

Report 15.349
Date 7 July 2013
File E/12/01/04

Committee Council
Author Cr Chris Laidlaw, Chair

Proposed committee structure and Councillor appointments for the remainder of 2013-2016 triennium

1. Purpose

To consider a proposed committee structure and Councillor appointments for the remainder of the 2013-2016 triennium.

2. Background and comment

2.1 Committee structure

The Local Government Act 2002 empowers the Council to appoint and discharge the committees, subcommittees and other subordinate decision-making bodies that it considers appropriate. The Council may also appoint joint committees with other local authorities. Non-elected members may be appointed to committees and subcommittees.

For the remainder of the 2013 – 2016 triennium, a number of changes are proposed to the structure of Council committees.

2.1.1 Discharge of committee

I propose that the Strategy and Policy Committee be discharged.

2.1.2 Establishment of new committees

I propose that two new committees be established.

Environment Committee

I propose that an Environment Committee be established.

The Environment Committee will deal with the wide range of functions that fall within the overall land management and regulatory framework, such as biosecurity, biodiversity, flood control, parks, forests, recreation and all other functions undertaken by the Environment Management and Catchment Management groups. The one exception to this is that the Natural Resources Management Plan and Whaitua process will remain the responsibility of Te Upoko Taiao- Natural Resource Management Committee.

The Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee and Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga Floodplain Management Plan Subcommittee will report to the Environment Committee.

Sustainable Transport Committee

The Sustainable Transport Committee will focus on opportunities to improve the long term performance of the region in terms of emissions, innovations around walkways and cycleways, improved public transport services and responding to the long term challenge of climate change.

2.1.3 Renamed committee

The Risk and Assurance Committee will be renamed the Finance, Risk and Assurance Committee. The Committee will have the added responsibility of reviewing and monitoring GWRC's financial performance.

2.1.4 Remainder of existing committees

All other existing Council committees and subcommittees will remain in existence under the proposed structure.

I recommend that we adopt the proposed committee structure as detailed in **Attachment 1**.

2.2 Terms of reference

Terms of reference are an important mechanism by which the Council is able to allocate responsibilities to committees. Specific terms of reference will need to be prepared for each of the new committees, and the terms of reference of the retained committees reviewed.

I anticipate bringing terms of reference for the committees to a Council meeting in August 2015 for consideration.

2.3 Appointments to committees and other bodies

The proposed appointments of committee Chairs and Deputy Chairs, portfolio leaders, and Councillors to committees and other bodies is set out in **Attachment 2**.

No changes to the remuneration payable to positions of additional responsibility will be required as a result of the appointments' structure.

3. Communication

No external communication is considered necessary.

4. 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.

4.1 Significance of the decision

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking into account the Council's significance 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.

4.2 Engagement

Due to its procedural nature and low significance, no public engagement on this matter has been undertaken.

5. Recommendations

That the Council:

- 1. **Receives** the report.*
- 2. **Notes** the content of the report.*
- 3. **Discharges** the Strategy and Policy Committee.*
- 4. **Adopts** the committee structure as outlined in **Attachment 1** to this report.*
- 5. **Appoints** the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of committees, portfolio leaders, and Councillors to committees and other bodies as set out in **Attachment 2**.*
- 6. **Notes** that a report on committee terms of reference and any other relevant matters will be brought to a Council meeting in August 2015 for consideration.*

Report prepared by:

Cr Chris Laidlaw
Chair

Attachment 1: Proposed committee structure

Attachment 2: Proposed Councillor appointments