

Environmental Reference Group Minutes

Monday, 30th May 2016 | 5.30pm – 7.30pm

Wellington City Council, 101 Wakefield St, Committee Room 2

Chairperson: Sophie Mormede

Members In Attendance: Sophie Mormede, Paula Warren, Stu Farrant, Graeme Sawyer, Martin Payne, Mark Higham, Chris Watson, Lynn Cadenhead,

Councillors: Iona Pannett, Helene Ritchie

Staff: James Mather, Trevor Himona, Mike Mendonca

ELT member: David Chick

1.	Welcome & Apologies Sophie Mormede Apologies received : Daniella Biaggio Mark Fenwick Shenagh Gleisner Hamish McGillivray Cr Iona Pannett David Chick Absent with no apology: Cr Helene Ritchie	5.40pm
2.	Conflicts of Interest All Graeme advised that he is involved with stormwater for the purposes of transparency.	5.46pm
3.	Previous Minutes Confirmation All Stu moved that the minutes be carried, seconded by Stu	5.46pm
4.		5.47pm

Waste Portfolio | Martin Payne

1. Martin to provide ERG with an overview of this portfolio.
2. Brief history and current plans to be considered.
3. Questions from the room invited.

Martin

- Role as portfolio lead is as a contact person
- Talks to Adrian Mitchell regularly
- Reference point is the LTP submission made, the issues raised still stand
- Waste portfolio has links to other portfolios within the ERG work programme
- Martin encouraged members to join if they have a lateral interest
- Waste minimisation management plan is coming up at WCC
- Moving from aspirational to “solid” planning
- Waste bylaws might also be changed in conjunction with the proposed plan
- Regional waste minimisation management plan is important as it allows for region wide initiatives
- Martin stressed that education in this sector is highly important in achieving outcomes
- The existing minimisation plan is divided in what each council will do
- Proposed plan would look to a shared services model
- Sewerage sludge is also a huge issue
- Councils have to have a waste minimisation plan to be able to receive funding from central government under the Ministry of Environment initiative
- ERG raised that influence on the plan would be desired, and would need to look at the plan shortly.
- It was noted that some older plans were substandard in addressing issues.
- There is an existing issue with the council’s stance on the ration on solid waste to sludge and the ability to remove solid waste – this is linked strongly to the Low Carbon Capital plans aims.
- Sludge is currently primarily treated at Moa Pt and then pumped around the Bay’s. Remaining solids were once used for compost but are now sent to landfill.
- ETS is being reviewed (emissions trading scheme).
- The review would put pressure on the landfill to better capture/manage gas emissions and other outputs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Landfill extension (stage 4) may happen this year - Martin advised he would like to look at waste diversion targets; education; - Paula advised that a regional strategy is needed, to prevent inter-council issues when approaching waste minimisation issues - Waste processing rather than landfilling is being looked at as the ongoing strategy. <p>Martin to post the existing Waste work stream information on Loomio, other members to add relevant information</p> <p>Adrian to be invited back to update ERG</p>							
5.	<p>Mana whenua iwi invitation Trevor Himona</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To provide an update regarding ERG’s invitation to manawhenua iwi: Ngāti Toa Rangātira and Taranaki Whānui 2. To propose to the ERG that it implements a formal process to maintain a connection between their work and advice, and manawhenua iwi <p>Recommendation to the ERG for consideration:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. “That Treaty Relations be listed under Portfolio Group of the minutes template” <table border="1" data-bbox="461 1252 1182 1440"> <thead> <tr> <th>Working group</th> <th>ERG lead</th> <th>Council officer</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Manawhenua iwi & Treaty Relations</td> <td>#Name of ERG member#</td> <td>Trevor Himona, Senior Advisor Treaty Relations</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Trevor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trevor introduced himself to the newer members of ERG. - Earlier in the year, 2 invitation letters were sent to the mana whenua iwi that WCC engages with in March. Neither letter has had a response. - Trevor proposes that the 3 steps (outlined above) be implemented to continue the engagement proposal with mana whenua iwi. - Socialisation of the issues raised by ERG among mana whenua iwi could be achieved; these are largely in line with the aspirations of mana whenua iwi. Trevor to act as the key conduit in this process. Long term 	Working group	ERG lead	Council officer	Manawhenua iwi & Treaty Relations	#Name of ERG member#	Trevor Himona, Senior Advisor Treaty Relations	6.00pm
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	<p>strategical issues could be identified, with mana whenua iwi being engaged more thoroughly on key issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trevor recommends his proposal be considered by ERG, with a portfolio lead position being taken up by Mark Fenwick or Stu Farrant. <p>ERG agreed with Trevor’s proposal and commended his initiative.</p> <p>It was noted that if Mark took up the position, it would not be as an iwi member.</p> <p>It was noted that during the next recruitment round that it would be ideal if iwi members were advertised to.</p> <p>Growing the relationship, rather than heaping responsibility on iwi, was seen to be the ideal path for pursuing iwi involvement.</p> <p>ERG noted that iwi involvement would provide valuable cultural insight into some environmental solutions being proposed by various organisations.</p> <p>ERG noted that Trevor is welcome to provide updates in a lateral manner</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Resilience Update Mike Mendonca</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mike to provide update 2. Floor opened to ERG for questions <p>Presentation is available to ERG members on Dropbox.</p> <p>Resilience strategy has settled on 4 key “planks” to form the basis of the approach</p> <p>Workshops on the 8th June and 4th of July – ERG invited to attend</p> <p>Planks are;</p> <p>Recovery from shock, Climate Change & Sea level rise, Economic prosperity and Quality of life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Governance in an earthquake situation has been raised as an issue. - Lifelines in an earthquake are also an issue; the existing ones are not resilient (transport, 3 waters, 	<p>6.23pm</p>

communication...). This has been identified as expensive to address, but not as expensive as inaction.

