

Report 11.541  
Date 19 October 2011  
File E/11/01/04

Committee Economic Wellbeing Committee  
Author Anna Kennedy, Democratic Services Advisor

## Report on Economic Wellbeing Committee meeting 13 October 2011

### 1. Purpose

To inform the Council about the meeting of the Economic Wellbeing Committee that took place on 13 October 2011.

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

No decision is being sought in this report.

### 3. Reports

#### 3.1 Feedback to NZ Transport Agency

The Committee approved the draft submission on the NZ Transport Agency's *Cobham Drive to Buckle Street transport improvements – Public engagement*. The submission provides support for Option A of the two proposed options for grade separation at the Basin Reserve. The Committee discussed the alternative Option X, and noted the significant costs of both this option and another tunnel option (Option F) that the NZTA had investigated. The Committee discussed whether the submission should suggest that further detailed analysis should be undertaken on Option X. However, the Committee voted (5 – 2) in support of the draft submission, which supported Option A, but noted that a tunnel option would have been supported if it was affordable.

#### 3.2 Proposed Regional Public Transport Plan

The Committee commended the quality of the proposed Regional Public Transport Plan and noted the excellent work done by the Regional Public Transport Plan Hearings Subcommittee. The Plan provides a structured approach to the Council's management of public transport. The Committee sought clarification about how the network service layers approach provides for school travel needs. The policy on regular network service layers provides for school children in the urban area to access their nearest and/or zoned

school. School travel outside of this policy will be considered by the Council on a case-by-case basis.

### **3.3 General Managers' report**

Bus and train services operated successfully over the Rugby World Cup matches played in Wellington. Over the quarter final weekend, 47,000 passengers used the trains; this is about five times the normal patronage.

The Committee questioned trains being equipped with Real Time Information (RTI). The Council has committed to equipping trains with RTI and discussions continue with KiwiRail on the train equipment and journey matching options for RTI.

### **3.4 Update on the rollout of Ultrafast Broadband**

Melanie Thornton, Wellington Regional Strategy Project Leader, updated the Committee on the rollout of the Ultra Fast Broadband initiative, which was launched for the Wellington Region in September 2011. The Rural Broadband Initiative was launched for the Wellington Region in June 2011. Chorus is the successful bidder for the Ultra Fast Broadband initiative in the Wellington Region. In Year 1, Ultra Fast Broadband will be deployed in Whitby, Masterton, Mana/Camborne, Papakowhai, Churton Park and Kelson.

## **4. Recommendations**

*That the Council:*

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

Report prepared by:      Report prepared by:      Report prepared by:      Report approved by:

**Wayne Hastie**  
General Manager,  
Public Transport

**Wayne O'Donnell**  
General Manager,  
Catchment  
Management

**Jane Davis**  
General Manager,  
Strategy and  
Community  
Engagement

**Peter Glensor**  
Chair