



Report 12.107
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Committee Economic Wellbeing Committee
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Report on Economic Wellbeing Committee meeting of 15 March 2012

1. Purpose

To inform the Council about the meeting of the Economic Wellbeing Committee that took place on 15 March 2012.

2. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

3. Public Participation

3.1 Mr Mellor, Public Transport Voice Group

Mr Mellor attended the meeting and spoke about the Wairarapa Public Transport Review on behalf of the Public Transport Voice Group. He spoke in support of the proposed extension of the Greytown-Woodside bus service, but outlined concerns about the removal of the Sunday bus service between Masterton and Featherston. The Group is concerned that the initial consultation information did not make it clear that this service was likely to be affected.

Mr Mellor also outlined the Group's concern about the proposal to replace trains with buses over the Easter period, when a block of all rail lines is planned for maintenance work. The Group is concerned that buses will not be delivering the train services scheduled over that period as they do not stop at all stations.

Officers will report back to the next meeting of the Economic Wellbeing Committee addressing the concerns of the Public Transport Voice Group.

3.2 Alexia Pickering, Accessible Options

The Chair read out an email from Alexia Pickering about the design of concrete pads at bus stops. She is concerned about the height of the step for elderly persons and wheelchair users. Specifically, she asked about the design was run past the disability community, where it originated from, and where else has it been trialled.

Officers will report back to the next meeting of the Economic Wellbeing Committee addressing Alexia's concerns and questions.

4. Reports

4.1 Quarterly review for the period ending 31 December 2011

The Committee discussed the quarterly review for rail. Officers advised that the track access agreement with KiwiRail is progressing well and is on target to be in place before the interim contract ends at the end of June. Greater Wellington is awaiting a report from KiwiRail on the performance of a prototype before finalising the Ganz Mavag refurbishment programme.

Officers will provide an update to the Committee at its next meeting on the installation of display signs on Kapiti and Johnsonville Line rail stations. The Committee expressed a keenness to see greater progress toward an integrated ticketing scheme for the Wellington region. Officers will update the Committee at its next meeting on the emerging national approach to integrated ticketing, which Greater Wellington is awaiting as it will provide the basis for regional integrated ticketing schemes.

The Waiohine Floodplain Management Plan is progressing to programme. The Committee commended Wayne O'Donnell and Graeme Campbell on their engagement with the community on Greater Wellington's sustainable management approach for the Waiohine River.

The Committee asked for the names of the 16 schools that will be involved in the School Travel Plan Programmes. This information will be provided to the Committee through the Bulletin.

The Committee noted the recent success at the SOLGM awards where the Wellington Region Genuine Progress Index website won two SOLGM awards. The Committee also noted the quality of the training day on Urban Design, which is a Wellington Regional Strategy workstream, and asked officers to consider inviting the presenter, Kobus Mentz, to a Committee workshop.

4.2 Wairarapa Public Transport Review

The Committee noted that the Wairarapa bus proposals have been guided and generally supported by a reference group. The Committee discussed the proposal to remove the Sunday bus service between Featherston (with connections to Martinborough) and

Masterton, and considered this to be a potential issue for tourists wanting to travel between Featherston and Martinborough on Sundays. Officers advised that a commercial transport service is available over this route on Sunday. The changes to the bus services are designed to be cost neutral, and the removal of the Sunday service between Featherston (with connections to Martinborough) and Masterton will cover the cost of expanding the Greytown – Woodside service.

4.3 General Managers' Report

The Committee was updated on the Wellington City Bus Review, for which public consultation has closed with 1,700 submissions being received. Officers advised that they have started analysing submissions.

5. Recommendations

That the Council:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*

Report prepared by:



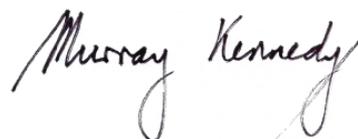
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