

Report 15.194
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Committee Long Term Plan 2015-25 Hearing Committee
Author Emily Gilmore, Democratic Services Advisor

Process for considering submissions and feedback on the adoption of the 10 Year Plan 2015-25 and other matters that are the subject of concurrent consultation

1. Purpose

To brief the Long Term Plan 2015-25 Hearing Committee on the process for considering submissions and feedback on the adoption of the 10 Year Plan 2015-25 and other matters that are the subject of concurrent consultation.

2. Background

At its meeting on 25 February 2015 the Council established the Long Term Plan 2015-25 Hearing Committee (the Committee) to consider and hear submissions and feedback, and to make recommendations to the Council, on the adoption of the 10 Year Plan 2015-25 and other matters which are the subject of concurrent consultation. A copy of the Committee's terms of reference, which sets out its roles and responsibilities, is attached as **Attachment 1** to this report.

2.1 Public Consultation

This hearing completes the public consultation phase on the adoption of the 10 Year Plan 2015-25. The Council concurrently consulted on:

- The draft Revenue and Financing Policy
- The draft Rates Remission and Postponement Policies; and
- Proposed amendments to the Resource Management Charging Policy.

2.2 Principles of consultation

Six principles of consultation are set out in the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act). One of these principles is that views presented to a local authority should be accepted with an open mind, and should be given due consideration by the local authority, in making a decision.

It is consistent with best practice that members should be present for the substantial part of the hearing and deliberations in order to participate in the decision-making of the Committee.

3. Submissions and feedback received

3.1 Written submissions

876 written submissions have been received on the adoption of the 10 Year Plan 2015-25. Of the 876 written submissions, two referred to the draft Revenue and Financing Policy, one referred to the draft Rates Remission and Postponement Policies and one referred to the proposed amendments to the Resource Management Charging Policy. In addition, four submissions were received on the Resource Management Charging Policy only.

A copy of all the written submissions has been distributed to members of the Committee (under separate cover). It is suggested that written submissions are taken as read by the Committee, and that Committee members only discuss those submissions on which they want to make a particular comment.

3.2 Late submissions

Eight late submissions (circulated separately) were received on the adoption of the 10 Year Plan 2015-25. It is recommended that the Committee accept the late submissions for consideration.

3.3 Other feedback

Feedback from the community on key issues in the 10 Year Plan 2015-25 consultation document was obtained through the Shape Your Region website and at open days around the region. Analysis on this feedback is detailed in Report 15.195.

4. Oral submission process

The purpose of the hearing is to hear oral presentations in support of written submissions. At the time of writing this paper 61 submitters have confirmed that they wish to be heard on the adoption of the 10 Year Plan 2015-25 and matters of concurrent consultation. There is also a group of submitters who wish to present a combined oral submission.

Five minutes have been allocated to each submitter, with additional time allocated for organisations (total of 10 minutes) and the combined group submission (total of 30 minutes). This time covers both speaking time and time for questions of clarification by the Committee. A hearing schedule will be provided on the day of the hearing.

The preliminary timetable for the hearing of oral submissions is as follows:

- Tuesday, 19 May 2015 9.30am until 3.00pm
- Wednesday, 20 May 2015 9.30am until 4.00pm

It is proposed that deliberations commence following the hearing of oral submissions on each day, with the deliberations on Tuesday being limited to those topics on which all oral submissions have been heard.

4.1 Consideration of issues raised in submissions and feedback

The Committee must consider all written submissions, regardless of whether or not an oral submission has been made. The Committee must also consider all of the feedback that was received via the Shape Your Region website and open days.

There will be an opportunity to discuss the issues raised in both written and oral submissions, and the other forms of feedback, once all oral submissions on a topic have been heard.

4.2 Process after consideration of submissions and feedback

The Committee will need to prepare a report to the Council setting out its recommendations on the adoption of the 10 Year Plan 2015-25 and matters of concurrent consultation.

Each person who made a submission or provided feedback on the adoption of the 10 Year Plan 2015-25 and provided a contact address will, subsequent to Council adopting the final 10 Year Plan 2015-25, receive a response outlining the decisions of the Council and any key changes.

A press release will be published, outlining the decisions of the Council and any key changes, for those who did not provide a contact address.

5. Communication

The Committee meeting for hearing submissions has been advertised and all oral submitters contacted regarding the hearing date.

6. The decision-making process and significance

The matter requiring decision in this report has been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

6.1 Significance of the decision

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking into account the Council's significance and engagement policy and decision-making guidelines. Due to the procedural nature of this decision officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance.

Officers do not consider that a formal record outlining consideration of the decision-making process is required in this instance.

6.2 Engagement

Engagement on this matter is unnecessary.

7. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

3. *Accepts the late submissions received on the adoption of the 10 Year Plan 2015-25 for consideration.*
4. *Reports its findings and recommendations to the Council.*

Report prepared by:

Emily Gilmore
Democratic Services Advisor

Report approved by:

Francis Ryan
Manager,
Democratic Services

Attachment 1: Terms of reference for the Long Term Plan 2015-25 Hearing Committee