



Report 13.18
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Committee Council
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Report on Economic Wellbeing Committee 31 January 2013

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the Economic Wellbeing Committee meeting of 31 January 2013.

2. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

3. Public Participation

Patrick Morgan, Cycle Aware Wellington, spoke in relation to Item 5 on the agenda, Sustainable Transport – cycling and scooter programmes.

Mike Mellor spoke on the Wellington City Bus Review.

3.1 Sustainable Transport – cycling and scooter programmes

The Committee was provided with information on cycling trends in the region and an update on cycle and scooter skills training programmes.

The State of Cycling Report: Wellington region 2001 – 2012 (the Report) was presented to the Committee; it provides an analysis of cycling in the Wellington region from information gathered via surveys, the census and cordon counts between 2001 and 2012, as well as cyclist crash and injury information.

The Report shows that overall, we are making progress towards increasing cyclist numbers and safety across the region, however there is still much more that remains to be done. This report will provide an important input to future planning for cycling in the region.

The Committee noted that while cycling accounts for 1% of travel in the region, expenditure on it accounts for a very small proportion of total expenditure in the National Land Transport Programme (0.2% in 2010/11).

A pilot scooter skills training programme has been successfully run, and as a result an expanded programme will be offered to approximately 1000 children in 2013.

The Committee commended officers for their work on the cycle and scooter skills training programmes. The promotion of these training programmes was discussed.

3.2 Proposed regional transport network plan approach

A Power Point presentation was given to the Committee to update it on the proposed new regional transport network plan approach.

The purpose of the proposed new approach is to bring together the existing transport strategy and plans into a more integrated framework, and highlight the synergies between modes and corridors as part of a network-wide approach. It will also be required if the current Land Transport Management Amendment Bill is passed into law.

The proposed new approach would provide an opportunity to refresh rather than review existing transport strategy and plans.

The Committee noted that the Regional Transport Committee had endorsed this proposed approach.

A copy of the presentation has been distributed to Councillors.

3.3 General Managers' report to the Economic Wellbeing Committee on 31 January 2013

The Committee was advised that officers were considering discontinuing the txtBUS and txtTRAIN services. Both texting services have a low level of use by the public. Officers have approached a key contact within the blind community to advise them that cancellation of the service was being considered and to seek feedback. To-date no concerns with the cancellation of the service have been expressed.

The Committee discussed the cause of Matangi wheel screeching on the Johnsonville Line and progress on rectifying the issue.

The Committee received an update on the measures being undertaken to better meet levels of demand on the Wairarapa service. Officers were commended for the interim measures that had been taken to increase seating capacity on the Wairarapa service.

The Committee discussed bus stop infrastructure. The Committee requested that officers provide them with a policy and clear process setting out how prioritisation to requests for bus stop infrastructure is determined.

The Committee was updated on the review of the Total Mobility rules and business processes. Officers advised the Committee that detailed information on the review would be provided to Councillors shortly.

The Committee commended officers who had helped minimise the impact on the Wellington bus service caused by the Hobbit premiere. Officers attended temporary bus stops in Wakefield and Taranaki Streets all day on 28 November to help customers find the right buses and provide information.

3.4 Commercial opportunities

The Committee went into a publicly excluded session to discuss commercial opportunities.

4. Recommendations

That the Council:

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

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