

**AGENDA FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL TO BE HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER AT WAITAKERE CENTRAL, 6 HENDERSON VALLEY ROAD,
HENDERSON, WAITAKERE, ON FRIDAY, 17 APRIL 2009
COMMENCING AT 4.00 PM**

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1 APOLOGIES



2 URGENT BUSINESS

Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 provides that where an item of business is not on the agenda, it may only be dealt with at the meeting if:

- (i) the Council by resolution so decides; and
- (ii) the Chairman has explained at the beginning of the meeting (when open to the public) that the item will be raised for discussion and decision, why the item is not on the agenda, and why it cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.

The Council may make a decision on a matter determined to be urgent.

NOTE: Urgent Business need not be dealt with now and may be delayed until later in the meeting.



3 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Council has acknowledged in its Code of Conduct that Elected Members need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member of the Council and any private or other external interest they might have. This note is provided as a reminder to members to check that no such conflicts arise in relation to any items on this agenda.



4 AUCKLAND GOVERNANCE - MINISTERIAL MEETING REPORT BACK

GLOSSARY

Royal Commission	(RC)
The Minister of Local Government, Hon. Rodney Hide	(The Minister)
Chief Executive Officer	(CEO)
Mayor Bob Harvey	(The Mayor)
Deputy Mayor Penny Hulse	(Deputy Mayor)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to update the Council on a meeting held with Local Government Minister Hon. Rodney Hide yesterday (April 16, 2009) to discuss decisions around Governance in Auckland.

The focus of the meeting was to clarify timelines, processes and implications of Governance reforms.

The Council is asked to consider what responses and actions, if any, it wishes to make in the light of these discussions.

The Mayor and CEO will provide a further verbal update at the meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Receive** the Auckland Governance - Ministerial Meeting Report Back report.
2. **Agree** to any further action(s) the Council feels are necessary in light of discussions held on April 16 with the Minister of Local Government.
3. **Endorse** the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Executive Officer working with the Transition Board on issues outlined in this report, including preparatory work on legislation.

BACKGROUND

1. In response to the Royal Commission of Inquiry on Auckland Governance the government, following two weeks of consideration, delivered its decision on the future structure of governance for the Auckland region. The Council has previously been provided with a copy of the paper "Making Auckland Greater". The Council has also been briefed on the key features of the government's decisions. Prior to the government's announcement of its decision Council presented a formal position paper to the Minister of Local Government outlining key concerns.
2. There will be opportunities to consider other matters of detail leading up to and during the Select Committee process when the substance of the changes is introduced through legislation.
3. However, the Council has indicated that key issues of concern, at this stage, are:
 - (1) A commitment for the Establishment/Transition Board to engage and consult at a political level with existing Councils through a forum or "sounding board" of elected members.
 - (2) Representation on the new Council being on a ward basis approximately proportionate to population, and the question of Maori representation.

- (3) The number, functions and boundaries of local Councils/local Boards.
- (4) Social issues - the RC recommended a Social Issues Board for Auckland, however, this idea was rejected by the Government.

Issues

Taking each of the above in turn the tenor of discussion at yesterday's meeting included:

4. Transition Board - the government paper "Making Auckland Greater" set out key decisions in relation to the future governance of the Auckland region. However, the document lacks detail and it is likely that much of that will be worked through by the Establishment Board, once it commences.
5. At yesterday's meeting the Minister agreed that the Mayor, Deputy Mayors and CEOs of the region would work alongside and meet regularly (possibly weekly) with the Minister and the Transition Board.
6. The CEOs will shortly receive draft terms of reference and scope for the Transition Board and will have the opportunity to provide feedback prior to legislation being introduced to Parliament.
7. The Ward versus at large representation - the Minister continued to express reservations that elected members on the Auckland Council based on wards only would provide the level of representation the Government sees as optimal. It was felt that ward Councillors only may lead to parochial views being promoted, rather than views which would benefit the region as a whole.
8. It seems that this issue might best be addressed through the Select Committee process.
9. Likewise, on the issue of Maori representation the Minister suggested that this would be a significant issue for discussion through legislation and the Select Committee process.
10. The number, functions and boundaries of local Councils/local Boards - the government rejected the Royal Commission's recommendation for a second tier of six local councils and instead decided there should be 20 to 30 local boards established across the region. At yesterday's meeting, the issue of the number of entities was not canvassed in any depth. There was, however, a commitment to look at functions with the Transition Board. Therefore there remains an opportunity for the Council to advocate for its preferred option in this area, prior to legislation being introduced.
11. Social issues - at yesterday's meeting, the Mayor spoke on the importance of social and environmental issues being dealt with, at some level, by local government in Auckland. The Minister responded that this was a complex and important policy issue which the Government is working on as a priority. It is unlikely that there will be any firm directive on this in the short to medium term.

DECISION MAKING

Options Identified

12. The Council has a number of options open to it, depending on its response to the Minister's/Government's decisions.

13. It can:
- (a) Do nothing.
 - (b) Establish (or reiterate) “bottom lines” to be negotiated directly or in concert with other TLAs - with the Minister/Government.
 - (c) Utilise the Select Committee process only to promote Council’s views.
 - (d) Consider any other action that may lead to an improvement on the current Government proposal.
 - (e) A combination of any of the above.

Consideration of Community Views

14. As this is an update only, community views were not sought in preparing this report. However, there is evidence of a groundswell of public opinion against the Government’s recent decisions.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

15. The government’s decisions on governance in Auckland impact directly on every aspect of all Council’s plans, strategies and projects and local communities.

CONSULTATION

16. Internal consultation with members of the Performance Review Committee, including the Mayor, and senior staff was undertaken in preparing this report.

RESOURCES AND IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

17. It is envisaged that considerable staff time and resource will be required in coming months to both promote Waitakere’s position in relation to regional governance and to assist with the transition process. Depending on whether Council wishes to undertake other initiatives, further financial resources may be required.

Report prepared by: Vijaya Vaidyanath, Chief Executive Officer.