- Climate change has had a lot of 'noise' but little action. Lessons are being taken from existing coastal towns in NZ.
- Council assets are being looked into, with a city perspective rather than a 'purely' council perspective.
- Economic prosperity is currently on the up in Wellington, but long term diversity and risk mitigation are required to be addressed.
- Quality of life is: making sure no one is left behind.
- If refugees are not properly integrated and cared for anti-social behaviours and disenfranchisement can arise which has huge social costs.
- All the above planks have iwi considerations that need to be incorporated
- Value of the environment is also a 'cross-cutting' issue that will be addressed

ERG noted that the indirect effects of climate change may pose the largest issues rather than direct issues (war, famine and disease vs sea level rise).

Mike highlighted to the group the mechanisms that the resilient cities programme has shown about Wellingtons rankings on the 4 planks – all showing areas for improvement.

Challenge now facing this programme is taking the data, building on it and acting on it.

Large amounts of data are unknown within the city, or there is data that isn't properly understood or applied in terms of a resilience strategy.

Floor opened to ERG to question Mike;

Q – Are there specific questions or feedback that you are seeking?

A – providing an FYI, and also reiterating the invitation to the workshops

Q- You mentioned the sea level rise, do you know what the figure on a 100 year timeline is?

A – 1m by .

Q- I thought the bigger issue would be the increase in storms? The shift in narrative could focus on this. Nelson had 3 1-in a-

	<p>100 year floods in a 3 year period.</p> <p>A- The science says 30cm by 2065. 1-100 year floods now will be far more common very shortly. There will be changes to insurance, where you cant get certain insurance plans in certain places.</p> <p>Q- I would say that Wellington is decades behind some cities in terms of water quality. I'm excited about this plan however as it poses the opportunity to get our heads out of the sand and do something.</p> <p>A – There is a lot of red in that governance area you showed us, what do you think the key drivers are for coordinated action?</p> <p>Q – I don't want to get into an amalgamation debate. Having 9 councils does pose a certain set of issues. Putting aside boundaries and coming up with a plan needs to happen. Integrated planning needs to happen; there are no plans for a lot of the issues that Wellington faces. I am taking this Resilience strategy to council on the 28th of June for approval.</p> <p>Q- What is the next phase?</p> <p>A – Implementation via investment. Say Veolia giving Wellington some capacity to implement some solutions, which is an opportunity for us.</p> <p>Q- what importance do you place on individual communities taking ownership, or is your plan achievable in a central based approach?</p> <p>A – it is critical that communities like Newlands continue do what they continue to do. The resources required for the truly vulnerable will go to places they may not necessarily be required.</p> <p>ERG commended how this plan has the potential to solve some of the silo issues that councils face. The plan also highlights the importance of long term thinking, as presently short term solutions and planning are rife.</p> <p>Empowering communities was also highlighted as an avenue for exploration to solve some of the issues highlighted by ERG.</p> <p>Mike to email through parliaments report & provide invites to ERG for workshops</p>	
7	ERG Principles Paula Warren	7.01pm

	<p>1. Paula to provide draft principles for the group to consider</p> <p>Paula’s principles tabled on Dropbox for the group</p> <p>Internal document to improve consistency and provide a systematic lens for viewing WCC works</p> <p>Paula noted that they “how” is the more important aspect of the influence ERG may hold, as the technical aspect of WCC work is often <i>comparatively</i> sound. That is not to undermine the importance of outputs, but to place them on a relative scale.</p> <p>Encouraging people to view the council as the body that empowers citizens rather than simply fixes things</p> <p>Adoption of clear principles would allow for work to be aligned to long term goals. “Can they easily see the alignment?”</p> <p>ERG discussed a variety of amendments to the principles that will be further looked into across future ERG meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meaningful KPI development - Clear, followed through communication (feedback) - Removal of meaningless objectives - Transparent operational logic - Records & data development <p>It was suggested that the portfolio groups take some ownership of the respective aspects of the principles, and develop those for feedback and approval by the wider ERG group.</p> <p>Individual Points to be developed on a long term basis in conjunction with the long-term goals</p> <p>Reverse times for these, agenda was shifted</p>	
<p>8</p>	<p>Submissions Updates Shenagh & Mark</p> <p>1. Shenagh & Mark to report on their submission to council</p>	<p>7.15pm</p>

9	Matters Arising All <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. James to go over resignations & the upcoming recruitment2. Members invited to raise matters Recruitment will be held in conjunction with that done for other advisory groups, currently looking at a July roll out.	7.20pm

Meeting adjourned at 7.39 pm

Action Points

1. WATER/ICMP to be on next agenda (completed 7/06/2016)
2. Paula and Martin to present
3. Stu to present

Portfolio groups

Working group	ERG lead	Council officer
Transport	Paula Warren	Jane Black (LGWM) Pete Whiting, Transport Engagement
Climate Change	Yvonne Legarth	Moana Mackey, Programme Manager Sustainability
Waste	Martin Payne	Adrian Mitchell, Waste Operations Manager
Urban Growth	Graeme Sawyer	Trudy Whitlow, Urban Design & Heritage Manager
Water	Paula Warren (interim)	Yon Cheong Manager, Regional Strategy and Policy Wgtn Water
Resilience		Mike Mendonca, Chief Resilience Officer
Urban Design Agency	Shenagh Gleisner	Baz Kaufman, Manager Strategy And Research
Biodiversity	Stu Farrant	Myfanwy Emeny, Team Leader Biodiversity & Urban Ecology

Outputs from 30.05.2016 Meeting

- 1. Draft principles were tabled**
- 2. Trevor proposed that Manawhenua iwi & Treaty Relations be added to working groups**