

Environmental Reference Group

Meeting Minutes

Details: Date: Monday, 8 March 2021
Time: 5:03pm –7:01pm
Venue: Ngake (16.09), Level 16, Tahiwī 113 The Terrace
Chair: Steven Almond

Members present: Steven Almond George Hobson
Lynn Cadenhead Claire Stringer
Arron Cox Michelle Rush
Isla Day Chris Watson
Sally Faisandier Eleanor West

Councillors present: Cr Laurie Foon

Staff: Amy Brannigan, Advisor Planning and Reporting Tom Williams, Chief Infrastructure Officer
Hedi Mueller, Democracy Advisor

Public:

Topic	Description	Start time
1.	Welcome & Apologies Apologies were received for absence from Mike Britton, Moana Mackey and Councillor Paul. Moved Steven Almond, seconded George Hobson. CARRIED	5:03pm
2.	Conflicts of Interest No conflicts were declared.	5:04pm
3.	Update from Councillor Foon <ul style="list-style-type: none">Long-term Plan consultation document agreed by the Annual Plan/Long-term Plan Committee on 4 March. The draft LTP proposes spending \$2.6bn on Three Waters which was unanimous, \$108m going into cycleways, on top of what is contributed by LGWM, fully funding Te Atakura, and increasing opex for the Māori and Mana Whenua Partnerships budget, and increasing Predator Free funding by \$1.5m over 10 years. The consultation document will be approved by Council on 31 March.Airport seawall item generated lots of discussion and media attention – felt there was not enough clarity on what that money would be spent on. Members discussed:	5:04pm

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether Council has expressed to ELT about the lack seawall information provided. This process is being discussed. • Whether the seawall item will be revisited, or whether the decision made on 4 March was an in principal decision or based solely on the lack of information? Likely will be revisited but Airport have been given clear direction on what the Council’s priorities are. • What is perception of the community support for airport seawall? Depends on bubble – different councillors will have different opinions on what community support is. • WCC airport shareholding is 33%, have one vote. • Politicians need to consider whether they interested in holding airport share, could decide to divest. 	
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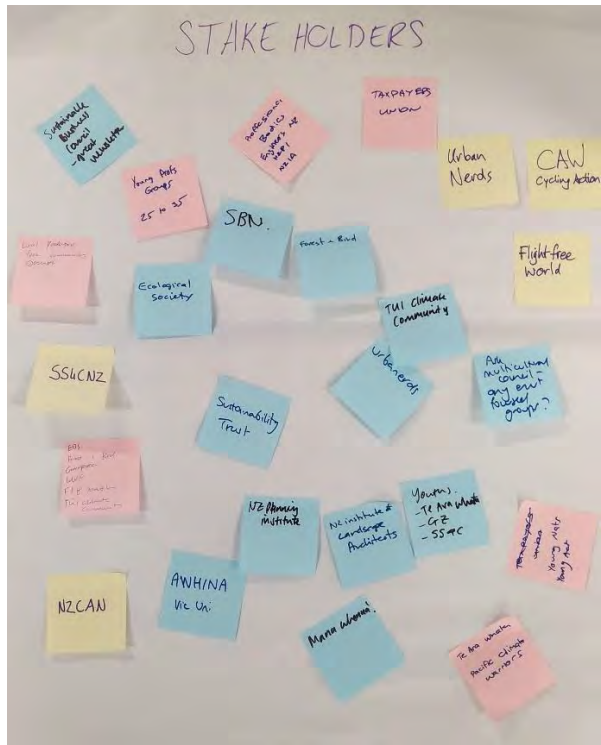
<p>4.</p>	<p>Long Term Plan</p> <p>Amy Brannigan presented on the Long-term Plan, and what is proposed for Three Waters, wastewater laterals, cycleways, Te Ngākau Civic Square and the Central Library.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation will be open on 6 April through to 10 May 2021. • Consultation document is going through the final audit with Audit NZ, ensuring WCC meets obligations to LGA 2002 and special consultative procedure. • The LTP workshop activity that the group took part in in December 2020 is what helped form the strategic direction. • The Draft Long-term Plan can change throughout the Audit process as well as through decisions made at AP/LTP Committee meetings. • The submission form will ask what which option is your preferred option and will also allow for comments to be attached. <p>Members discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether there are concerns that the Three Waters is proposed to receive mid-range funding rather than at the high end? No, because the mid-range option grows the industry in first two years. • That the Three Waters funding is separate to that of the Sewerage Sludge Treatment Plant. • Whether water meter business cases would be passed onto potential new entity created after water reform. LTP has to plan as though water reform won’t happen. • WCC’s stance on stormwater being included in Three Waters due to operational synergies with roading for example. • What would happen to pop up libraries once the Central Library reopens – they would all be closed. • Lack of clarity around what LGWM is delivering and what WCC is delivering on cycleways. There will be a new document at end of March which will list specific projects. The Draft LTP consultation document should be compact and readable, 	<p>5:22pm</p>
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which is tricky with complex issues. The Consultation Document will list cycle lanes street-by-street, and the team will investigate putting maps on the consultation site.

