



Report 11.301  
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Committee Regional Transport  
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## **Establishment of a Hearing Subcommittee for the Draft Hutt Corridor Plan**

### **1. Purpose**

To establish a subcommittee of the Regional Transport Committee to hear, consider and report on submissions to the draft Hutt Corridor Plan.

### **2. The decision making process and significance**

#### **2.1 Significance of the decision**

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking into account the guidance provided by the Council's significance policy. The decision that is subject of this report is considered to have low significance.

### **3. Background**

#### **3.1 Draft Hutt Corridor Plan**

The Hutt Corridor Plan is a non-statutory plan that sets out key projects and activities, and their likely timing, to implement the Regional Land Transport Strategy. The corridor plan is currently being reviewed and updated. A draft plan was agreed for consultation at the 29 March 2011 Committee meeting.

The Draft Plan was available online from 26 April 2011. Public notices calling for submissions appeared from 30 April 2011. The submission period covers seven weeks from 26 April to 15 June. All people making submissions will be offered the opportunity to be heard in support of their submission.

### **4. Comment**

#### **4.1 Need to Establish a Hearings Subcommittee**

Hearings subcommittees are an efficient option for hearing a number of submitters and considering submissions in some detail. A subcommittee will allow hearing dates, times and locations to be better tailored to suit submitters

rather than trying to accommodate hearings within upcoming Committee agendas. A large number of submissions (288) have been received on the Draft Plan with (71) wishing to be heard. Therefore a hearings subcommittee is considered appropriate.

The hearing and consideration of submissions is expected to take place towards the end of July or first week in August. At least two days are likely to be required.

## **4.2 Terms of Reference**

The recommended Terms of Reference for the Subcommittee are in **Attachment 1**.

### **4.2.1 Scope of the Subcommittee's Role**

It is recommended that the subcommittee be established to hear, evaluate and report on submissions, and make recommendations to the Committee.

The subcommittee will have the opportunity to ask questions of those submitters who present their submissions orally and have matters clarified where necessary. The subcommittee will also spend some time discussing the submissions and deliberating on the matters raised. This will give it the ability to consider the submissions in some depth.

It is expected that the subcommittee's recommendations will then be considered by the full Committee at the 26 September 2011 meeting.

### **4.2.2 Subcommittee Membership**

All members of the Committee are eligible for appointment to a hearings subcommittee. The Committee can also appoint other people to the subcommittee.

It is consistent with best practice and the requirements of the Local Government Act that members hearing submissions must be present for the duration of the hearing of the oral submissions. The only constraint, therefore, is the availability on the day of hearings and deliberations.

It is recommended that five people be appointed to the subcommittee. Those members of the Committee not appointed to the subcommittee are welcome to attend the hearings.

As well as subcommittee members, a chair will need to be appointed.

As the Hutt Corridor Plan has a focus on the Hutt Valley, it is recommended that the two local authority representatives from Hutt City and Upper Hutt be appointed to the Hearings Subcommittee. It is also recommended that the Wellington City representative be appointed given the impact of proposals in the plan on the north Wellington area and links to Wellington City. It is also recommended that the NZ Transport Agency be represented as the funding

authority and state highway manager. It is the usual practice of the RTC to include on subcommittees the Committee Chair.

It is therefore recommended that the following members be appointed:

- Councillor Wilde (GWRC)
- Mayor Guppy (Upper Hutt District Council)
- Mayor Wallace (Hutt City Council)
- Councillor Andy Foster (Wellington City Council)
- Jenny Chetwynd (NZ Transport Agency)

Councillor Foster is being recommended to be appointed because Mayor Wade-Brown is not available during the time the subcommittee will need to meet. Councillor Foster is Mayor Wade-Brown's alternate on the RTC.

It is also recommended that Councillor Wilde be appointed as the chair.

#### 4.2.3 Quorum and Standing Orders

The Wellington Regional Council Standing Orders will apply to the subcommittee. This is provided for in the attached Terms of Reference. Consistent with the provisions for the Committee, the Chair of the Hearings Subcommittee will have a deliberative vote, but not a casting vote.

When deciding on a quorum it is important to consider the risks that illness or other unanticipated commitments may prevent a committee member from attending part of the hearings.

To minimise inconvenience to submitters as a result of needing to reschedule the hearings, a quorum of three members is recommended.

## 5. Communication

There is nothing to communicate as a result of consideration of this report.

## 6. Voting

Section 107(1) of the amended Land Transport Management Act states that objective and interest representatives have full speaking rights, but are not entitled to vote on matters related to regional land transport programmes. As the subject matter of this report does not relate to the regional land transport programme, objective and interest representatives **may** vote on the resolutions.

## 7. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

1. **Receives** the report.

2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. ***Resolves** to establish a subcommittee to hear, evaluate and report on submissions to the Draft Hutt Corridor Plan and make recommendations to the Committee in accordance with the Terms of Reference in Attachment 1.*
4. ***Resolves** to appoint the following five Committee members (including a chair) to the Draft Hutt Corridor Plan Hearing Subcommittee:*
  - *Councillor Fran Wilde (chair)*
  - *Mayor Ray Wallace*
  - *Mayor Wayne Guppy*
  - *Councillor Andy Foster*
  - *Jenny Chetwynd*

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Attachment 1: **Terms of Reference for the Draft Hutt Corridor Plan Hearing Subcommittee**