Peter for their service, leadership and valuable advice.

Sophie and Yvonne declared possible conflicts of interest in relation to ERG advice on the airport runway extension. No other conflicts were declared.

### **2. LTP consultation process**

Due to amendments to the Local Government Act (LGA), the Council is no longer required to consult the public on the draft Long Term Plan (LTP). The Council will instead publish a summary document that will include an outline of the Council's approach to the next 10 years and to key issues, and outline key proposals and financial information.

The Governance, Finance and Planning Committee (GFPC) has decided to run a standard oral submission process but is looking for advice from officers on how to make these more interactive.

The Council will be hosting a LTP Forum for all the advisory groups on 14 April in the Community Room on the mezzanine floor of the central library.

### **3. Planning our work programme**

Members were briefed on factors they should take into account when deciding how to progress the work programme for the remainder of the 2014/15 year. 'Must does' included providing advice on a selection of LTP proposals, the draft Urban Growth Plan and 30 year infrastructure strategy, which will cover both 'hard' and 'social' infrastructure. More details on the LTP proposals would most

likely be publicly available just before the GFPC meeting on 17 February. Since advice on urban development and transport is also part of the ERG role, the group should consider inviting the Chair of the Transport and Urban Development Committee to the next ERG meeting.

Members broke into small groups to assess the LTP proposals set out in the Mayoral Overview that was published for the 10 December GFPC meeting. Members assessed proposals for their fit with the ERG's Terms of Reference and the agreed work programme, considered possible pro and cons, and what additional information would be needed for the ERG to provide good advice. Based on this work, the ERG will provide advice on the following LTP proposals. Proposals are listed from high to low priority.

- The hydraulic model of the city and the real-time stormwater modelling
- The airport runway extension
- The urban development authority and the urban regeneration projects
- The upgrade of Frank Kitts Park
- The Ocean Exploration Centre
- The urban activation fund
- The Town Hall and Civic Square upgrade
- Te Motu Kairangi Heritage Park

It was noted that the LTP does not appear to have proposals to minimise waste or deal with waste issues.

Members noted that the advice on the LTP proposals would likely address the following themes and it was decided to organise the ERG's work accordingly. Climate change could be commented on within each theme.

- Opportunities for implementing water sensitive urban design / integrated water management principles in major projects and 'business as usual'
- Opportunities for sustainable transport
- Opportunities for improving biodiversity
- Opportunities for reducing waste and addressing waste issues

Simon is set up threads on the ERG's Loomio so that member can begin working on these themes. A member should volunteer to be the lead for each theme. Advice from working groups needs to be ratified by the ERG before being submitted to the Council.

#### **4. High level advice on selected LTP projects**

The assessment that was done for item 3 above provides material for high level advice on the selected LTP projects.

#### **5. Further advice on Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan?**

Graeme, Stu, Martin, Phil and Sophie expressed interest in providing further advice on the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. The ERG will try to develop its advice on Loomio. Sophie volunteered to turn Loomio comments into a submission.

## **6. Working groups for LTP & other projects**

Members to decide to create Loomio threads for the themes identified above. All members can comment on all threads. One member per thread needs to take the lead to translate the discussions into a submission for ratification and submission.

## **7. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Mark Fenwick for being unable to attend, and from Cr Pannett for arriving late and Cr Ritchie for leaving early.

## **5. Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as true and correct subject to a minor amendment.

## **6. Matters arising**

### **Chairing ERG**

Phil will chair the meeting on 2 March with Paula as the deputy. Paula will chair the 13 April meeting. Simon is to create a roster for chairs and deputy chairs to take effect from 4 May.

## **7. Other Business**

### **Performance measures feedback**

Howard will further develop the ERG's advice on performance measures for Cr Pannett.

### **Annual Report, Environment Committee, 12 February**

Bev and Peter will present the ERG's Annual Report to the Environment Committee on 12 February.

### **Inviting Chair of Transport and Urban Development Committee to ERG**

ERG will invite Cr Foster to its meeting on 13 April

### **Improvements to ERG's web pages**

The ERG's agendas and minutes have now been loaded on the Council's website.

### **Farewells for Bev Abbott and Peter Gilbert**

Howard and Phil thanked Bev and Peter for their contributions to the ERG.

## **Action Summary**

- Simon to set up Loomio threads for members to start working on the themes for its LTP advice and the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. Members to volunteer to lead each theme. Sophie volunteered to lead the Biodiversity work
- Simon to create a roster for chairs and deputy chairs to take effect from 4 May

- Howard to further develop the ERG's advice on performance measures for Cr Pannett.
- Bev and Peter to present the ERG's Annual Report to the Environment Committee on 12 February
- Phil to invite Cr Foster to its meeting on 13 April