

Report 16.254
Date 7 June 2016
File CCAB-8-624

Committee Council
Author Barbara Donaldson, Chair, Annual Plan 2016/17 Hearing Committee

Report of the Annual Plan 2016/17 Hearing Committee

1. Purpose

This report outlines the deliberations and recommendations of the Annual Plan 2016/17 Hearing Committee (the Committee) on the Annual Plan 2016/17 arising from the consideration of written and oral submissions and other feedback to the Shape Your Region consultation. The Annual Plan identifies changes to the 2016/17 work programme outlined in the 10 Year Plan 2015-25.

2. Background

The Committee met on 25 May 2016 to hear 20 oral submissions and consider all submissions and feedback on the Shape Your Region Annual Plan 2016/17 consultation document and supporting information.

In total 179 submissions were received as follows:

| | |
|--|------------|
| Organisations (including community groups) | 17 |
| Local government | 6 |
| Individuals | <u>156</u> |
| Total | 179 |

Included in this total are 117 pro-forma submissions received from individuals as part of a 'water fluoridation' campaign.

A summary of the written submissions was prepared for consideration by the Committee, along with comments from officers (Report 16.233).

Following the hearing of submissions, the Committee deliberated and agreed recommendations to Council on the Annual Plan 2016/17.

3. Deliberations

The Committee reviewed and considered all the written submissions and feedback and the matters raised in oral submissions.

3.1 Recommendations

The Committee agreed to recommend to Council the following amendments:

Paremata Diving Platform

That a budget of up to \$80,000 be included for a GWRC contribution to a jumping platform at Paremata to be constructed by Porirua City Council, dependent on an equal contribution from NZTA, GWRC satisfaction as to the design and location of the platform, and Porirua City Council consultation with the Police.

Otaki River Environmental Enhancements

That an additional \$13,000 be budgeted for environment enhancement work on the Otaki River by Friends of the Otaki River.

3.2 Other Matters

Other discussions of note during the deliberations are set out below. The Committee is not recommending any amendments to the Annual Plan 2016/17 in relation to these matters.

Student Fare Discount

Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association requested that GWRC provide tertiary students a 25 percent discount both to on-peak and off-peak fares and that this be included in the Annual Plan for 2016/17.

The Committee discussed the potential costs that would be involved in implementing this request, the Council's ability to implement a discount this year prior to integrated fares and ticketing being rolled out, and the desire to ensure all low-income groups are addressed in such an approach. The need for proper process and appropriate consultation in relation to significant decisions like this was also discussed.

The Committee also noted a previous Council resolution to consider a shared approach to a tertiary fare discount with the Wellington City Council and the tertiary institutions in Wellington. It was noted that communication with the various entities has been initiated, and should be progressed further.

Te Marua Golf Club

Te Marua Golf Club requested financial support of approximately \$100,000 per year for the next five years or up to \$477,900. The Committee noted that the Council's policy is to contribute up to 30% of physical flood protection works under the isolated works policy rather than the 100% being requested.

Sport Wellington

Sport Wellington requested GWRC financial support of \$25,000 per annum to support a regional strategy for sport and recreation. While GWRC supports the development of a regional strategy for sport and recreation, the Committee considered that discussions about financial support for its implementation will

be more appropriate when there is more certainty about the strategy's vision, objectives and actions and what GWRC's role might be in implementing the strategy.

Bus Rapid Transport

Several submitters responded to and gave oral submissions on the issue of the bus system, and in particular trolley buses and the options for light rail. The Committee considered the issues and noted that the Let's Get Wellington Moving programme being run by GWRC, WCC and NZTA would re-test the assumptions and options for BRT. It was noted that the council's current policy was based on robust research and therefore there was no need to re-litigate those decisions.

Climate Change

A number of submitters raised the issue of climate change issues and, while they supported a number of initiatives underway by the Council, they wished to reemphasise the importance of addressing climate change issues.

4. Communication

The Annual Plan 2016/17 will be considered for adoption by Council on 29 June 2016, and will then be made publicly available. A media release will be issued once the Plan is adopted, followed by an 'Our Region' article outlining the direction of the Annual Plan and the outcomes of the Shape Your Region consultation.

After the Council meeting of 29 June, all submitters who made submissions on the Shape Your Region consultation will receive a response outlining the decisions of the Council and providing further comment where appropriate. An emailed response will also be sent to all those who provided feedback online.

5. The decision-making process and significance

The matters requiring decision in this report have been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act).

5.1 Significance of the decision

The subject matter of this report is part of a decision-making process that will lead to the Council making a decision of medium significance within the meaning of the Act.

In accordance with section 95 of the Act, as the proposed annual plan contained material differences from the content of the long-term plan for the year to which this annual plan relates, the Council was required to consult on the proposed annual plan in a manner that gave effect to the requirements of section 82 before adopting an annual plan.

5.2 Engagement

In accordance with the Significance and Engagement Policy, officers determined that the appropriate level of engagement is 'consulting'. Further detail on consultation and engagement processes and results were provided to the Committee in Report 16.217.

6. Recommendations

That the Council:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Agrees to finalise the Annual Plan 2016/17 incorporating the matters set out in the consultation document for the Annual Plan 2016/17, and with the inclusion of the following additional matters:*
 - (i) *That a budget of up to \$80,000 be included for a GWRC contribution to a jumping platform at Paremata to be constructed by Porirua City Council, dependent on an equal contribution from NZTA, GWRC satisfaction as to the design and location of the platform, and Porirua City Council consultation with the Police.*
 - (ii) *That an additional \$13,000 be budgeted for environment enhancement work on the Otaki River by Friends of the Otaki River.*

Report approved by:

Cr Barbara Donaldson
Chair, Annual Plan 2016/17
Hearing Committee