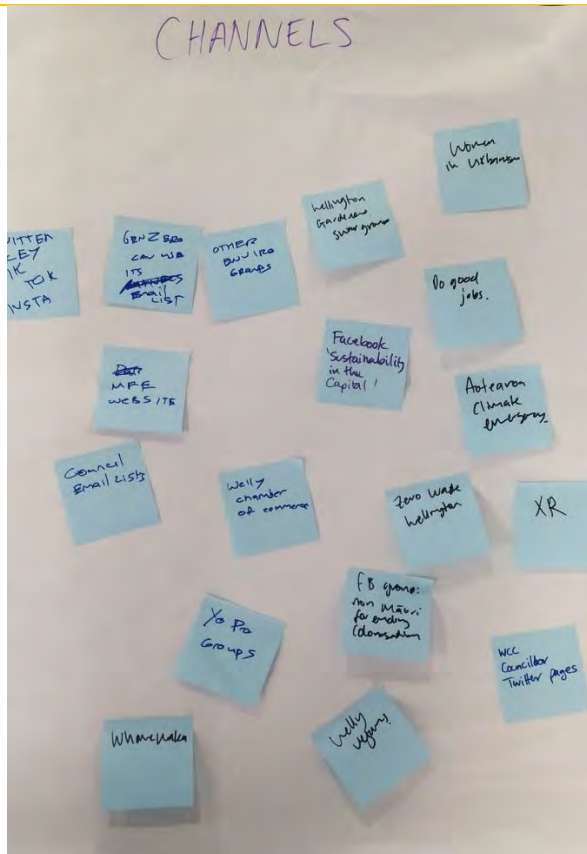
- How the debt ceiling works, and that this LTP would be at 225%. The city needs a buffer up to the 300% limit in case of additional lockdowns or earthquakes.
- That the Sewerage Sludge Treatment Plant is likely to be funded by Infrastructure Funding and Financing, and that application will be submitted this month.
- The Local Government Funding Agency comprises a group of councils that have come together under a covenant to borrow money off the private sector.
- What provision is in the Long-term Plan for partnerships with Kainga Ora to help with housing crisis? The LTP doesn't include every single thing, but on website there will be a statement of service provisions which includes things like urban development and social housing. The LTP needs to have legitimate options that present the costing – it would not be fair on tenants to present options that haven't been circulated with them.

5. Recruitment Channels Workshop

Hedi facilitated a workshop to collate the networks of the ERG – key stakeholders, gathering spaces and channels.



6:01pm



6. Portfolio Updates

Members discussed:

- Transport: Michelle caught up with Joe Hewitt and discussed LGWM. Priority projects will be confirmed in next few XR months, including Thorndon Quay/Hutt Road, the Golden Mile, Cobham Drive pedestrian crossing, Mass Rapid Transit and Highway projects. Michelle to read up on transport aspects of LTP for ERG submission.
- Resilience: Lynn discussed her concern about needing to find leaks in the pipe network, but water meters not being included in the LTP.
- Heritage: Lynn discussed supporting the Built Heritage Incentive Fund, and funding for Our Natural Capital, and the need for it to have a timeframe and priorities.
- Urban Development: Eleanor discussed the District Plan being drafted, and climate change mitigation being built into it. Staff have done a mapping exercise on what other councils' District Plans look like, and whether Councillors and the public will be on board for an ambitious District Plan. The group discussed focusing on areas of agreement for the ERG submission, and to focus on infrastructure, water and integration of transport networks.
- Water: Arron discussed the proposed spend on Three Waters in the LTP, and his concern that the funding will bring the pipe network up to current spec, rather than the future spec required for 2031.
- Biodiversity: George discussed the role that Significant Natural Areas and Backyard Taonga will play in the District Plan.

6:26pm

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste: Steve discussed the waste minimization that can occur after the Sewerage Sludge Treatment Plant and what concrete actions can be done. Climate Change: Chris discussed the Wellington Airport runway extension, seawall and purchase of Miramar golf course land. The airport is running the hearings for its notification of requirement notification. Chris discussed the construction of the marae at Victoria University and it being a carbon negative construction. <p>Actions: Hedi to see if about Te Atakura business cases can be provided to the group.</p>	
7.	General Business Lynn discussed the ERG portfolio principles and will be compiling them into one document.	6:58pm
8.	Previous Minutes Confirmation – 15 February 2021 The previous minutes were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Moved Steven Almond, seconded Arron Cox.	6:59pm
	CARRIED	
9.	Next meeting Monday, 12 th April 2021. Chaired by Sally.	7:01pm

Actions: The following tables the actions, responsibilities and deadlines from previous meetings

Action Points	Responsibility	Deadline
1.		
2.		

General Business	
1.	

Portfolio Groups	ERG Lead		Council Officer
Transport	Michelle Rush		Joe Hewitt, Team Lead Transport Strategy and Siobhan Procter, Manager Transport and Infrastructure
Climate Change	Chris Watson	Isla Day, Steven Almond	Alison Howard, Climate Change Response Manager
Waste	Steven Almond	Clare Stringer	Emily Taylor-Hall, Waste Operations Manager
Water	Arron Cox		Zac Jordan, Principal Advisor Resilience Infrastructure

Resilience	Lynn Cadenhead		Mike Mendonca, Chief Resilience Officer
Urban Design Agency/Urban Growth	Eleanor West	Sally Faisandier	Vida Christeller, Manager City Design & Place Planning; Phil Becker, Manager Build Wellington
Mana whenua iwi & Treaty Relations			Nicky Karu, Manager Tira Poutama-Iwi Partnership
Biodiversity/Open Space	Mike Britton	Clare Stringer	Daniela Biaggio, Urban Ecology Manager
Heritage	Lynn Cadenhead	Clare Stringer	Mark Lindsay, Heritage Manager