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Ted/CtteeReports

Report to the Landcare Committee
from Ted Maguire, Council Secretary and Rob Forlong, Divisional Manager, Landcare

Hutt River Advisory Committee

1. Purpose

To consider the Terms of Reference for the Hutt River Advisory Committee.

2. Background

In 1998, the Council established a Hutt River Floodplain Management Advisory Committee, which was a sub-committee of the Landcare Committee. Its role was to prepare a floodplain management plan for the Hutt River.

With the recent adoption of the plan by the Wellington Regional Council, the Advisory Committee's primary function has been achieved. However, as the components of the plan had developed and been approved by the Regional Council, an ongoing role for the Advisory Committee has emerged including implementation of the structural and non-structural measures, the environmental strategy and plan monitoring.

On the recommendation of the previous Council, Council has approved the continuation of the Advisory Committee, to be known in future as the Hutt River Advisory Committee.

Its Terms of Reference, as agreed earlier this year, are set out in **Attachment 1**, should be reviewed by the Landcare Committee.

3. **Comment**

(1) **Ongoing role for the Advisory Committee**

The Plan lays the foundation for the next 40 years of flood protection in the Hutt Valley. Activities included in the Regional Council's current 10 year Long-term Financial Strategy include:

Non-structural Measures

- Proposing changes to Hutt and Upper Hutt Cities district plans, and supporting agreed changes through to adoption
- Providing support for voluntary individual and community actions
- Developing and implementing enhanced Emergency Management programmes and procedures.

Structural Measures

- Ongoing maintenance programme
- Ava to Ewen upgrade
- Belmont edge protection
- Belmont house raising
- Gemstone Drive flood protection and edge protection
- Bridge Road edge protection
- Bridge Road house raising
- Ava, Melling and Moonshine Bridge investigations
- Commencing the Ewen to Kennedy-Good upgrade (includes Hutt and Boulcott Golf clubs and Hathaway Avenue flood protection).

Environmental Strategy

- Commence implementation via the capital projects
- Other projects proposed by the community or the councils
- Establishing the River Ranger.

Monitoring

- Reporting on achievement
- Evaluating the Plan's performance.

Then Council will, through the Landcare Committee, need sound advice to resolve issues which will arise as these programmes are implemented.

In particular, the Council will want to have confidence that:

- community expectations of the Plan have been satisfied through sound consultation and community involvement; and

- the Long-term Financial Strategies and annual programmes of the Regional Council and Hutt and Upper Hutt City Councils are co-ordinated to achieve the desired Plan outcomes.

During the Plan development, the Landcare Committee has been well advised by the Advisory Committee. Both the Hutt and Upper Hutt City Councils support an ongoing role for the Advisory Committee, particularly in implementation of the Environmental Strategy.

As the Plan is implemented, it is envisaged that there would be opportunities for the community to be involved in the development and management of the River Corridor. Given the geography, size and social structure of the Hutt Valley, it is unlikely that an overall 'Friends' group would work. Rather, a number of local groups would likely form the basis of an ongoing community programme. The Advisory Committee would provide the umbrella over these groups in recommending policy, operation and reporting to the Regional Council.

A Liaison Group is also to be appointed. This group comprising council staff and others as necessary will ensure that the Advisory Committee, its members and their constituent authorities are adequately informed on critical issues and other matters relevant to the achievement of the Plan.

(2) **Membership**

The Wellington Regional Council appointed the Chair and its representatives at the 8 November meeting. Until now the Committee has been chaired by the Regional Council Chairperson but the outgoing Advisory Committee had proposed the appointment of Mr Macaskill as an independent Chairperson. Other members are appointed by the Wellington Regional Council on nomination of the various parties.

Membership for the coming 3 years is:

Chairman:	Mr Stuart Macaskill
3 WRC Members:	Crs Laidlaw, Evans and Werry
3 HCC Nominees:	to be advised
3 UHCC Nominee:	Crs Howard Phillips, Barry Timms and Shirley Harris
1 Wellington Tenth Trust nominee:	to be advised
1 Te Runanganui o Taranaki Whanui ki te Upoko o te Ika a Maui nominee:	to be advised

It is now proposed to invite Hutt City Council and Wellington Tenth Trust and Te Runanganui o Taranaki Whanui ki te Upoko o te Ika a Maui to forward their nominations.

(3) **Quorum**

One matter that has not been finalised in the Terms of Reference is that of a quorum. While the agreed Terms of Reference state a quorum of six, further information was sought on this matter.

It is in order and within the power of the Landcare Committee to decide on a different quorum for the Advisory Committee. Generally, the quorum for our standing committees is three Regional Councillors. However, the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee, which has four appointees as well as six elected members has a quorum of two Regional Councillors.

There have been suggestions that a different approach, taking account of the representation from the different organisations. Because the Committee's role is purely advisory and for simplicity, we believe a smaller quorum related to the regional council membership would be appropriate. Our suggestion is that, like the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee, the quorum be two Regional Councillors.

4. **Recommendations**

That the Landcare Committee:

- (a) **confirm** the Terms of Reference for the Hutt River Advisory Committee.
- (b) **approve** a quorum of two Regional Councillors for the Hutt River Advisory Committee.
- (c) **approve** the appointment of the three Upper Hutt City Council members.
- (d) **invite** other bodies to be represented to forward their nominations for appointment.

TED MAGUIRE
Council Secretary

ROB FORLONG
Divisional Manager, Landcare

Attachment 1: Terms of Reference August 2001