



Report 07.655
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File E/06/02/04

Committee Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee
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Draft terms of reference for the committees of the Wellington Regional Council: 2007-2010 triennium

1. Purpose

To seek endorsement of draft terms of reference for proposed committees for recommendation to the incoming Council.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report **do not** trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

At its meeting on 14 August 2007, Council agreed to recommend to the incoming Council that it operate seven committees and three subcommittees during the 2007-2010 triennium. Committee chairpersons, jointly with the appropriate divisional managers, were tasked with reviewing the existing committee terms of reference for their application to the proposed committee structure.

4. Draft terms of reference

Draft committee terms of reference for the 2007-2010 triennium are attached at **Attachment 1**. The draft terms of reference reflect the proposed allocation of responsibilities to committees outlined in Report 07.493 considered and endorsed at the Committee's meeting on 14 August 2007.

The amendments to the existing terms of reference include:

Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee

The responsibilities of this committee are broadened to include advice to Council on policy matters relating to emergency management and biodiversity.

Planning and Monitoring Subcommittee

The quorum is increased to seven councillors, when the subcommittee is hearing submissions on the Annual Plan and Long-Term Council Community Plan.

The responsibilities of the subcommittee are expanded to provide for the:

- Chief Executive's performance review
- consideration and making of recommendations on the Council's communication and marketing activities.

Environment Committee

Reference is made to the Committee's membership including one person appointed on the nomination of the Ara Tahi inter-iwi representative group.

Public Transport Committee (currently the Passenger Transport Committee)

Councillor membership is set at six.

The responsibilities of the committee are expanded to provide for the:

- preparation of the Regional Passenger Transport Plan for consideration by Council
- preparation and approval of the Regional Passenger Transport Operational Plan, including adopting any future amendments.

Regional Land Transport Committee

No changes are proposed to the terms of reference for this committee, pending implementation of legislative changes, which are expected to be announced in the near future.

Wairarapa and Catchment Management Committee

The terms of reference for this committee reflect its proposed responsibilities for flood protection, land management, biosecurity, and Wairarapa and rural issues.

This committee will also be responsible for the existing Hutt River Advisory Committee and Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Committee (each to be renamed as a subcommittee to correctly reflect its status in the Council's governance structure). The quorum of the renamed Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Subcommittee is amended to two councillors, being a majority of the number of councillors on the committee.

Water, Supply, Parks and Forests Committee

The terms of reference for this proposed committee incorporate the responsibilities of the existing Utility Services Committee, with the addition of responsibilities for regional parks and conservation forests.

It is proposed that the Regional Conservator, Wellington Conservatory, Department of Conservation, or their nominee, be appointed to this committee, with speaking rights only.

Wellington Regional Strategy Committee

No changes are proposed to the terms of reference for this committee.

5. Communication

No external communication is required as a result of this report. Ultimately, the findings will be reported to the incoming Council for consideration.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee recommends that Council:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Agrees to recommend to the incoming Council that it adopt the draft terms of reference for Council committees for the 2007-2010 triennium.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

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Attachment 1: Draft terms of reference for the committees of the Wellington Regional Council: 2007-2010 triennium