

# **City Development Committee**

**Thursday, 7 June 2007  
Commencing at 9.30 am**

**Item 2: Urgent Business**

**Item 2A: Urgent Business -  
Strengthening Auckland's  
Regional Governance**

**SUPPLEMENT TO A MEETING OF THE CITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
TO BE HELD AT WAITAKERE CENTRAL, 6 HENDERSON VALLEY ROAD,  
HENDERSON, WAITAKERE, ON THURSDAY, 7 JUNE 2007  
COMMENCING AT 9.30 AM.**

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**2 URGENT BUSINESS**

That the matter be considered as Urgent Business because the Council's responses on the Strengthening Auckland's Regional Governance were required by the end of May 2007. At the Council meeting on Wednesday, 30 May 2007, Council deferred its decision until after a workshop had been held. The recommendations of that workshop need to be confirmed so that they can be included in the final report to be completed by 15 June 2007.



**2A STRENGTHENING AUCKLAND'S REGIONAL GOVERNANCE**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To adopt the recommendations of the Councillors Workshop on Strengthening Auckland's Regional Governance held on 5 June 2007.

**BACKGROUND**

Waitakere City Council has considered the latest report of the "Strengthening Auckland's Regional Governance Project - Report on Progress - for discussion and feedback", dated 16 May 2007, at its Council meeting on 30 May 2007 and again at a special Councillors Workshop on 5 June 2007.

**WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The Council acknowledges and confirms the essence of the problem statement agreed at the outset of the project, and in particular the need for improved arrangements for the region to effectively partner with and negotiate with central government in order to achieve international competitiveness as a city-region, and manage long-term development more sustainably.
2. The Council acknowledges that the proposals for reform constitute a start on a process of evolutionary (rather than sudden) change to address these issues, but notes that further and wider reforms may be desirable in the medium term.
3. Waitakere continues to support the proposals outlined in December 2006, and refined in the report of 16 May 2007. In order to advance and consolidate those proposals, Waitakere resolves to respond to the specific issues raised as follows:

**(a) GAC/ARC**

Recommend status quo

- The name Auckland Regional Council should be retained;

- The **role** of the ARC should remain unchanged other than as a result of changes agreed in this process;
- The **leader** should continue to be appointed by members;
- The **membership** should remain as at present – 13 councillors elected across 6 constituencies aligned to TA boundaries.

(b) **Regional Sustainable Development Forum (RSDF)**

Recommend that the RSDF is the key new institutional mechanism for achieving agreement and collective responsibility at local, regional and national level for the development programme for the region.

- The RSDF should be constituted as a **standing committee** of the ARC, using the provisions of sections 37SE – 37SH of the LGA74 in the first instance, if appropriate.
- The key function of the RSDF should be to prepare and recommend to the ARC, for adoption, the **One Plan** as a means of co-ordinating and integrating regional strategies for landuse (lead) transport, other infrastructure, economic, social and cultural development, and environmental performance.
- The RSDF should be the mandated primary **point of contact** for the government in engaging with regional development and planning issues that affect the whole region.

**Representation**

- *Council Representation:*
  - ARC: 4 members (Committee Chairs?)
  - Cities: 2 members each appointed by each Council
  - Districts: 1 member each appointed by each council
- *Central Government representation:*
  - 3 – 5 ministers or delegates (recognising the importance of this relationship)
  - Mana Whenua representation

The reason for Mana Whenua representation appears to be founded on the exercise of the Crown's Treaty partnership obligations, which elevates this group above stakeholders. Difficulties might be anticipated in providing an adequate resourcing and backup for these representatives. Until Treaty settlements are concluded, WCC recommends that the Minister of Maori Affairs hold specific representation on the Forum with the ability to appoint 1 or 2 Mana Whenua representatives as his delegates, and for his Ministry of Maori Development to provide consultation and back up support for those representatives.

- The above arrangements would result in 19 - 22 members. It is recommended that the maximum membership should be 20 representatives.

**Machinery of Government**

- The **RSDF Chair** should be appointed by the ARC from amongst the Forum members.

- **RSDF decision-making** should be consensus whenever possible. If that fails, decisions should be by majority decision, but when decisions are to be formally binding on all parties, a 75% majority should be required.
- Each member should have one vote.
- Existing fora (RGF, RLTS, AEDF/Metro etc) should be abolished and their responsibilities transferred to the RSDF for incorporation into the One Plan. (Thus simplifying and streamlining regional governance.)

(c) **The One Plan**

Recommend the development of a single strategic document that expresses the agreed regional development programme and funding commitments.

***One Plan Breadth***

- One Plan should develop over time, starting with the content of the RGS, RLTS, REDS, but expanding over time to cover the 4 wellbeings.
- Includes vision, goals, directional shifts and ethos of LTSF.
- Initially records existing strategic agreements and funding agreements.
- Needs to urgently address regional responses to global forces of change.
- Focus on regional priority actions that will achieve “step change” in competitiveness, efficiency, well being.
- Records Auckland’s place in the nation, relationship with adjoining regions and NZ, and expectations about engagement with central government.
- Key function is horizontal and vertical integration of development programme.

***One Plan Depth***

- Issues of regional significance. Focus on high-level, cross-cutting difficult to solve issues.
- Could include outcomes, objectives, strategic direction, priorities and funding parameters.
- Prioritised projects to be agreed.
- 20 – 30 year time frame with a view to 50 year horizon.

***Enforceability***

- A primary focus is engaging the Crown, so their representation is essential along with the use of multi-year-end bulk regional funding agreements, and performance contracts.
- Until 2012, primary local government commitments should generally be limited to those in LTCCPs, but beyond 2012 LTCCP commitments may be revised to reflect One Plan funding needs.
- Capacity to enter into agreements with providers of infrastructure, including Watercare Services limited and energy companies etc.
- Ability to conclude binding agreements between/among parties.
- Generally parties should be required to give effect to decisions, and as a minimum to not act inconsistently with One Plan. The One Plan needs to be enforceable according to the needs of each policy, so that provisions should be able to range from advisory to mandatory.
- Generally, ARC should be the One Plan negotiating agent.

### ***Sanctions/ Levers***

- Support for the range of incentives and sanctions including moral suasion. The sanction of exclusion from the benefits of participation should only be used after careful consideration.

### ***Consultation***

- RSDF should be responsible for public consultation on the One Plan, and in recommending the Plan to the ARC for approval should also comment on the consultation process and outcomes.

### ***Relationship with Community Outcomes Process***

- RSDF should report to the ARC on the extent to which One Plan delivers on the Community Outcomes the ARC has recorded.

### ***Ability of the (GAC) ARC to amend One Plan***

- Follow the RGF provisions of Section 37SG (4) of the LGA74: "the function of the (RGSF) is to advise on and approve the (One Plan) and any amendment to that (One Plan) before any such amendment (or One Plan) is adopted by the Auckland Regional Council." ie the ARC can adopt a plan or amendment only on the recommendation of RGSF.

### ***Transition***

- The One Plan will evolve with experience and time. The target should be to complete the first iteration of the One Plan by the end of 2008 in order to inform the local government 2009 - 2012 LTCCP process, and 2009 – 2012 budgets, with a review by 2011, in time for the 2012 LTCCP review.

#### **(d) Three Waters**

##### **Status quo**

- WCC has signalled its intention to resolve that Watercare Services Limited should not be able to pay a dividend;
- For now the status quo should continue with respect to Watercare Services Limited governance. This means that no proposals for Watercare Services Limited to pay a dividend should not be actioned at this time. At some future date, it may be desirable to review whether the present arrangements are the best possible to ensure the sustainable development of the Auckland region. Work on the Three Waters Strategy should be reported to the RSDF.

#### **(e) Regional Facilities**

- Any regionally funded facility should be owned by a regional entity. If funding is to be shared across units of local government, the proportionality formula should reflect usage by communities.

#### **(f) Economic Development**

- Waitakere has a very successful and cost-effective EDA. The Council supports the strengthening of a Regional EDA, and the incorporation within that of Tourism Auckland, on a basis that does not undermine the effectiveness, profile and engagement with government of Waitakere Enterprise.

(g) **Transport**

- Need to engage with Government immediately to incorporate proposals from the Transport Workstream into government policy and legislation on the implementation of ATSAP, the government's reform of transport entities, the "Next Steps in the Land Transport Review, 30 April 2007, and the Cabinet decisions on this review [POL min (07) 9/5 refers].

(h) **Shared Services**

- Support for continued action on shared services.

(i) **Funding**

- Acknowledge that existing funding mechanisms available to local and regional government are insufficient to meet the strategic and timely development needs of the region.

(j) **Land Use**

- There needs to be further efforts to ensure that transport and other infrastructure planning and services give effect to the growth concept of the RGS and the shifts of the LTSF.
- ARC needs to ensure that the landuse intent of the One Plan is reflected in timely revisions of the RPS prepared under the RMA.

(k) **Other**

- CDEM should continue to be a joint regional and local undertaking to ensure the continued engagement of local communities and marshalling of volunteers.
- Parks, RMA, Harbours responsibilities of ARC should remain unchanged.
- Support for further investigations into regional development corporation for major projects.
- Consultation with the public on the proposed package is essential. WCC considers that an eight week concerted process is the minimum required. Consultation should be a shared government/ local government undertaking.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That Council adopt the workshop recommendations 1 and 2, 3 (a) – (h), relating to the proposed package to strengthen Auckland's Regional Governance.
2. That Council forward a copy of the approved recommendations to the project team for incorporation into the final report.

Report prepared by: Graeme Campbell, Director: Strategic Planning.

